

Teacher 1201

Chapter 1201: Competing In Front of the Hall

The Nine Provinces' banquets revolved around songs and dances, reciting poems, and other elegant stuff.

Even if the Great Xia's princess hadn't jumped out to ask Sun Mo to compose a poem, other people would bring it up too. There was no helping it. Sun Mo's reputation was too great.

Therefore, cheers rose in the Taiji Palace and countless gazes landed on Sun Mo.

Many of them didn't have any ill intent and just wanted to broaden their horizons. This was like how when people saw a singer when attending someone's wedding, they'd want to get her to sing a song.

With that, everyone would have a reason to boast about after they went back.

Take today for example. If Sun Mo were to compose a famous poem here and it was spread far and wide, they'd be able to say a word or two when they heard the poem brought up in some other occasions.

(Oh, this poem? I was there when Great Teacher Sun composed it!)

"I'm sorry, I'm not good at composing poems!"

Sun Mo rejected.

"Teacher Sun can't be scared of embarrassing yourself, could you?"

The words said by the Great Xia's little b*tch had a sting in them. "After all, there are many great masters in literature amongst the guests today."

"Teacher, compose a famous poem and drive her to her death from embarrassment!"

Qin Yaoguang chipped in. To think that this b*tch dared to doubt their teacher? That was unforgivable.

"Teacher Sun, given how your [Journey to the West] and [A Dream of Red Mansions] are extremely well-written, you probably won't be bad in poetry. Why aren't you willing to display your talent? Are we not worthy?"

The little b*tch continued.

"Beloved Subject Sun, why don't you compose one?"

The Qi Emperor looked at Sun Mo.

If Sun Mo were to compose a famous poem in this event and it was passed down in history, then his name would glow too.

When the time came, the records would write that the Qi Emperor admired Sun Mo and invited him to share a bed. Sun Mo was then elated and they had a long chat that night, becoming bosom friends.

The Qi Emperor knew that there was no way he could become a great ruler, so the only way for him to leave behind some good reputation was to rely on other people's fame.

If Sun Mo were to become a Saint, then his image would also become lofty.

"Your Majesty, I'm not good at composing poems!"

Sun Mo rejected.

Although they said that plagiarism wasn't considered stealing, Sun Mo didn't wish to cite the poems composed by people from ancient times. Not even if people in this era wouldn't be able to recognize them.

"Such a wet blanket!"

The little b*tch's lips twitched.

Other people thought the same too.

"If I were in his shoes, I wouldn't step forth either. They say that there's no first place in literature and no second place in martial arts. With there being so many people today, there are probably many who want to step onto Sun Mo to rise to fame!"

Grand Tutor Su chuckled.

If it was any other time, a poetry competition would be able to reflect one's true talent. But that wasn't the case today.

These princes and princesses must have prepared many great poems from their respective countries for the Five Empires War Discussion. Moreover, the quality of these works would definitely be very high.

Taking one step back, the high-ranking officials in Qi Country also had high standards as advanced-scholars. Some of them might even want to jump out and compete with Sun Mo.

Clank!

Ying Baiwu shot up and stared at the little b*tch. "I don't know how to compose poems, but I can battle. Why not have a life and death match to entertain everyone?"

Sssss!

Ying Baiwu's words instantly brought about a series of surprised gasps.

Did she need to be so vicious?

The little b*tch instinctively wanted to say (Who do you think you are? There's no way I'll have a life and death battle with you.) However, Xia Taikang ordered in a soft voice.

"Agree to it!"

Xia Taikang had long since wanted to vent his fury after suffering repeatedly in the hands of the Great Tang. Now that they had sent themselves to his doorstep, they were simply courting death.

“I’m scared that I’ll end up killing you!” The little b*tch sneered, “But since you want to play, I’ll go along with you!”

The little b*tch was 19 years old this year and had inherited the skills of a great teacher. Furthermore, her soft armor had extremely high defense stats, and her longsword was a peerless-grade heaven-tier item that could slice through metal as if they were mud.

Of course, the cultivation art she practiced was peerless-grade saint-tier one!

“Baiwu, be careful! The Great Xia’s Limitless Immortal Suppression Art is extremely strong!”

Li Ziqi reminded her.

“Eldest Martial Sister, you’re worrying too much. How could Junior Martial Sister Baiwu lose?”

Lu Zhiruo was very confident in her iron-headed junior martial sister. She swung her fist and wore a fierce expression. “Bash her up!”

“En!”

Ying Baiwu hated people who were disrespectful to her teacher the most.

Very soon, a young eunuch brought over their weapons.

As they were attending an imperial banquet, guests weren’t allowed to bring along their weapons to ensure the safety of the emperor and the various countries’ princes and princesses.

“The sparring will be held in front of the hall, but take care not to overdo things! Don’t bring up a life or death match anymore!”

Grand Tutor Su stood up. Although the Xia Princess was mean and up to no good, she was a princess and nothing must happen to her. As for Ying Baiwu, although she was just a commoner, her personal teacher was Sun Mo and therefore nothing must happen to her either.

Grand Tutor Su instructed while releasing a great teacher halo.

Swoosh!

A golden halo landed on the square in front of the hall and then expanded out in all directions, covering a 50-yard range.

Circle Confinement!

Sun Mo’s brows twitched. This halo was a punishment-type one and its purpose was to act as a cage to lock up students who had committed wrongdoings.

Right now, its effect was to prevent sword qis and arrows from darting out and hurting the guests.

“I want that!”

Sun Mo could afford to buy Circle Confinement with the favorable impression points he had. But how could it be as good as one that was free? Therefore, he decided to wait a little longer. One might just pop out from the treasure chests.

Ying Baiwu hung her quiver at her waist and said confidently, "I'll let you move first!"

Hua!

The iron-headed young girl's words caused many people to let out surprised gasps.

Wasn't she being too proud?

Everyone knew that an archer's advantage was in their long-range attacks, but Ying Baiwu was going to let her opponent have the first move?

"Arrogant!"

The Xia Princess lashed out, drawing her longsword and pouncing over. "I don't want you to give in to me!"

"Ahh! This person is so sly!"

Qin Yaoguang seemed flustered. Even though the Xia Princess said that she didn't need it, she still went charging out at full speed, not wanting to give Ying Baiwu a chance to draw her bow.

"It'll be considered my loss if you can shoot three arrows!"

The Xia Princess swung her sword.

Limitless Sword Shadows

Pffft! Pffft! Pffft!

Before she reached Ying Baiwu, eight sword qi had shot out straight for Ying Baiwu.

Ah!

Many people let out surprised gasps. They didn't expect the Xia Princess to have a long-range attack. This was trouble for Sun Mo's disciple.

Ying Baiwu didn't budge. She looked at the sword qi that was slashing at her. She then raised her bow with her left hand, and her right hand's index and middle fingers strummed the bowstring at great speed.

Beng! Beng! Beng!

The bowstring trembled and streams of spirit qi quickly condensed into arrows that shot out. They accurately hit those sword qis, shooting them down.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The spirit qi arrows and sword qi collided, creating many explosions that weren't too loud.

At this moment, the Xia Princess got close and swung her blade at Ying Baiwu.

Ying Baiwu turned her body and dodged the attack with ease. Her movement was very light and at ease, as if she was dancing.

The guests were all stunned.

Wasn't this young lady's archery skills too accurate?

They'd be able to understand if she had struck down one or two of the sword qi, but there were eight of them! Moreover, she had accomplished this feat in less than three seconds.

Xia Taikang's countenance sank. He didn't expect the opponent to be so strong!

To think that his younger sister who excelled in fighting and killing wasn't her match?

The Xia Princess wore a solemn expression and gave it her all. However, the other party's agile movements were like a slippery fish and her attack couldn't hit her.

"This is the so-called Limitless Immortal Suppression Art? There's nothing to it."

After saying that, Ying Baiwu started to retaliate.

Her fingers strummed the bowstring!

Beng! Beng! Beng!

Each time the bowstring trembled, an arrow would shoot out. Their angle was done with great precision, sometimes even drawing out an arch, shooting toward the back of the Xia Princess's head

"Junior Martial Sister, go for it!"

Lu Zhiruo couldn't hold it in anymore and cheered loudly.

The moment Ying Baiwu started to launch her arrows, they came down like a raging tempest, drowning the Xia Princess.

The little b*tch was exhausted from dealing with the arrows and had no choice but to pull her distance away.

Standing further away could allow her to block the arrows accordingly based on the arrows' trajectories. If the distance was too close, it'd be like a flying dragon was riding on one's face, giving her no chance to make any adjustments.

"We've lost!"

The countenances of the people from the Great Xia turned very grim.

"A chance!"

The Xia Princess immediately dashed forth when she noticed that Ying Baiwu's attacks had slowed down. However, before she got close, she was forced back by her opponent's sudden eruptive wave of arrows.

This carried on for three times before the Xia Princess understood that her opponent was toying with her.

"This isn't fair!"

One of the Great Xia's princes bellowed, "Her longbow is at least a peerless-grade heaven-tier item and can condense spirit qi into arrows! This is too great of an advantage! How are others supposed to win against her?"

"You're saying as though the longsword your side is using isn't an amazing weapon!"

Tantai Yutang mocked.

Ying Baiwu suddenly stopped and looked toward the prince who had spoken up. "Then you'll have no issues if I change my weapon, right?"

Pa!

Ying Baiwu tossed her longbow to Lu Zhiruo and then looked toward an imperial guard on duty. "Brother, I'd like to borrow your long saber."

"Huh?"

The imperial guard looked a little stunned and subconsciously looked toward his leader. After his leader nodded, he tossed his long blade to Ying Baiwu.

The iron-headed young girl swung the blade a little and then pounced toward the Xia Princess.

"Things won't go wrong, right?"

Xianyu Wei was worried.

"Baiwu clearly doesn't feel that it's exhilarating enough to just shoot the little lass down. She plans on beating her up personally!"

Qin Yaoguang guessed.

"Even if there are two more of such opponents, Baiwu won't lose!"

Helian Beifang smiled. Amongst their martial siblings, the most hardworking ones were Xuanyuan Po and Ying Baiwu. They had devoted almost all their time to cultivation and would have a 'death battle' every day. In addition to the tremendous amount of experience they had accumulated from the darkness illusion dojo, there was no way that Ying Baiwu would lose.

As expected, the moment they clashed, the Xia Princess felt a tremendous sense of pressure. Ying Baiwu's attack was like a furious turbulence or a volcanic eruption that gushed out.

Ding!

The Xia Princess's longsword was pushed away and she was open.

"This is bad!"

The Xia Princess wanted to dodge, but it was too late.

Ying Baiwu's fist was smashing over rapidly, hitting her opponent heavily in the face.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Blood splashed out from the nose!

The Xia Princess was in a stunned state, her body bending back from the impact. However, before she fell, Ying Baiwu grabbed her hair and tugged her back.

The iron-headed young girl leaped, bent her right leg, and dealt a knee attack toward the Xia Princess's mouth and nose.

Bang!

The loud sound caused the guests to subconsciously turn their heads away, unable to look at the scene.

Splash!

A large pool of blood gushed out from the Xia Princess's mouth and nose. Her mouth had swelled up, and she had lost many teeth that gaps could be seen between them.

"Who told you to be disrespectful toward my teacher! This is a lesson!"

Ying Baiwu didn't stop and continued to deal ferocious attacks.

Chapter 1202: My Student Is Really Amazing!

"Stop!"

Grand Tutor Su's voice suddenly rang out. When it entered Ying Baiwu's ears, her body immediately stiffened on the spot.

This was the effect of Profound Words.

"Teacher Sun, your disciple is really amazing!"

Grand Tutor Su praised.

Many guests also spoke out polite words while wearing smiles.

Of course, it was inappropriate to say that they were currying up to Sun Mo. This young girl was truly fierce, her battle prowess definitely being unrivaled amongst those of the same cultivation base.

"Weiwei!"

A few of the princes from the Great Xia looked horrified and wanted to go over and help their sister up. However, they had just stood up when they heard Xia Taikang's cold snort.

"Trash!"

Xia Taikang's expression was cold like ice from the extreme pole that wouldn't melt for 10,000 years.

"Let her crawl back by herself!"

Sssss!

His words caused many people to feel bad but a little fearful at the same time. Xia Taikang really did have the disposition of a tyrannical ruler, and it was best not to offend him in the future.

Even though Xia Wei wasn't knocked out, her head felt groggy and she lay on the floor, unable to move.

"Men, hurry up and give Xia Princess treatment!"

The Qi Emperor instructed, letting out a sigh in his heart. The princess was such a pretty girl, but she ended up being beaten up into such a horrible state. How was she going to get married in the future?

"Junior Martial Sister Baiwu, you're so impressive!"

Lu Zhiruo felt envious.

Ying Baiwu smiled and didn't return to her seat right away. Instead, she looked toward the Great Xia's delegation with a challenging gaze.

"So arrogant!"

A young man stood up and entered the field with a somersault. "I'll come meet you in a fight!"

"Baiwu, you've fought. Leave this match to me!"

As Xuanyuan Po spoke, he also performed a front somersault coolly and entered the center of the field.

Ying Baiwu was about to refuse when Sun Mo stopped her.

"Baiwu, come back."

Sun Mo still didn't feel assured about Ying Baiwu taking on this match. The person who had issued this challenge was many years older than the iron-headed young girl, and they weren't of the same level.

Neither of them exposed their background and cultivation level, and they went against each other after receiving their weapons.

This Great Xia's prince, Xia Wuhai, used a pair of octagonal bronze hammers with a head that was bigger than a yak's head. If they smashed onto someone, they'd be dealt a pulverizing blow and turn people into mashed meat.

Ding! Ding! Ding!

The two of them engaged in battle.

Xuanyuan Po was tall with long legs, and his arms could reach out very far too. His silver longsword swung around agilely like a Jiao coming out of the sea, bellowing furiously at the mountains and rivers.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The silver spear hit a bronze hammer, creating brilliant sparks.

"This guy is so strong!"

"That's amazing! I can't tell what his cultivation level is!"

"This guy is born to battle!"

The great teachers present looked at Xuanyuan Po with envy. The feeling eventually turned into a desire to have him.

They also wanted a student with such amazing physical aptitude!

Although not many people could tell whether or not someone had a talent for cultivation, there were always some exceptions. Take Xuanyuan Po for example. His physical attributes were too good.

Xia Wuhai was also very tall with a thin waist and broad shoulders, forming an upside-down triangle for his upper body. He also had bulging muscles, which made him look like a valiant general who could take on 10,000 enemies by himself. When he swung his bronze hammer, a strong wind would blow. However, he didn't have any advantage in strength against Xuanyuan Po.

The people from Xia Country were stunned.

In terms of battle prowess, Xia Wuhai was ranked third in the delegation. But now, he was being suppressed by the white-clothed young man and his silver spear.

Prairie Blazing Fire Spear Technique, Azure Firefall!

Swoosh!

The silver spear thrust out with sparks, looking like a fire snake that was darting about in the grass plains. Then, countless flames erupted like many blooming flowers.

Xia Wuhai was helpless against this. After a short period of exchanges, he was rendered in a disadvantageous situation and could only go all out in defending.

Great Flame Goshawk!

Ding!

The silver spear tapped on the bronze hammer, then thrust out, swung, and flipped. One of Xia Wuhai's bronze hammers then flew away from his grip.

"Goddamn it!"

Xia Wuhai cursed and tossed out the battle hammer in his left hand, smashing it against the other battle hammer that had flown out of his grip.

Bang!

This battle hammer's trajectory changed and accelerated, smashing out toward Xuanyuan Po like a missile. The other one returned to Xia Wuhai's hand.

"Excellent!"

This move won him a lot of cheers.

Xuanyuan Po's brows didn't even furrow when facing this surprising move. He thrust out his silver spear quickly.

Meteor Fall!

The speartip poked onto the bronze hammer, and as a 'ding' rang out, the hammer came smashing toward Xia Wuhai like a volcano.

Nine Revolutions Flame Dragon Tornado!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Many fire dragons gushed out from the silver spear and attacked Xia Wuhai.

“Stop!”

Grand Tutor Su shot up and took a big step forward, appearing in front of Xia Wuhai and then slapping down with a palm.

Boom!

Those seething flame dragons were smashed into scattering sparks.

Xuanyuan Po looked at Grand Tutor Su and flicked his spear tip, wanting to continue attacking.

“Xuanyuan, stop!”

Sun Mo reproached. Otherwise, this combat addict would challenge Grand Tutor Su.

“What are you doing?”

Xia Wuhai was enraged.

“What was I doing? If I didn’t step forth, you’d have turned into charcoal.”

Grand Tutor Su let out a cold snort.

Xia Wuhai’s countenance turned dark. He couldn’t refute this as Great Teacher Su was the grand tutor of the Qi Country. He was the most amazing great teacher here with keen judgment.

Creak!

Xia Taikang flattened the bronze wine holder in his hand.

Even Xia Wuhai had lost. This meant that the others wouldn’t have any chance.

As for himself?

He’d definitely be able to win if he were to step forth. However, his opponent shouldn’t be someone like Xuanyuan Po! He wasn’t worthy!

If he were to win, he must win against Sun Mo!

Moreover, after the Arts Battles, there were still the Martial Arts Battles. He’d need to participate then.

“Great Teacher Sun, this amazing disciple of yours will definitely have extraordinary achievements in the future!”

Grand Tutor Su was envious.

If it wasn’t because he didn’t want to offend Sun Mo, he’d definitely try to poach this young man. If there were no accidents, a spear saint would be born in the Nine Provinces 20 years later.

“Grand Tutor Su, thank you for your praise!”

Sun Mo smiled, thinking to himself that although the combat addict was very strong, his other disciples weren't bad either. In terms of pure strength, Xianyu Wei was fiercer than Xuanyuan Po.

It should be said that this plains girl was invincible in a bare-handed fight.

Ying Baiwu and Xuanyuan Po both won an exhilarating battle, causing the Great Xia's delegation to shut up. It also made the others not dare to challenge them easily.

Not only was Sun Mo amazing, but the disciples he taught were also very outstanding.

The banquet continued.

Although Sun Mo didn't compose any poems, other people could. After all, the reason they had come to participate in the Five Empires War Discussion was so that they could spread their name and build some reputation.

Sun Mo felt like leaving. After these youngsters read out their poems, they'd look at him for his assessment. They showed such a sincere attitude that he felt bad refusing them.

However, with the bit of learnings he had, he found it hard to review them.

Sun Mo had learned to appreciate ancient poems and verses before and could also understand Classical Chinese writing. He could even write them. However, it was just a hobby for him and he hadn't studied it in greater depth.

Moreover, even if a master in the studies of ancient Chinese civilization were to come to the ancient times, it'd probably be tough on them too.

However, if they were to talk about calculus, chemistry, physics, astronomy, and geography, Sun Mo would be able to give all of them a crushing defeat.

Just as Sun Mo was about to find an excuse to leave, a maid came to his side and whispered something to his ear.

“Eldest Princess, I have something to attend to and will take my leave for a while. Help me take care of Ziqi and the others!”

Sun Mo said this before leaving with the maid.

He was one of the most important guests at the banquet. Many people found it strange and wondered where he was heading to when they saw that he had left!

“Why did Yuzhen's maid look for Sun Mo?”

The Qi Emperor was puzzled, but he didn't intervene. There were still many days to the Five Empires War Discussion, and he wasn't afraid that Sun Mo would run away.

“What's with that maid? Who does she work for?”

Lu Zhiruo found it curious that their teacher was called away. Nothing would go wrong, right?

“She should be Jiang Yuzhen’s maid!”

Qin Yaoguang analyzed. It was because she had seen this Princess Flying Swallow leaving a few minutes ago.

“Huh? Why is she looking for Teacher?” Lu Zhiruo guessed. “To acknowledge him as her teacher?”

“Do you think that’s possible?”

Qin Yaoguang rolled her eyes. “Jiang Yuzhen is a few years older than Teacher!”

Li Ziqi sat beside them and felt unhappy after listening to her junior martial sisters’ conversation. That Jiang Yuzhen couldn’t have fallen for their teacher, could she? If she was planning to marry him, what should they do?

It was no wonder that the little sunny egg would be worried. There were too many beautiful women around Sun Mo, some charming, some gentle, some adorable, some older, some pure and innocent. However, he had never been moved by them and didn’t even visit brothels.

There shouldn’t be any problem with their teacher’s body and mind. This meant that he didn’t like women of such styles. Now that a military lady suddenly appeared, she might just be their teacher’s cup of tea.

Gulp! Gulp!

Li Ziqi chugged down wine.

“Eldest Martial Sister, what are you doing?”

Lu Zhiruo was given a fright. (Aren’t you drinking too much?)

“It’s just a bit of wine. Why are you so anxious?”

Tantai Yutang filled up Li Ziqi’s cup.

The corners of his lips curled up into a sneaky smile. It wouldn’t be bad to see Li Ziqi making a fool out of herself. If that happened, he’d have a trump card to sneer about if she were to use her status as the eldest martial sister to scold him.

The sickly guy sneakily prepared the image-recording stone.

“Hmm?”

Qin Yaoguang was also a smart girl. After seeing Tantai Yutang’s gaze, she instantly understood and started to persuade Li Ziqi to drink up too. “Oh dear, Teacher won’t fall for Jiang Yuzhen, would he?”

“Definitely not!”

Li Ziqi thought to herself. (It’s just a military lady. I can do it too. I’ll put on light armor and a cape tomorrow.)

With Sun Mo gone, those youngsters who wanted to ask him for his assessment felt very disappointed. Their enthusiasm for composing poems also plunged.

At the sight of this scene, some great teachers and high-ranking officials felt a little displeased.

(Why do you have such high popularity? We aren't bad either! Why don't they look for us for our assessments?)

It was impossible for a person to be liked by everyone. Therefore, the people who hated Sun Mo would inevitably make cynical remarks with some disparaging tone.

"Great Teacher Sun's assessments earlier were either too mediocre or dry. There's no novelty at all!"

"That's right! I feel that the Plum Song from earlier wasn't bad, but Great Teacher Sun felt that it was mediocre!"

"He's nitpicking too much!"

The guests' discussions became increasingly intense and the number of people involved increased. Everyone started to join this conversation.

"Teacher Sun's novels are extremely well-written and there's no issue with his paintings either. But his capabilities in poetry are really unconvincing!"

A 7-stars great teacher with the surname Cui flaunted his seniority and commented, "After all, he doesn't have any presentable works!"

"That's right, Great Teacher Cui's Lantern Festival verse in your early days is known near and far. It's said that no one dares to write about the Lantern Festival after this verse came out!"

"Even if Great Teacher Sun were to make an attempt, he probably couldn't compare either!"

Someone immediately hurried up to him.

Cui Mingsheng stroked his beard, enjoying the flatteries. He was about to speak modestly when someone slammed the table.

Bang!

"How dare any random person dare to compare with my teacher?"

Li Ziqi stood up.

Chapter 1203: Drunken Hundred Poems Recital

The palace was well lit up!

After Li Ziqi's beautiful figure stood up, she attracted everyone's gaze. Of course, it was also because her words were too domineering.

Saying that a 7-stars great teacher was a random person?

What arrogance!

Li Xiu was given a fright and quickly stopped her. "Ziqi, take note of your etiquette!"

If a 7-stars great teacher were to go to the Great Tang, even her royal brother would have to receive them in person.

However, Li Ziqi had no intention of apologizing. She just stood there and looked at Cui Mingsheng. "If you're displeased about my teacher, then just take him head-on. How capable are you to be talking behind his back?"

Other people who were chatting leisurely also noticed the conflict over here and looked over. The Qi Emperor even asked about what had happened in a soft voice.

"You unworthy one!"

Cui Mingsheng flew into a rage. Ever since he had become a 6-stars great teacher, no one had dared to talk to him in this manner, let alone now that he was a 7-stars great teacher.

"Unworthy one! Great Teacher Cui, do you like to flaunt your seniority so much?"

Li Ziqi let out a cold snort. "Please take a good look. Right now, the person standing in front of you isn't a student but a 1-star great teacher! Someone who is also a great teacher like you!"

Only then did everyone recall that Li Ziqi was a great teacher!

There was no helping it. She was far too young and it was hard for people to associate her with the great teacher title.

Cui Mingsheng's countenance turned even more grim. "Even your teacher wouldn't dare to speak to me with such arrogance! Hasn't he taught you to honor teachers and respect their teachings?"

"Of course my teacher has taught me that before! But he has also taught me one more thing!"

Li Ziqi retorted, "Some people are young and have strong aspirations, tempering themselves as they advance forward. As for others, they waste 100 years of their life and are worse off than a dog!"

Buzz!

Li Ziqi's body emitted golden light which then splattered out.

Many people gasped in surprise at this scene.

To think that Priceless Advice had erupted. This meant that Li Ziqi looked down on Cui Mingsheng from the bottom of her heart, and that she couldn't stand the way such people acted.

But wasn't this being too vicious?

To be erupting Priceless Advice when scolding someone. It was really not holding back at all.

"You..."

Cui Mingsheng was so angry that his hands were shivering.

"Eldest Princess, aren't you going to stop her? It'd be hard to resolve this matter if it were to blow up!"

Han Cangshui gloated.

“...”

Li Xiu smiled bitterly. She knew how much her niece admired Sun Mo. If she was drunk and felt a little more courageous, she'd have attacked people fiercely. Even if she wasn't drunk, she'd lash out verbally.

“Please, can the two of you calm down?”

Grand Tutor Su stepped in to mediate the situation.

Cui Mingsheng, who was in rage, felt even angrier.

(Why aren't you helping me out? Isn't it all because Li Ziqi's personal teacher is Sun Mo? You bootlickers really don't care about your face just because of his God Hands and Skyward Spirit Rune.)

It was no wonder that Cui Mingsheng was angry.

Regardless of which occupation one had, they'd have to show respect to their seniors, let alone in the great teachers world. Even if the newcomer was right, they were wrong to be quarreling with a senior.

But right now, not a single great teacher stood out to reproach Li Ziqi. Even the few great teachers who were talking politely to Cui Mingsheng didn't dare to do so.

Cui Mingsheng looked over and they all shrank their necks, averting their gazes.

(What can we do? Although Great Teacher Sun is young, he is a great ancestor-level spirit runist, a great influential scholar. If we were to offend him, how should we survive in the great teachers world in the future?)

In terms of reputation, Cui Mingsheng couldn't be compared to Sun Mo!

It was clear from the Qi Emperor's attitude.

“Did I say anything wrong?”

Cui Mingsheng's temper rose. “If Sun Mo could come up with a great poem, why would he need to leave the banquet on the pretext of visiting the washroom?”

Cui Mingsheng had confidence when he said this.

What was the most important thing to a great teacher?

Reputation!

Therefore, even a high star-level great teacher would make a lot of preparations for a palace banquet, wanting to win themselves some reputation. If Sun Mo's poetry was good enough, why didn't he flaunt them?

If he was the one in Sun Mo's shoes, he'd have flaunted away, letting all the other great teachers present pale in comparison.

Moreover, Cui Mingsheng had made a verse about the Lantern Festival in his younger days. Until now, there were singers spreading the verse and this was where his confidence came from.

Even though Sun Mo had written a lot of verses in [A Dream of Red Mansions], the best of them were just slightly above average and weren't at the level in which it'd be passed down in history.

"What a joke. Are you a parasite in my teacher's stomach? How did you know that he left using an excuse? Can't he leave to take a rest after feeling tired from sitting down for so long?"

Li Ziqi sneered. "Moreover, the reason he didn't come up with any poetry isn't because he lacks the talent in this area. It's because he always sees this as a minor art and doesn't care to compete with others over this."

"Haha, poetry is considered a minor art? Don't be boasting so much. If you're that capable, then call Sun Mo back and get him to come up with a work that can be passed down through the course of history!"

Cui Mingsheng said sarcastically. He was very smart and wasn't going to argue about this. He just insisted on using one's work to prove themselves.

"I heard your conversation earlier. You had come up with a renowned Lantern Festival verse before, right? Then I'll give you one too!"

Li Ziqi picked up the wine jug, took another drink, and then recited.

"At night, the East wind blows thousands of trees, bringing showers of glowing stars down the streets!"

The moment she said this, the expressions of all the guests who were watching the fun turned serious and they focused on listening.

"Fine steeds and carved carriages with perfume strew the way. The Phoenix flute music spread away. The jade-pot lanterns revolve its rays, while all night long the fish and dragon lanterns sway!"

The night wind blew along with the little sunny egg's beautiful and transcendent voice, which sounded like a jade instrument, reaching everyone's ears.

Many people revealed intoxicated gazes. This poetry was extremely beautiful!

This was worthy of them giving a big toast!

"With moth-shaped jade, snow-willow and gold thread ornaments, the lady giggles and whispers, leaving a trail of subtle scents. A thousand times I search for him in the crowd, but when I turn around all of a sudden, there he is in the dim light of a lantern![1]"

After Li Ziqi was done reciting this, the over 1,000 people in the hall, including the guests, imperial guards, maids, and eunuchs were completely silent.

What was a work that could be passed down through history?

It was one that even an uncultured person could feel that it was amazing. The scene depicted by the words and the charm emitted would be clear and refreshing, able to be savored through the generations!

Everyone literate was pondering and reflecting on each word of this poetry.

"Unparalleled!"

Li Xiu said emotionally, sneaking a glance at Han Cangshui. (You want to see a joke out of Sun Mo? Sorry, his degree of excellence has surpassed ordinary people's recognition.)

Li Xuan's expression was grim. The more amazing Sun Mo was, the more disappointed he'd be. He hated himself for his poor judgment and also for Han Cangshui's mediocrity.

"This great teacher, what do you think of my teacher's Lantern Festival verse?"

Li Ziqi asked.

Cui Mingsheng's face flushed up from the sarcasm.

How was it?

It could be said that he had no right to give his ratings for a verse like this.

It'd be enough to just compliment it.

(Sun Mo, f*ck your mom. If you have such a great talent in poetry, then why didn't you flaunt it? Why do you have to put up such a pretense?)

Cui Mingsheng cupped his fists together then got up to leave, covering his face.

Seeing that Li Ziqi managed to make a 7-stars great teacher leave in embarrassment with a poem, both Lu Zhiruo and Xianyu Wei cheered.

"All hail, Eldest Martial Sister!"

Ying Baiwu pouted. "Teacher is so biased. I haven't heard this poem before!"

"You focus on martial arts. What's the use of learning poetry?"

Helian Beifang consoled her. He wasn't interested in such things.

It was because one could only have the leisure and mood to recite poetry and write songs after having a full stomach. The poor barbarians could only think of ways to fill up their stomachs every day.

To the barbarians, being able to come up with great poetry for the country couldn't compare to the practicality of picking up a sheep.

"Although Great Teacher Cui is one to flaunt his seniority a little, he's still someone who cares for his face!"

The Qi Emperor felt that what Cui Mingsheng had done wrong was that he had rammed his toes into a steel board. "Great Teacher Cui, don't be angry! Come back and drink some wine!"

Given the sense of hearing a 7-stars great teacher had, he had definitely heard this. However, Cui Mingsheng treated it as if he hadn't heard anything at all.

"If I were him, I'd leave too!"

Grand Tutor Su smiled bitterly. "With Sun Mo's verse, no one would dare to try to show off on the Lantern Festival night. Cui Mingsheng's name will also go down in history."

Every year, during the night of the Lantern Festival, Cui Mingsheng's name would definitely be brought up to be mocked. He'd become a laughingstock.

Li Ziqi didn't expect Cui Mingsheng to cower so quickly. She couldn't even pour out all the rage she had in her.

(This won't do! I must let everyone know today how talented my teacher is!)

"Is there anyone else who doubts my teacher?"

Li Ziqi asked, her gaze scanning across the entire place.

The guests either smiled or averted their gazes. No one dared to meet her gaze.

However, there'd always be people who didn't believe this. Xia Taikang was one of them.

"It's July now and the Mid-Autumn Festival is coming up. Can we ask the princess to give us a poem with Mid-Autumn as the topic?"

Hearing this, Li Ziqi couldn't help but take a long look at Xia Taikang.

(Do you know that you're courting death? You dare use Mid-Autumn as the topic? I can recite ten poems at one go, giving you a bash up!)

"Please go ahead!"

Xia Taikang urged.

"How long will the full moon appear? Wine cup in hand, I ask the sky. I do not know what time of the year. 'Twould be tonight in the palace on high! [2]"

Li Ziqi started a double kill!

Great lord Su Shi's Prelude to Water Melody was revered as the number one great work in the entire Song Dynasty.

If anyone were to dare to say that this verse was bad, they'd be despised for being illiterate.

Xia Taikang had put all of his energy into politics and cultivation and he wasn't that good in poetry. However, the moment Li Ziqi recited the Prelude to Water Melody, he knew that he was unable to make a joke out of Sun Mo anymore.

"There has been nothing perfect since the olden days. So let us wish that man will live as long as he can! Though miles apart, we'll share the beauty she displays."

"Alright!"

The Qi Emperor clapped and praised. This verse was apt for his grieving disposition. It hit him right in the heart.

"Will live as long as he can! Though miles apart, we'll share the beauty she displays. This is extremely beautiful! Extremely beautiful!"

The Qi Emperor wiped away his tears.

Li Xiu's lips twitched a little. She didn't know that he was a literary man.

"Why do I feel that this won't become Ziqi's black history?"

Tantai Yutang took a look at the image-recording stone in his hand and suddenly felt disinterested.

"Let's wait a little longer!"

Qin Yaoguang wasn't willing to believe it. She poured a cup of wine and handed it to Li Ziqi. "Eldest Martial Sister, this great poetry is worth giving a toast to!"

"That's right! My beloved subordinates, let's give a toast to Princess Li Ziqi!"

The Qi Emperor raised his cup.

"Your Majesty, this is my teacher's verse!"

Li Ziqi was humble and didn't accept the toast.

"You're Sun Mo's eldest disciple and it's right for you to drink on his behalf!"

The Qi Emperor tried to persuade her to drink up and couldn't help but ask, "Are there more?"

"Your Majesty can come up with a topic!"

Li Ziqi planned on giving a triple kill.

"Then let's set the Double Ninth Festival as the topic."

The Qi Emperor picked a festival.

Ancient people viewed worship events in high regard. The Qi Emperor wanted to know if Sun Mo had any lascivious poems, but he didn't dare to ask.

Li Ziqi chuckled. (Aren't you just sending your head over to be chopped?)

The little sunny egg chugged down a mouthful of wine!

(Listen well!)

Chapter 1204: Eldest Martial Sister Had Gone Crazy From 'Killing'!

"A light mist and dense clouds shroud a long day in melancholy, the fragrance of an exquisite essence scatters from the gilded beast-shaped burner. Come again has the season of the Double Ninth, through the silk drapes and the embroidered pillow, chilliness begins to penetrate in the middle of the night."

"I sip at my wine by the east fence past the twilight, chrysanthemums and their subtle scent keep in my sleeves. How could anyone not agree that this is soul lifting? Yet when a westerly raises the screen, I realize I have withered thinner than those yellow petals and leaves.[1]"

After Li Ziqi was done reciting this, everyone was in dead silence again.

The men were fine, but the women's eyes instantly turned red, with hints of tears. The last line of the poetry brought out the life-like image of a submissive wife who was missing her husband, incurring one's pity.

"I didn't expect a man like Sun Mo to be able to write such a sentimental, delicate, and emotional poem!"

Li Xiu thought back on this poetry, feeling a lingering fragrance in her mouth. She had a strong urge to immediately write it down and put it up in her bedroom to admire it every day.

However, Li Xiu gave her niece an obscure glance.

(Isn't there something wrong with your expression? Don't tell me you've fallen in love with Sun Mo? He's your teacher!)

However, even if she were to have fallen for Sun Mo, Li Xiu felt that it was understandable. Sun Mo was too outstanding.

He was tall, handsome, smart, talented, and had a great status and reputation at such a young age. A man like this was definitely a husband that was hard to come by!

If Li Xiu didn't have a husband, she would have taken the initiative to invite Sun Mo to be in an intimate relationship with her in the dark. She would keep him by her side to dispel her loneliness.

"Give her great rewards!"

The Qi Emperor clapped his hands. If a concubine from his harem could recite this poem to him with a plaintive expression, he would immediately confer her the title of consort!

"It's such a great day, so it's too sad to talk about a topic like the Double Ninth Festival. Ziqi, why don't you recite a happier poem?"

The empress laughed. "Given how much Great Teacher Sun likes you, he must have written you a poem before, right? Why don't you recite it for us?"

"Hehe!"

Grand Tutor Su chuckled inwardly. Although the empress was over 40 years old, there was a young girl living in her heart. She clearly wanted to listen to a poem Sun Mo had written for 'her'.

"Alright!"

Li Ziqi naturally wouldn't reject her. She was about to recite the poem when she was interrupted by Qin Yaoguang.

"Eldest Martial Sister, have a drink first!"

Li Ziqi had drunk a little too much and was a little muddled. Hence, she didn't think much about it and raised her head to drink another mouthful of wine. Then, she started her quadruple kill!

“Delicate and graceful when she has barely turned thirteen, like tender cardamom sprigs come February’s new moon. Spring breezes waft along the three-mile-long Yangzhou Avenue, up rolled many beaded screens, yet there is none that is her equal in view. [2]”

The moment the little sunny egg finished the recital, cheers rang out.

“Amazing!”

“Give her great rewards!”

“F*ck!”

Everyone turned around and glared at this dampening fellow.

The empress glared at him with murderous intent.

“If you don’t know how to praise someone, then shut up. A good poem was ruined by you.”

The empress was furious. “Someone, take him out!”

This was a young man who had made meritorious achievements. He wasn’t well learned and the only comment he could make was ‘f*ck’.

He was used to saying this when he had visited brothels and pleasure boats. After all, the prostitutes did not dare to provoke him. But now, he was in the palace’s great hall.

“Give him 30 strokes of the paddle!”

The Qi Emperor instructed.

This poem made his emotions fluctuate and he had the urge to show favor to a few young ladies.

As an old lascivious man, the Qi Emperor was unlike most people. He could sense a young lady’s innocence, playfulness, and adorableness from this poem. What went into his mind was the old days when he was still the crown prince and the nervousness and agitation he felt when he showed favor to a young palace maid for the first time!

That was when he had truly become a man.

He would never forget about that afternoon in this lifetime.

Right now, all the men were wearing gentle expressions as they sank into their memories. After all, who wouldn’t have a first love? No matter how bad it was, they’d at least have a crush on someone before.

“Are there any poems on women?”

The Empress wasn’t satisfied. Her appetite had been raised. She wanted a poem, one that could be given to her.

“Of course there is!”

Li Ziqi smiled. Her eyes were curved and she looked really cute.

“Eldest Martial Sister, give us a quintuple-kill!”

As Qin Yaoguang spoke, she lifted the wine jug with both hands and fed Li Ziqi another mouthful.

“Splendid clouds and flowers remind us of her beauty, her charm is ever-present in sill-crossing spring breezes and condensate dews. You’d see her where gods reside, either at the peak of the Celestial Mountains, or on the Jadeite Terrace under a heavenly moon.[3]”

Clank!

There was no need to read the rest. When the empress heard the first two lines, she stood up in shock. Then, her expression turned to that of pleasant surprise.

This ‘A Song for Peaceful and Tranquil Times’ really wrote the beauty of a woman right down to her bones.

“I want it!”

When Li Ziqi finished reciting, the empress smiled. “Ziqi, was this poem written by Great Teacher Sun?”

“Of course!”

Li Ziqi nodded.

Sssss!

Many people drew in a cold breath. Because up until now, each of the five poems that Li Ziqi had recited could be said to be a great work throughout all ages.

They could be passed down through history.

“Then who did he write this for?”

After the empress asked this, her hands under her sleeves trembled with excitement.

“For whom?”

Li Ziqi frowned. The teacher had never mentioned it before. These poems were thrown to her when her teacher was giving her additional lessons to handle the Calligraphy Battle.

The empress was delighted to see Li Ziqi’s expression and asked impatiently, “So, this poem was written by Sun Mo in his leisure?”

“En!”

Li Ziqi nodded.

The empress didn’t say anything and waited for Li Ziqi to get the hint and continue the conversation. However, the little sunny egg had drunk too much today, and her reaction was a little slow.

It was Qin Yaoguang, who was quick-witted, who spoke up to save the situation.

“My teacher’s poem was written for the empress. He also said that it’s a blessing for the Great Qi to have you as the country’s motherly model!”

“Haha, Great Teacher Sun has flattered me!”

The empress said modestly, but anyone could see that her smile was so wide that the wrinkles on her face could crush a crab. “Men, give out a reward! A great reward!”

“What is Junior Martial Sister Yaoguang doing? Why did she have to say something that Teacher had never said?”

Lu Zhiruo pouted. Her teacher was not such a frivolous person.

“It’s just a poem. It’s useless for us to keep it. However, by giving it to the empress, we can get her appreciation. With this relationship, when you guys come to Qi Country in the future, you definitely won’t have to be afraid of being bullied.”

Tantai Yutang explained.

Qin Yaoguang’s personality was very mature. She knew how to maximize benefits.

Sure enough, after the empress gave out a reward, she took out a jade pendant. “Ziqi, take this jade pendant. In the future, when your fellow disciples come to the Qi Country, you can come to the palace to look for me!”

There were many youngsters from Qi Country who had made meritorious achievements today. Hence, when they saw this scene, their eyes turned red with jealousy.

The palace was not a place that anyone could enter as they pleased.

“This old woman got it cheap.”

Li Xiu’s red lips, which were covered in rouge, pouted as she felt indignant.

In history, not many empresses could leave their names behind. However, with Sun Mo’s A Song for Peaceful and Tranquil Times, Empress Qi could absolutely have a place in historical records.

If this poem was given to those renowned courtesans, their values would definitely increase tremendously. They would immediately become top courtesans and would even recommend themselves to serve Sun Mo.

Li Xiu wasn’t the only one. The other women present were so jealous that they were going crazy.

“Sigh, this poem is enough for Teacher to patronize many courtesans for free. It’s such a loss to be giving it to the empress!”

The usually quiet Jiang Leng suddenly said a long sentence.

Amidst her agitation, the empress was still not satisfied after getting the poem. “Then does Great Teacher Sun have any works regarding lovesickness and love?”

All women loved these themes...

Li Ziqi smiled and opened her red lips slightly, entering a super-transcendent state!

“Clouds float like works of art; stars shoot with grief at heart. Across the Milky Way, the Cowherd meets the Maid. When autumn’s Golden Wind embraces Dew of Jade, all the love scenes on earth, however many, fade.[4]”

It wasn't just the Empress's beautiful eyes that were shimmering with an alluring glow as she recited the poem in her heart. Even Li Xiu was immersed in it.

This was how domineering 'Immortal at the Magpie Bridge' was. It could capture a woman's heart!

After Li Ziqi finished reciting it, the empress asked impatiently, "Are there more? Recite another!"

"Your Majesty!"

Even the prime minister, who was usually very composed, felt displeased. (You should give us a chance to set the topic too.)

The empress ignored him and stared at Li Ziqi.

"I listen to cicadas singing dolefully in the cold from across the gallery at dusk, the sudden rain has just come to a halt! [5]"

The little sunny egg didn't disappoint. Once the 'Lyrics to Tinkling Heavy Rain' was recited, the entire crowd fell silent once again. Many women started to cry, feeling dejected.

"Your Highness, are there any poems on reminiscing about the past?"

The prime minister quickly asked while everyone was immersed in Lyrics to Tinkling Heavy Rain.

It had been many years since he last returned to his hometown. Moreover, there was a high chance that he would die while still in office. After all, the Qi Emperor had relied on him, an important official of the country, to stabilize Qi Country.

He had requested to resign from office many times, but the Qi Emperor had always rejected his request..

Li Ziqi glanced at the old prime minister.

"The sky is blue with clouds, the ground covered in leaves yellowed. To the water's edge spread autumn colors, cold mist hovers over green waters! [6]"

The moment Fan Zhongyan's 'Lyrics to Sumuzhe' came out, this prime minister broke out in tears as he thought of his life as an official over several decades.

There was indeed bitterness and sweetness. It was hard to convey many of his emotions to outsiders!

"Your Majesty, I'd like to resign from my position!"

The old prime minister stepped forward and knelt to ask for approval to return to his hometown.

The Qi Emperor was just about to refuse when over ten old officials stood up.

"Your Majesty, I would also like to resign from my position!"

"Count me in!"

"I miss home. I can only feel at ease after dying in my hometown and returning to my roots!"

The Qi Emperor felt a headache.

“Dear subjects, you are my trusted subordinates. If you were to leave, what would happen to my empire? What would happen to my people?”

The Qi Emperor persuaded.

The old officials remained silent.

“Ziqi, quick, recite a poem about great ambitions and ideals!”

The Qi Emperor urged.

“A serving of spirit in a golden chalice has a price of ten thousand pence, and ten times more for delicacies dished out on a platter made of jade. Yet in the face of such a feast I could not bring myself to taste, with wrath I drew my sword and looked around, feeling completely at a loss. [7]”

Li Ziqi opened her mouth and recited one immediately. When she said this, she kept feeling that it was bland and tasteless. Hence, she shouted, “Zhiruo, bring me wine!”

“Here you go, Eldest Martial Sister!”

The papaya girl handed her wine.

With the Poet Immortal’s ‘A Trying Journey’ recited, everyone was shocked!

All the people present had high statuses—nobles, empress, and consorts, as well as great teachers and high-ranking officials. They could be said to be winners in life. Even the palace maids who served others had to go through layers of selection before they could enter the palace.

After hearing the Poet Immortal’s A Trying Journey, they instantly thought back on the hardships they had been through in their life, as well as the aspirations they had when they were young.

No one wanted to waste their lives!

Everyone wanted to live like a great person!

The few high-ranking officials suddenly had the urge to work for another 50 years and achieve a perfect life!

After Li Ziqi recited this, she raised her head again and continued drinking.

By now, she was completely drunk. And because she had recited the Poet Immortal’s great work, her emotions welled up too.

She started reciting poems before anyone gave her a topic.

“Do you not see, the waters of the Yellow River come pouring from the sky, rushing toward the sea and never coming back?”

“Do you not see, our elders’ grievance over gray hair when the mirror they looked into, which was once ebony, is now as white as snow in their twilight years?[8]”

Reciting the Poet Immortal’s ‘Please Drink Up’, Li Ziqi recalled her past!

She was born with a photographic memory and was very talented, being doted on by her father and revered as the Great Tang's first princess. Li Ziqi also saw herself as a genius, but everything was shattered after she had been refused in an attempt to acknowledge a teacher.

A Nine Provinces' secondary saint, an influential character who stood at the top of the great teachers world, had refused to take her in as his student. Although he didn't openly call her trash, the hidden meaning behind his words was clear.

From then on, Li Ziqi's life sank into darkness!

The little sunny egg had thought that she'd be in eternal night, no longer able to see any hint of light in the future. She had thought of committing suicide more than once, but she was unwilling to do so.

She wanted to prove herself!

She wanted to prove that Secondary Saint Zhou was wrong.

However, she was so powerless and didn't know what she should do until she met Sun Mo!

It was him who had broken this eternal night that was sealed up in ice and brought her into the morning to continue enjoying this warm and comforting sunlight.

"A steed with vivid shades of hair, a fur coat worthy of a thousand gold pieces. In exchange for more great wine, I'll have my son pawn these, to share with you in smoothing away our millennia of sorrow, gloom, and grief.[8]"

After Li Ziqi was done reciting that, she raised her wine jug to the air. "Teacher, thank you for your guidance so that I have the right to stand here and compete against the various countries' heroes, to have exchanges with high star-level great teachers, and to be able to stand in the limelight amidst the ten thousand people in the hall, washing off my reputation as trash!"

"This toast is to you!"

After saying that, Li Ziqi raised her head and drank the wine in one gulp.

Li Xiu had wanted to stop her so that Li Ziqi wouldn't make a fool of herself. However, seeing her cry, Li Xiu recalled what her niece had gone through and gave up on trying to persuade her.

"Let her vent this once!"

Li Xiu was actually thanking Sun Mo from the bottom of her heart for giving her niece a new life.

The guests were silent and looked at Li Ziqi quietly.

She was the most doted on and most beautiful princess of the Great Tang's emperor, Sun Mo's first disciple. She had broken the record for being the youngest great teacher and the royal good-for-nothing rejected by Secondary Saint Zhou. The name Li Ziqi and her experiences were already well known by everyone.

Coupled with the Poet Immortal's [Please Drink Up], a perfect complement, it perfectly portrayed the image of a passionate, bold, unrestrained, valiant, and hardworking girl who was unwilling to lose.

Li Ziqi shouldn't just be Li Ziqi, but also the hope and role model for many lonely and anonymous youths who were deep in the swamp.

That's right, refusing to lose, looking forward and running with all your might!

Everyone looked at Li Ziqi and reminisced about the Please Drink Up poem. Without realizing it, their chests were also filled with unparalleled boldness!

"This is what Teacher wrote for Eldest Martial Sister, right?"

Lu Zhiruo was envious. She also wanted her teacher to write her a poem.

Sun Mo's other disciples were envious. Even Jiang Leng, who cared about such things the least, wanted one.

"These... These were all written by Great Teacher Sun?"

Someone felt really curious and asked. However, after saying that, he quickly explained, "I'm not suspecting anything. I just want to know how Great Teacher Sun is able to come up with so many good works."

Li Ziqi ignored him. This kind of insight was small and insignificant like a mayfly. It was not worth her explanation.

"Ziqi, did Great Teacher Sun specially compose this poem for you?"

The Qi Emperor was curious. "What is its name?"

"[Please Drink Up!]"

Thinking of how well her teacher had treated her, the little sunny egg smiled. It looked very sweet and beautiful. Then, she quietly made a vow in her heart.

(Teacher, I won't let you down. I must become a Saint and stand at the top of the Nine Provinces!)

Buzz!

When this thought popped up, a dazzling golden light erupted from Li Ziqi's body.. Then, a ring of light radiated with her as the center.

Chapter 1205: In the Name of Teacher, Unparalleled in the World!

Swoosh!

The golden halo enveloped more than half of the palace.

The people affected by the halo felt their spirits being lifted. It was as if they had just finished watching ten motivational movies and had been given a huge amount of stimulants on how to achieve success. There was only one thought in their minds now, and that was to work hard, not wasting their lives.

Many youngsters immediately stood up and left impatiently. They were in such a hurry to get to work that they even forgot to bid farewell to the emperor.

“This is...”

Grand Tutor Su was stunned.

“What’s the matter?”

The Qi Emperor did not blame these people because they had clearly been affected by Li Ziqi’s halo as a great teacher. What they were doing now was definitely ‘beyond their control’.

(But Grand Tutor Su, why are you surprised? What kind of big scenes have you not seen before after having lived for so long?)

“I’ve never seen this great teacher halo before!”

Grand Tutor Su didn’t conceal anything.

“What?”

The Qi Emperor was stunned and understood what he was saying. “You’re saying that Li Ziqi has gained enlightenment to a brand new great teacher halo?”

Great teacher halos could only be gained through enlightenment and not learned. Thus, no one knew how many types of halos there were in total.

Every few years, new halos would appear in the great teachers world. It was also possible for existing halos to disappear, with no one being able to gain enlightenment to them anymore.

Therefore, there was a public opinion that great teachers who were able to comprehend a brand new great teacher halo were favored by the heavens. All of them had the disposition of a Saint and were qualified to become one.

“That’s right!”

Grand Tutor Su was envious. Then, he thought of Secondary Saint Zhou.

He would definitely regret it after hearing of this matter. Even though Li Ziqi was talented, what was more amazing was Sun Mo’s foresight and teaching. Without his discerning eyes and meticulous teaching, Li Ziqi would not have been able to reach this step.

Grand Tutor Su was knowledgeable and could see the intrinsic qualities of things in an instant. However, most great teachers were unable to do so. At this moment, they were discussing amongst themselves while experiencing the effects of this halo.

“This doesn’t seem like the Rooster Crow Halo.”

“That’s right. The main effect of Rooster Crow is to stop students from sleeping in and force them to enter a learning state. It’s different from this perked-up stimulated state!”

“It seems to be very similar to Minute Seize, but there are some indescribable differences!”

The great teachers discussed spiritedly. In their confusion, they looked toward Grand Tutor Su.

“After a student is reinforced with Minute Seize Halo, they will think that it’s shameful to waste their time and they can’t wait to achieve the goals in their heart. The halo that Teacher Li has released mainly affects the mental state, motivating people to work hard to climb to greater heights!”

Grand Tutor Su explained, “One places emphasis on concrete actions, while the other places emphasis on the mental state!”

Everyone came to a sudden realization when they heard this. Some people also noticed that when Grand Tutor Su addressed Li Ziqi, he no longer called her by her name but switched to Teacher Li.

This was a sign that he had acknowledged the other party and viewed her as a great teacher whom he could talk to on equal terms.

“What is this halo called?”

A young great teacher asked humbly.

“I don’t know!”

Grand Tutor Su’s answer made all the guests stare blankly. (There’s a halo that you don’t know about?)

“Because this is the new halo that Teacher Li just gained enlightenment to, she’ll need to be the one to name it!”

Grand Tutor Su’s explanation caused a huge commotion!

Everyone looked at Li Ziqi with shock in their eyes.

This girl standing in the hall was only 14 or 15 years old, but she was already this outstanding? This was especially so for the great teachers. They knew that having enlightenment to a new great teacher halo meant that one had the potential to become a Saint. Therefore, they were stunned out of their wits.

(If you’re already so amazing now, will the great teachers world be able to accommodate you in another 20 years?)

Some quick-witted people thought of Sun Mo. He wasn’t very old either and was only in his twenties. Moreover, putting aside whether he could become a Saint, he’d definitely be able to become a secondary saint.

Together with Li Ziqi, wouldn’t that mean that there would be two secondary saints under one wing?

“Oh my god, in 20 years, Sun Mo’s faction will become a huge power in the great teachers world.”

“I think that ten years will be enough!”

“If they really turn out to have two saints under one wing, it’ll be an unprecedented case that can’t be achieved in the future!”

The great teachers discussed excitedly.

To date, there hadn’t been a case of two sages appearing under one wing at the same time.

“You guys are thinking too much into this. How can it be so easy to ascend to the saint’s position?”

Some people weren't optimistic about this. "Wait till they become secondary saints!"

"You seem to have forgotten that Sun Mo helped two 8-stars great teachers from the Black-White Academy successfully become secondary saints. Otherwise, why do you think he can be highly regarded by Headmaster Song and become the honorary headmaster of this school that's one of the Nine Greats?"

A high star-level great teacher exposed this news.

This was the first time those high-ranking officials and nobles heard of this matter. They were instantly stunned.

"Eldest Martial Sister, you've gained enlightenment to a great teacher halo!"

Lu Zhiruo clapped hard, feeling happy for Li Ziqi.

"Eldest Martial Sister, drink up!"

Qin Yaoguang handed her a cup of wine.

"She's already drunk!"

Tantai Yutang was filled with a mixture of emotions. He had wanted to use the image-recording stone to retain Li Ziqi's dark history so that he could tease her in the future. He hadn't expected her to enter a state of outburst.

At the banquet in the palace, drunken hundred poems recital, gaining enlightenment to a great teacher halo. This was definitely one of the most glorious moments in Li Ziqi's life.

Even the sickly guy, who had always thought of himself as a genius and looked down on everyone else, felt a little defeated by her.

He had no choice but to accept this!

"Eldest Martial Sister is really amazing!"

Xianyu Wei felt envious.

"En!"

Helian Beilan sighed in admiration. Fortunately, this was his eldest martial sister. Otherwise, he would be extremely jealous.

"Teacher Li, what do you intend to call this great teacher halo?"

Grand Tutor Su was curious.

Li Ziqi was in a groggy state. She only heard it clearly after Qin Yaoguang repeated the question again.

"I gained enlightenment to this halo because I recited Teacher's 'Please Drink Up'. Naturally, I'll call it 'Please Drink Up'!"

Li Ziqi said this in a matter-of-fact way.

She was already drunk, but because she had just comprehended a halo, everything related to this halo became clear under its influence.

Its effect was to let the user feel unrestrained, not caring for gains or losses, not caring for the hurdles before them, constantly looking forward and advancing toward their goals!

(To not feel inferior, to not give up. Everyone is born with a purpose in life. You can do it!)

“Great benevolence!”

Grand Tutor Su’s envy could not be any greater. Li Ziqi could totally name this halo after her. This way, even if future great teachers were to comprehend this halo, they would have to call it the Ziqi Halo.

This was the special right the first person to comprehend a halo had! It was also a huge honor!

However, Li Ziqi gave up on it and wanted to call it Please Drink Up!

With that, Sun Mo’s poem and Sun Mo himself would become even more well-known.

Of course, with just this great poem that could be passed down through the long course of history, Sun Mo’s name and reputation would remain in this world for a very long time.

Creak!

Han Cangshui could no longer control his emotions and flattened the bronze cup in his hand.

(Damn it! What is with this teacher-student pair? Why are they so strong? F*ck, she can even gain enlightenment to a great teacher halo even when she’s just reciting poems. How does this make sense?)

Li Xuan pinched his forehead, feeling a little troubled. (Would I be forgiven if I were to kneel before Teacher Sun and apologize to him now?)

“Great poem!”

Xia Taikang picked up a flask of wine and drank it happily. He liked this poem very much!

“Your Majesty, my eldest martial sister is already drunk. I would like to bring her back to rest!”

The sickly guy spoke up. Li Ziqi was so drunk that her vision was groggy, and she couldn’t stand properly anymore. Qin Yaoguang was supporting her.

“Permission granted!”

The Qi Emperor nodded. Then, he thought of something and called out, “Wait, Ziqi. We have experienced your teacher’s poetry talent. It is definitely unrivaled in the world. However, I still want to ask, what is your favorite poem?”

Li Ziqi leaned against Qin Yaoguang, gave it some thought, and then smiled. In that instant, it was as if a hundred flowers were blossoming, making everything else in the world seem pale in comparison.

“The strong autumn wind blows, wrinkling up the Dongting Lake; after a night of sorrow and yearning, Xiang gained a lot of white hair.”

“Drunk on alcohol, forgetting that the stars in the water are mere reflections of the sky. I lay upon the galaxy with dreams unclouded! [1]”

After the little sunny egg recited that, she completely fell onto Qin Yaoguang and sank into a deep sleep.

No one cheered nor talked amongst themselves. They were scared that even the softest voice would disturb Li Ziqi’s beautiful dream!

Everyone was immersed in the majestic and beautiful scene depicted by this poem.

“I lay upon the galaxy with dreams unclouded? Excellent! Excellent!”

Grand Tutor Su closed his eyes and muttered to himself, quietly savoring the poem!

At this moment, it was as if he was sailing amidst the galaxy, draping the starlight as his blanket, having the Milky Way as his pillow, and being immersed in a great dream.

The other guests were also silent as they ruminated over this poem!

“To think that there’s someone like Sun Mo in this world?”

The empress sighed in admiration. After saying that, she was shocked. She had actually praised another man in front of the Qi Emperor. This was something that she should never have done.

However, the Qi Emperor did not hold this against her but nodded instead.

“Someone like Sun Mo will only appear once in a thousand years. To be able to meet him and live under the same moon as him is our honor!”

The Qi Emperor sighed.

“Sigh, listening to Great Teacher Sun’s poems is like drinking great wine or bathing in sweet dew. It’d be such a great regret to be unable to listen to them in the future.”

Many high-ranking officials and nobles sighed.

Given their statuses, they were not qualified to drink and chat with Sun Mo through the night.

“Where’s Beloved Subject Sun? Where did he go? Why haven’t I seen him after so long?”

The Qi Emperor asked.

Right now, he had a strong urge to have a drink with Sun Mo.

...

At this moment, Sun Mo was standing in front of an artificial lake, admiring the moon together with Jiang Yuzhen.

Logically speaking, with the beautiful military lady beside him, Sun Mo should be enjoying his time. However, he was covered in sweat because each of the other party’s questions was trickier than the last.

“Teacher Sun, what do you think of An Xinhui?”

Jiang Yuzhen was straightforward and didn't like to beat around the bush.

"Very good!"

Sun Mo felt a headache coming, as if he was in the midst of a blind date. This was because the questions that Princess Flying Swallow asked were all very personal.

Of course, she wasn't asking if he had cars of his own, what brand they were, how many houses he owned, how big they were, and how much savings he had. He was asking about his thoughts on his fiancée, his life, and his career!

"Teacher Sun, don't patronize me!"

Jiang Yuzhen was really unhappy. "I heard that you guys treat each other respectfully. Other than work, you rarely interact with each other. Do you not like her?"

"..."

Sun Mo was silent. If a girl like An Xinhui was placed in the modern world, he wouldn't have a chance to woo her. Therefore, when he heard others say that his fiancée was a beautiful great teacher ranked fifth on the Devastating Beauty Rankings, Sun Mo would feel a sense of superiority. However, to say that he liked her...

They seemed more like friends?

"What is the reason you're staying in the Central Province Academy?"

Jiang Yuzhen asked again.

"Realizing my own value!"

This time around, Sun Mo replied very quickly.

Jiang Yuzhen nodded and asked another question, "Sun Mo, what do you think of me?"

Chapter 1206: Are You Willing to Be My Prince Consort?

"What the hell is this question?"

Sun Mo was stunned. As a man who had never been in a relationship, most of his understanding of women came from p*rn movies. He did not understand Jiang Yuzhen's true intentions.

Usually, only female scammers on the Internet would say such explicit things.

Princess Flying Swallow quietly looked at Sun Mo and waited for his reply.

"I don't know you well."

Sun Mo was conflicted for a few minutes before giving an answer. "You should ask someone who knows you better."

If Gu Xiuxun was here, she would definitely say, "It's no wonder that you are single for so long. You can't even grasp the opportunity when it's presented to you. You're really useless."

"What's your first impression?"

Jiang Yuzhen did not blame Sun Mo for being unromantic. Instead, she acknowledged this answer. After all, in this world, the hardest thing to see through was humans.

If Sun Mo were to speak frivolously and praise her, she would feel that this person was unreliable.

"Beautiful and have a nice body, but you don't value any of that. You should have some kind of aspiration in your heart, and you're constantly putting hard work into achieving it."

Sun Mo did not mince his words. After all, after the Five Empires War Discussion ended, even if he came to Qi Country again in his life, he would probably not have the chance to interact with Jiang Yuzhen again. Therefore, he said whatever came to his mind. "Although you have a headstrong character, you're able to listen to other people's opinions. However, most of the time, even if you listen to them, you will not do it. It's because deep down, you think that you're right."

"..."

Jiang Yuzhen fell into deep thought, seriously reflecting on Sun Mo's words. (He is actually more than 90% right. Am I too superficial? Or is Sun Mo's judgment too good?)

"How do you feel about me?"

Princess Flying Swallow asked again.

"Didn't I already tell you?"

Sun Mo was stunned. (Are you a Matryoshka doll? Or a repeater?)

"No, I'm asking, what are your feelings toward me as a woman?"

Jiang Yuzhen explained.

"I want to sleep with you. When you're dressed in your military uniform."

Sun Mo had a strong urge to say this, but he controlled himself. "I'm not a Saint. How do you think I feel about you?"

Jiang Yuzhen tilted her head and after some thought, she understood Sun Mo's hidden meaning. Her face, which always wore a cold expression, had a layer of flush appearing on it.

"Is there anything else? If there's nothing else, I'm going back!"

Sun Mo did not want to talk about such meaningless topics.

"One last question!"

Jiang Yuzhen looked into Sun Mo's eyes and asked in a serious tone, "Are you willing to be my prince consort?"

"What?"

Sun Mo heard it clearly, but he felt that he might have heard wrongly. A princess recommending herself to be his wife?

It must be a joke, right?

“Prince consort!”

Jiang Yuzhen emphasized.

“Your Highness, is it fun to be teasing me?”

Sun Mo’s expression turned cold.

He was no longer the poor man he was in the modern world who could only admit his defeat when scammed for a few thousand yuan by women.

To put it bluntly, even if Sun Mo hit Jiang Yuzhen now, he could still get away with it unscathed.

“I’m not teasing you!” Jiang Yuzhen was a little angry. “I’m serious!”

“Do you know that you have a high chance of becoming the next Qi Emperor?”

Sun Mo smiled. If she was an ordinary princess, she might have asked him to be her male companion because she admired him for his looks and talent. However, this was absolutely impossible for Jiang Yuzhen.

Unless she didn’t wish to ascend to the throne.

“It is precisely because I want to become the Qi Emperor that I cannot do as I please with my marriage. I need to consider the future of the entire Qi Country!”

Jiang Yuzhen explained.

“What does that mean?”

Sun Mo did not understand. He hadn’t watched many palace dramas and really did not have those hidden dark thoughts!

“I want to become the Qi Emperor. For the sake of the Qi Country’s stability, it would be best if my prince consort is someone who doesn’t have any background or comes from a poor and humble family!”

Jiang Yuzhen explained patiently.

Sun Mo nodded. He understood this. If the prince consort came from an influential family, it was very likely that they would form a huge power with their relatives that could affect the imperial court.

“I’m not boasting, but I’m really amazing in terms of military tactics. I believe that I will be a famous general who can lead armies to war. However, I’m not good at ruling a country, as well as taking command over the imperial court and all the officials. I don’t have the talent to rule a country, so I hope that my child can make up for this flaw and become a wise ruler!”

Jiang Yuzhen looked at Sun Mo and said, “A 24-year-old 5-stars great teacher who has created a record in the great teachers world. Moreover, you’re a great ancestor-level spirit runist as well as a

grandmaster-level spirit controller and herbalist. I feel that someone like you is definitely outstanding in terms of intelligence. Therefore, the child we have together will definitely have extraordinary talent in both military and political matters.”

Of course, there was also another factor. Sun Mo was handsome. Jiang Yuzhen didn’t detest him and could accept having a child with him.

Jiang Yuzhen had looked into things and understood that if one wanted to have a child, they had to have intimate contact. This was really troublesome.

“...”

Sun Mo thought to himself. (Alright, Princess Flying Swallow has taken a fancy to my seeds and wants to take an approach of giving birth to and nurturing a child under optimal conditions!)

“I’m not doing this for the Qi Country, but for all the people in the Nine Provinces.”

Jiang Yuzhen took a deep breath and looked at the starry sky. “During the Calligraphy Battle earlier, I wrote down my aspirations. All of you might think that it’s bizarre, but I’m serious about it!

“Without military power, there will be no political power. But no matter what era it is, even if suppressed peasants revolted and eventually succeeded in taking over the ruling of a country, what have they done?”

Jiang Yuzhen sneered. “The youth who slew the dragon eventually became an evil dragon.”

“You’re thinking of building an armed force that can suppress all the countries in the Nine Provinces and then hand it over to someone worth entrusting?”

Sun Mo understood. This person had to be someone impartial and detached from vulgar interest, able to be fair and just.

“That’s right. Our child should be able to shoulder this responsibility. When he’s about to die, he can raise a successor himself. With this done for generation after generation, this armed force will be passed down. Then, the entire Nine Provinces will be able to live in peace and prosperity under its protection forever.”

When Jiang Yuzhen said this, she seemed to emit a certain glow.

She really wanted to do that!

“Aren’t you afraid that our child will become a tyrant?”

Sun Mo asked.

“I’ll instill in him the correct life aspirations.”

Jiang Yuzhen said seriously, “And since you have a chance to become a Saint, I believe that your magnanimity shouldn’t be above that of ‘enslaving’ others, right?”

“Your thinking is too idealistic. It’s impossible to realize!”

Sun Mo shook his head.

“How do you know that it’s impossible without trying?”

Jiang Yuzhen rebutted, “We were born without having to worry about food and clothes, without having to worry about marriage. We’re much happier than those commoners who work hard for food every day. We should take on more responsibilities.”

“Yuzhen, you’re a good woman!”

Sun Mo sighed. She was much better than those women who only knew how to show off their wealth, such as driving a G-Wagon to the Forbidden City and thinking about what luxury goods to buy all the time.

“In that case, come be my prince consort and have children with me then?”

Jiang Yuzhen invited him.

“Do you really trust your judgment that much? What if the child we give birth to is a mediocre person?”

Although Sun Mo said that, he was secretly a little happy.

This was the recognition from a real princess with power!

Moreover, if Jiang Yuzhen were to ascend to the throne, wouldn’t he be the ‘empress’?

This could be considered the pinnacle for one marrying into the bride’s family, right?

If this military lady with long legs was placed in the modern world, Sun Mo wouldn’t even have the chance to join the queue to be a bootlicker.

“It’s alright, I can give birth to another!”

Jiang Yuzhen had considered this problem. “I’ll have three children with you!”

Sun Mo frowned. From what she said, if all three children she gave birth to weren’t up to it, it seemed like she wanted to change to another man and continue trying?

(F*ck, why do I feel like I’m going to be made a cuckold?)

“Sun Mo, will you consider it for the people of the Nine Provinces?”

Jiang Yuzhen persuaded. “Whatever An Xinhui can give you, I can give you too. I can even give you more!”

“I don’t like to be a live-in son-in-law!”

Sun Mo smiled and rejected her. “Alright, I’m going back. Yuzhen, to tell you the truth, your Utopia project might seem to be feasible, but just based on your charisma, it’s impossible for such a team to flourish forever. This is because a team is formed by people, and everyone will have their requests!”

Jiang Yuzhen fell into deep thought.

“Perhaps the first, second, and even tenth generations, be they leaders or soldiers, are great and selfless people. But what happens after a hundred generations?”

Sun Mo sighed. "Yuzhen, dreams are too far away and reality is too close. You might as well focus your energy on how to let the citizens of the Qi Country be able to eat well and dress warmly!"

"Then what should I do?"

Jiang Yuzhen was very unhappy that her idea had been rejected.

"Widespread education, developing the people's intellect. Let them know the reason for their birth, for their living, and for their deaths, and not live a muddled life without any goals!"

Sun Mo shrugged and said, "Next will be to focus on developing industrial and agriculture, raising production so that people won't have to worry about starving anymore."

Buzz!

Priceless Advice had erupted.

In Sun Mo's opinion, Jiang Yuzhen was a kind ruler. However, her thoughts were too unrealistic. It was better to grasp the present and let everyone fill their stomachs.

Golden light spots scattered onto Princess Flying Swallow, causing her to sink into deep thought.

No one had ever told her about these things before, so Sun Mo's horizon and perspectives had given her a huge blow.

She thought about it seriously and felt they were very meaningful!

"Sun Mo!"

Jiang Yuzhen looked at Sun Mo's departing back view and smiled. "I wasn't wrong about him after all. The child we give birth to will definitely be able to rule the Nine Provinces!"

...

Jiang Yuzhen did not return to the banquet. Instead, she returned to her residence and recorded Sun Mo's words and as well as her own insights.

Not long after, her personal maid came back.

"Your Highness! Your Highness!"

The palace maid dashed into the study. "Where did you go off to? Li Ziqi's drunken hundred poems recital was really exciting. It's such a pity that you missed it!"

"Drunken hundred poems recital?"

Jiang Yuzhen frowned.

The palace maid chattered away, telling her about what had happened. The reason she had stayed behind in the banquet was so that she could rush back and report to Jiang Yuzhen if anything unexpected were to happen.

"Drunk on alcohol, forgetting that the stars in the water are mere reflections of the sky. I lay upon the galaxy with dreams unclouded?"

Jiang Yuzhen recited the poem silently in her heart and was stunned for a moment. Sun Mo's talent was really amazing, his brilliance illuminating the world!

(I hope that our children can be so eye-catching in the future as well!)

"Your Highness, the day after tomorrow will be the last round of the Arts Battles. You should hurry up and rest."

The young palace maid persuaded.

...

When Cui Mingsheng woke up the next day and went downstairs for breakfast, he saw many guests and waiters sneaking looks at him.

"What's going on?"

Cui Mingsheng looked at his old servant.

The old servant looked very awkward.

"Speak up!"

Cui Mingsheng scolded.

The old servant did not dare to disobey him and told him about Li Ziqi's brilliant performance last night. Although he put it very briefly in consideration of his master's feelings, Cui Mingsheng was still stunned on the spot when the few poems were mentioned.

"These were all done by Sun Mo?"

Cui Mingsheng found it hard to believe.

"That's what Li Ziqi said!"

The old servant smiled bitterly. "There were so many poems, with every one of them being an amazing piece of work that can be passed down through the generations. If it were someone else's work, it would have long since been spread throughout the world."

Pa!

Cui Mingsheng threw his chopsticks on the ground and went upstairs.

"Master, aren't you going to eat anymore? There's your favorite roast goose today!"

The old servant quickly chased after him.

"The food doesn't taste appetizing anymore! I don't have any appetite!"

Cui Mingsheng was depressed. "Go and pack up our luggage. Let's go home!"

"Huh?"

The old servant was puzzled. "The Arts Battle hasn't even ended yet!"

“I told you to go pack up the luggage!”

Cui Mingsheng shouted and even activated Profound Words.

The old servant could only comply, but his heart was bleeding because he had gone to the casino this morning and added another five hundred taels on the Great Tang’s delegation winning.

As there were too many people raising the stakes, many casinos had closed off the betting stations. The old servant had run to more than ten betting stations before finding one who was in the midst of closing up.

Cui Mingsheng had placed bets too. He was betting on Xia Taikang’s victory. No matter the win or loss, he didn’t dare to stay because it would be too embarrassing.

“It’s a good thing that I left early yesterday. Otherwise, if I were to leave after Li Ziqi’s drunken hundred poems recital, I’d be so f*cking embarrassed.”

Cui Mingsheng felt a strong lingering fear.

...

The weather in the Qi Country had been bad recently, and there was a drizzle early in the morning. The Qi Emperor had wanted to postpone the competition due to the rain since it would affect paintings, but when the eunuch reported that two-thirds of the people had gathered in Victory Public Square, he could only give up on that thought.

The Painting Battle proceeded as planned.

At 9 a.m, the five royal prince groups had arrived in their respective positions.

“The rules are very simple. There are no topics and you can draw anything you wish. The time will be until dusk. Whoever has the best drawing skills will win!”

The Qi Emperor announced loudly, “Each royal prince group can send three representatives!”

The Great Tang’s participants were still Li Xuan, Li Ziqi, and Li Lin. However, Li Lin was just to make up for the numbers. Li Xuan had great zeal, wanting to wash away his humiliations.

“There shouldn’t be any way to cheat in this battle, right?”

When Li Ziqi saw Xia Taikang drawing personally, she felt that a boorish person without any artistic cells like him would not be able to win.

“The assessment of paintings is too subjective. It all depends on how the judges see them!”

Han Cangshui shook his head and prepared Li Xuan for possible failure.

“That’s not right. As long as it’s a famous painting, one can definitely win!”

Lu Zhiruo rebutted.

“Of course you can win if you create a famous painting, but do you think a famous artist is a cabbage? That they can be found everywhere?”

Han Cangshui lashed out.

“Even a famous artist wouldn’t dare to guarantee when they’ll be able to produce a famous painting. That’s something that can only be produced by accident with great skill!”

“But every time my teacher paints, it’s a famous painting!”

The papaya girl was unhappy. (You guys are the ones who are ignorant and ill-informed.)

“Hehe!”

Han Cangshui replied.

“What are you laughing at? In the past two years, my teacher has created a total of six famous paintings!”

Ying Baiwu lashed out.

Chapter 1207: Battle of Famous Paintings

“If we include the [Riches and Honor, Solitary Life Painting], there should be seven of them!”

Lu Zhiruo pursed her lips. Because Sun Mo had helped a little maid copy this famous painting, even though it was his work, he usually didn’t mention it.

“It doesn’t matter!”

Qin Yaoguang continued, “It’s too difficult for others to make famous paintings, so every single one of them has to be included. However, Teacher is different. He can draw them whenever he wants!”

“That’s right!” Ying Baiwu was very proud. “The number of famous paintings under our teacher’s name is enough to crush many famous artists.”

“Ziqi’s drawing skills are not bad to begin with. Coupled with Great Teacher Sun’s guidance, even if she doesn’t get first place, there should be no issue to get second place.”

Li Xiu was looking forward to it. As long as Li Ziqi could get second place, the Great Tang would emerge as the champion of the Arts Battle.

The Painting Battle’s time limit was three hours. During this time, the Qi Emperor wouldn’t let everyone just sit there and do nothing. Otherwise, it’d be too boring. Therefore, he arranged for an art appreciation session.

The judges for this Painting Battle were three famous artists.

Zou Yin was good at drawing people and scenes from the streets, especially the beauty portraits. They were the favorites of emperors and young masters of wealthy families. They were also the most expensive ones on the market.

After all, which man didn’t like beauties?

In reality, women had all sorts of shortcomings, but the ones in paintings could be perfect and flawless.

Wang Zan was good at drawing mountains, rivers, flowers, and birds. He was said to be a man who had carved nature on canvases. His whereabouts were also the most indiscernible. He often entered the mountains and forests and would be gone for several years each time.

This time around, it was only after hearing that Sun Mo was coming did Wang Zan agree to the Qi Emperor's invitation to be the judge.

The third person was Zeng Gongnian, who was called Hundred-Hands. It meant that he could draw anything. He was also the oldest famous artist here. He had drawn the most portraits of emperors with his hands.

"This painting is Wu Daozi's' [Child-Deliverance Painting]. I came across it by chance at an art gallery when I traveled incognito!"

As the Qi Emperor gave his introduction, four eunuchs carefully unrolled a long scroll.

"Everyone, please appraise it!"

The Qi Emperor took a sip of wine, a trace of mockery flashing in his eyes.

The important figures from the four delegations went on stage.

From the Great Tang's side, Li Xiu and Han Cangshui went over while Sun Mo stayed at the spectators' stand.

To speak the truth, he was not interested in drawing. He could admire art pieces like Mona Lisa and Man with a Pipe. However, he felt that these art pieces weren't that far off from the prints that were commonly seen on the streets.

He could tell that artists for pieces like the 'Along the River During the Qingming Festival' and 'The Night Revels of Han Xizai' were amazing, but that was merely it.

If Sun Mo had the time, he'd rather spend it on reading comics.

"Sigh, I wonder who benefited from my hard disk."

At the thought of the over 100 gigabytes worth of materials stored in the folder named 'learning materials' and how he couldn't revise them anymore, Sun Mo felt upset.

"Teacher!"

Lu Zhiruo poked Sun Mo. "The Qi Emperor is calling for you!"

"Beloved Subject Sun, hurry up and come on stage to admire this painting!"

Seeing that Sun Mo was not coming, the Qi Emperor personally came down the stage to call him.

This treatment made many people's eyes turn red with jealousy.

As soon as Sun Mo went on stage, the three famous painters looked over. Wang Zan greeted him, while Zou Yin and Zeng Gongnian did not even cup their hands to him.

"Hehe!"

Sun Mo didn't mind.

"I've long since heard that Great Teacher Sun has several great works. May I know where I can go to see them?"

Wang Zan smiled. "I went to the Dragon Subduing Academy and had the great opportunity to see The Kite-Chasing Girl. I was shocked by it! Your paintings are no longer just paintings. You're also teaching and giving students encouragement!"

"Artist Wang is too kind!"

Sun Mo said humbly.

"Great Teacher Sun, there's no need to be humble. When we paint famous paintings, we have never thought about the meaning of education. It'd be just drawing freely when we felt touched and inspired."

Wang Zan's words were referring to the state for most artists.

"That's you. I work hard in trying my best to implement teaching into my artworks!"

Zou Yin interrupted arrogantly. He then cupped his hands at Sun Mo. "Hello, Teacher Sun!"

Sun Mo raised his brows. This guy might seem to be greeting him, but he was actually giving a demonstration.

This was because for someone to have the qualification to call Sun Mo + 'Teacher(Shi)[1]', they must be a great teacher.

Of course, Sun Mo was someone who wouldn't let himself lose out.

"I think you look familiar. Have we met before when we were undergoing the 4-stars examination at the Ancient Sage Building?"

Sun Mo cupped his fists together and wore an expression as if he was on close terms with the other party.

Zou Yin's expression froze. He felt so awkward that he did not know what to say.

Although he was a great teacher, he was only a 2-stars one. He had passed the examination back when the requirements were lax, so naturally, he wasn't qualified to take the examinations with Sun Mo.

What Sun Mo's words meant was: 'Even though you're already so old, your star-level is not as high as mine. What right do you have to speak with contempt in front of me?'

"Teacher Sun, don't make fun of him. There's only one 5-stars great teacher like you in the entire world."

Grand Tutor Su was considered a host as well, so he naturally had to be a peacemaker.

"There are definitely no precedents, and there'd be no such cases either in the future!"

Li Xiu laughed and teased upon hearing that. "I've seen Sun Mo draw on the spot. To be honest, if he hadn't wanted to be a great teacher, which caused him to waste a lot of time and effort, his

achievements in painting would have been higher. He might have become a Saint Artist of the generation.”

At this point, Li Xiu looked at Wang Zan. “Great Teacher Sun has a total of seven famous paintings, all of which were completed in the past two years. Other than The Kite-Chasing Girl, you can take a look at the other paintings at the Jinling’s Zheng Manor!”

The Eldest Princess said this very loudly.

This was the first time many people had heard of this and they were shocked, the onlookers even more so. They immediately started discussing amongst themselves.

“Is that true? Seven famous paintings in two years? Even an Art Saint might not be able to produce so many!”

“A painting can only have the right to be called a famous painting if it produces a Wondrous Blossom state. It’s impossible to fake it, and these are the words coming from the Great Tang’s Eldest Princess!”

“How I wish I could see them!”

Some uncultured people who liked to mingle with cultured people to put up a pretense, as well as those who liked paintings started to mumble noisily.

“Beloved Subject Sun, what do you think of this [Child-Deliverance Painting]?”

The Qi Emperor asked.

The reason this famous painting was famous was not just because of its Wondrous Blossom state, but also because it had a deep meaning to it.

Back then, Wu Daozi’s wife hadn’t given birth to any children even though the two of them had been married for a long time. Therefore, Wu Daozi’s mother had forced him to divorce his wife. Wu Daozi refused, so he brought his wife to Yunyin Temple to pray to Buddha and ask for a son!

On their way there, there were many women who also came to pray for children. Some of them had failed several times and eventually committed suicide by drowning themselves in a river. Wu Daozi felt overwhelmed with emotions upon seeing this and they were put into this painting.

A woman’s life and the feelings between a married couple shouldn’t be measured by a child!

After returning from the Yunyin Temple, Wu Daozi made this famous painting. After his mother had seen it, she came to her senses and no longer insisted on getting her daughter-in-law to give birth to a son.

This painting was called [Child-Deliverance Painting], but it was actually a painting with a persuasion motive. People who had seen it would use a calmer and level-headed mindset toward childbirth.

“Interesting!”

Sun Mo saw the Child-Deliverance Goddess carrying a baby boy and baby girl in each hand. He recalled that even in the modern era, people had a strong obsession with giving birth to sons.

“What do you mean by interesting?”

The Qi Emperor asked.

Although famous paintings had a Wondrous Blossom state, it was not impossible to forge them. This was because these famous paintings were too famous and there’d always be artists who copied them as part of their learning. After copying them too many times, some of them would occasionally experience a flash of inspiration that would give birth to a famous painting.

For example, Sun Mo’s [Riches and Honor, Solitary Life Painting] was also a forged art piece.

“It’s a fake!”

Before Sun Mo gave his evaluation, he had activated his Divine Sight to confirm it.

The moment he said this, many people frowned. This was because they had just praised this famous painting. How were they supposed to uphold their reputation when Sun Mo said that it was a fake?

“Great Teacher Sun, no matter how many famous paintings you have done, you should always be careful and modest when appraising a painting. You should behave as though you’re new and inexperienced. Don’t speak so irresponsibly.”

Zou Yin lectured him.

Many officials and great teachers nodded in agreement.

Sun Mo was too reckless. No one could confirm the authenticity of a famous painting in just three minutes.

“Just because you can’t do it doesn’t mean that others can’t!”

Sun Mo glanced at Zou Yin. “Also, I’m a great teacher. I’ll take responsibility for every word I say. If this painting is real, I’ll chop my head off for you to use as a chamber pot!”

Sssss!

Sun Mo’s words came on too strong and attracted a lot of attention.

“Okay, then tell me why you think it’s a fake!”

Zou Yin said sarcastically.

“The theme of the [Child-Deliverance Painting] is to let people drop their obsession of wanting to give birth to a son. This forgery has done that, but it’s still lacking a little.”

Sun Mo explained, “It lacks a kind of doting love for women.”

“Doting love?”

Everyone was puzzled.

“Wu Daozi and his wife shared a close relationship, growing old together, sharing the same bed when alive and the same tomb when dead. Therefore, in his version of the painting, there is also the apologetic and loving feelings he has toward his wife. Look at this painting. The woman who is kneeling

and praying for a child should be Wu Daozi's wife. However, she doesn't look any different from the other women who are praying for children."

Sun Mo smiled. "If I were the one drawing my wife, I would definitely put in a lot of effort into drawing her!"

Everyone fell silent. Sun Mo's words made sense.

Zou Yin and Zeng Ying exchanged a glance, unable to think of any rebuttal words.

"Should I refute that?"

Zou Yin hesitated.

At this moment, the Qi Emperor clapped.

Pa pa!

"Haha, as expected of Beloved Subject Sun. You are right!"

The Qi Emperor laughed. "That's right. This painting is not Wu Daozi's [Child-Deliverance Painting], but is a copy that I painted."

"What?"

Everyone was shocked.

"I didn't expect Your Majesty to have such unparalleled talent!"

Li Xiu was indeed used to the palace life and was the first to offer compliments. She even wore a look of admiration on her face.

The others quickly reacted and offered their flatteries too.

"Haha!"

The Qi Emperor was happy and he couldn't help but pat Sun Mo's shoulder. "If it wasn't for your sharp eyes, This Emperor's famous painting would be able to fool the others and pass off as the real thing!"

"It was luck!"

Sun Mo said humbly.

In reality, the reason Sun Mo could determine the authenticity of this famous painting was because of the Qi Emperor's attitude.

Given the Qi Emperor's status, it wouldn't be a problem for him to take out a real piece. But that wouldn't be interesting, would it?

Since the Qi Emperor had an unbridled personality, he would definitely take the opportunity to make fun of everyone. Moreover, he had asked everyone's opinions on this art piece several times. The answer was clearly laid out.

Sun Mo had stolen a few glances at the Qi Emperor. When he saw the pleased expression on the Qi Emperor's face, he understood. After all, the Qi Emperor was not so superficial that he would be pleased just because he had a famous painting. It was unless this famous painting had been created by him.

"This is my first famous painting!"

The Qi Emperor immediately started introducing how he had an inspiration outburst that afternoon.

Everyone actually did not want to hear this, but there was nothing they could do. After all, the other party was the Qi Emperor. Some of them even curried up to him!

"F*ck, that was close!"

Zou Yin raised his hand and wiped the cold sweat off his forehead. It was fortunate that he did not continue to refute Sun Mo arrogantly. Otherwise, he would have been embarrassed.

"What a pity!"

Zeng Gongnian felt regretful. Actually, he could tell that the painting was a fake. He didn't say it because he wanted Zou Yin or Wang Zan to say that the art piece was a real one. When the time came and he revealed this fact, their reputations would drop drastically and his would rise as a result.

However, Sun Mo had spoiled everything.

"Amazing!"

Zeng Gongnian sized Sun Mo up and couldn't help but praise him in his heart. His reputation was really well deserved.

Next up was the time to appreciate paintings and treasures. The Qi Emperor finally could bring out the treasures he had collected and show them off.

Even some wealthy people had their horizons widened, let alone the commoners. After all, this was a collection carefully picked out by an emperor.

Sun Mo was so bored that he felt like sleeping until the Qi Emperor said this.

"Beloved Subject Sun, is there anything you've taken a liking to? You can pick one!"

After the Qi Emperor said that, the entire group of people stared at Sun Mo.

Did the Qi Emperor have to admire him this much?

"Your Majesty, these are just worldly possessions. There's no need to pay too much attention to them. You should focus your energy on more meaningful things!"

Sun Mo tried to persuade him. He wanted to say that there was no way to take these things along when one died. But on second thought, these collections might end up being buried with the Qi Emperor so he could not be bothered to say it.

(Speaking of which, if I marry Jiang Yuzhen, these collections will probably end up mine, right?)

"Great Teacher Sun, This Emperor has benefited from your teaching!"

To be able to be an energetic little bee at night that could do it seven times, the Qi Emperor did not dare to berate Sun Mo. Instead, he humbly accepted his teachings.

Without realizing it, more than an hour had passed and Xiang Zhao was surrounded by crumpled paper. He couldn't draw famous paintings, so he scratched his head gloomily.

"Forget it, the others probably won't be able to draw a famous painting either. If that's the case, I'll just need to draw a high-quality piece with a slightly higher meaning to win!"

Xiang Zhao decided not to pursue perfection anymore. But right at this moment, spiritual qi suddenly gushed on Wei Wu'an's side.

"What?"

Xiang Zhao was shocked. Usually, when such a phenomenon occurred, it meant that the Wondrous Blossom state had been achieved!

The people in the arena were also alarmed. All of them looked over.

"Wei Crown Prince has produced a famous painting?"

Everyone immediately wanted to rush over and take a look, but they were stopped by Sun Mo. "Don't disturb him, or else the famous painting might end up failing midway!"

"Damn it, why are you interfering? Why aren't you letting them come over?"

Wei Wu'an was displeased.

This was his scheme. He had cheated to create the phenomenon of spiritual qi gathering. His plan was to cancel it when everyone came over, using the excuse that everyone had disturbed him and that was why the famous painting failed to materialize. However, Sun Mo had stopped that from happening.

"Could this guy have seen through my scheme?"

Wei Wu'an was depressed. He was just thinking of what to do when the same situation happened at Xia Taikang's side.

Chapter 1208: Our Journey Should Be the Great Ocean of Stars!

"Yet another famous painting?"

Everyone stared at Xia Taikang and exclaimed in shock.

If it wasn't for Sun Mo's reminder, everyone might have inadvertently disturbed Wei Wu'an and prevented the birth of a famous painting. So now, everyone had learned their lesson and didn't gather over at Xia Taikang's area.

"If there are no unexpected incidents, the champion would be Prince Taikang!"

Zou Yin was someone from the Great Xia, so he naturally would speak for their crown prince.

Everyone nodded in agreement!

Usually speaking, as long as one could invoke the Wondrous Blossoms Realm, they would be able to suppress others. There was no exception even if their opponent was a famous artist.

“That might not be for certain. The time hasn’t ended yet, maybe others can also produce a famous painting!”

The Qi Emperor argued.

Zou Yan was a famous artist and had a certain status in society. Commoners would not dare to refute him, but the Qi Emperor clearly wasn’t a commoner.

“Your Majesty is correct!”

Although Zou Yin’s words were being rebutted, he had to endure it and even smile.

“I feel that Ziqi isn’t bad. Look at how focused she is when she’s painting.”

The Qi Emperor was a classic example of loving someone’s dog because they loved someone. He transferred his admiration for Sun Mo onto the little sunny egg.

“Your majesty!”

Grand Tutor Su felt helpless and reminded in a low voice.

(You are the emperor of the organizing country, so you shouldn’t display your likes and dislikes so easily.)

Zou Yin’s face stiffened. He wanted to say that famous paintings weren’t so easily produced but at this very moment, spirit qi started to gather around Li Ziqi.

This...

Zou Yin was stunned. After that, he felt a lingering fear and joy for not making the statement in his mind. Luckily, he didn’t say anything or his face would be smacked.

“Haha, what day is it today? There are actually three famous paintings being produced?”

Wang Zan was greatly joyful.

The Qi Emperor also felt somewhat impatient as he wanted to quickly admire the painting. He simply loved to admire zither, chess, painting, calligraphy, flowers, birds, and bugs.

Three hours later, the participants gradually finished their paintings.

Although there were princes and princesses who felt that their work wasn’t bad, their work was simply trash compared to famous paintings. They weren’t even qualified to be compared.

“From the looks of things, the champion should either be Taikang, Ziqi, or Wu`an!”

The Qi Emperor walked over.

“Your Majesty, I’m not convinced!”

A prince of Wei Country walked out with large strides.

“Although I didn’t produce a famous painting, this painting was created through all my efforts and it contains an extremely high inner quality. I feel that it is qualified to be compared to the others!”

As the prince spoke, he lifted his painting to show everyone.

Si~

Many people inhaled a breath of cold air when they saw the painting.

Wasn’t the concept of this painting a little too tragic? Hunger swept over the land, while children and women lay dead on the roadside with countless locusts flying in the air.

This fellow even painted scenes of people exchanging their kids for food!

“This is my ‘Song Dynasty Hunger Painting’, could it be that the concept within isn’t lofty enough?”

The prince argued, “I hope that all major characters here can lower your status to look at the life that these poor people are leading.”

“The three of you, what do you think?”

The Qi Emperor glanced at Zeng Gongnian and the other two.

“Since Great Teacher Sun is a great teacher and also a famous artist, I think he will be better suited to answer this question.”

Zeng Gongnian dug a hole for Sun Mo.

If he didn’t answer this question properly, he would have to offend people.

“Yeah, Great Teacher Sun, would you please answer it?”

Wang Zan urged. However, he had no malicious intentions and only wanted to hear Sun Mo’s unique perspective.

As for Zou Yin, he stood to the side and glanced over coldly, preparing to ‘stab Sun Mo’ at any moment.

“I feel that the current painting world has detoured from the correct path. Why do we have to judge the quality of a painting based on whether or not Wondrous Blossom is invoked?”

The prince continued to ask.

Several people spectating nearby nodded. They felt that the words of this prince made sense.

“This Highness, can I ask a question? Have you produced a famous painting before?”

Sun Mo asked.

The prince had an awkward expression and shook his head.

“For myself, I’m a realistic person that always adheres to the principle of things before evaluating them. I wouldn’t speak recklessly if I knew nothing.”

Sun Mo didn’t use a lecturing tone. Rather, he was casually chatting. “Since you never entered the Wondrous Blossom Realm before, you naturally wouldn’t understand what it entails!”

The prince was unconvinced.

“When you said that you created this painting through your utmost efforts, that was a blatant lie. If you were truly focused and gave it your all when creating it, you would surely invoke the Wondrous Blossom Realm.”

Sun Mo stared at the prince. “And I will be very responsible and tell you a secret. When you can ‘infuse’ your blood, your flesh, your bone marrow, and your soul into your painting, only then would you have the chance to comprehend the Wondrous Blossom Realm. It wouldn’t be possible even if you are the slightest bit distracted!”

An uproar immediately sprang up in the surroundings as everyone started discussing.

Zeng Gongnian’s countenance became unsightly.

(This damnable Sun Mo, why does he have to divulge such a secret? You are a great teacher and don’t have to rely on painting skills to feed yourself, but I’m different!)

At this moment, Zeng Gongnian wanted to beat Sun Mo to death.

Wang Zan praised. He recalled his own condition when he produced a famous painting. Things were indeed like what Sun Mo had said.

“Impressive!”

Zou Yin sighed. Such a genius truly caused others to feel despair. He had long since discovered this secret.

The prince grew anxious and blurted out, “Are you correct just because you said so?”

Sun Mo didn’t feel annoyed. He smiled calmly and placed his hands behind his back. “As someone that produced seven famous paintings before, I feel that even in the entire great teacher world, I have the qualifications to guide others in this aspect!”

“That’s for sure. Even Saint Artist Wu has only produced 16 famous paintings in his entire life.”

The Qi Emperor fawned.

However, the Qi Emperor felt that rather than wasting time on this, Sun Mo might as well use the time to give him a massage. After that, he would summon a bevy of palace maids and concubines over, so both of them could enjoy themselves for three days and nights!

Mn, the type where they would be fully unclothed!

“You said that the concept of your painting is too lofty. It’s a pity you made a mistake when you came up. You just want to use this excuse to paint the facade that you are someone who loves the commoners like your own child. If you are truly concerned for these people, you will feel empathy for them. Sadly, let alone having tears in your eyes, they didn’t even turn red!”

Sun Mo shook his head. “Student, please remember to put up a complete act in the future and train your acting skills to be better!”

The prince's expression turned ashen. His thoughts were completely seen through.

"So this is the case!"

The audience was then enlightened. As expected, the nobility would always put up an act. After that, they felt even more worship for Sun Mo. How impressive must a person be in order to create so many famous paintings?

Sadly, they weren't able to see his work.

Those high officials that were culture snobs also felt regret. Although they were third-grade and fourth-grade high officials, they had no statuses before Sun Mo.

"Can we admire the paintings now?"

Sun Mo reminded the Qi Emperor with a relaxed and carefree expression on his face. However, he was extremely elated in his heart as he had received over 10,000 favorable impression points.

"Who among you wants to be first?"

Although the Qi Emperor wanted to hurry up and view Xia Taikang, Wei Wu'an, and Li Ziqi's paintings, he still had to show that he cared about the others.

"Allow me!"

Xia Taikang took the initiative.

Two officials wore silk gloves and carefully displayed Xia Taikang's art piece for everyone to see.

"Masterpiece!"

Zou Yin immediately started flaunting. After that, he looked at Sun Mo with a gaze filled with provocation. "What does Great Teacher Sun think?"

"Excellent!"

Sun Mo nodded.

"This painting is truly unparalleled in terms of imposingness!"

The Qi Emperor sighed.

All males present felt the same way.

Xia Taikang drew a palace. Outside it, there were warriors clad in heavy armor, and long spears littered the area like trees in a forest. Inside the palace, at the end of a long flight of steps, there was only an emperor taking a slow walk.

These stairs weren't made of stones but numerous corpses. There were corpses of ordinary folks, rich merchants, high officials, and even emperors from rival nations.

Through the majestic palace gate, one could see that there was a dragon throne inside. Under the dragon throne, there was the country that the Emperor was reigning over and the citizens of the Nine Provinces.

In terms of painting technique, this painting might be somewhat insufficient. However, the artistic concept was fully displayed. Anyone who saw it would imagine themselves as an emperor that was about to ascend to the throne.

The entire painting exuded the aura of a regent.

“Painting something like this with the status of a crown prince isn’t easy at all!”

Zeng Gongnian praised loudly.

“Sadly, it lacked an emperor verse!”

Zou Yin sighed.

After that, everyone subconsciously glanced at Sun Mo.

“Teacher Sun, please evaluate this.”

Xia Taikang implored.

“Your painting is very well done, but the branding of your personal character is too heavy. It will cause many people to feel ambition birthing in their hearts when they look at it.”

Sun Mo stared at Xia Taikang. “Your dreams are good, but I hope that you can conceal your strength and bide your time well instead of fully revealing your sharpness!”

“As for the emperor verse, I won’t suggest that. I’m not an emperor after all and don’t have the mentality!”

Sun Mo rejected.

The spectators all nodded. Sun Mo’s words were very correct. The ambitiousness of this painting was too much. Those looking at it would have unrealistic thoughts running through their minds.

Xia Taikang frowned and felt somewhat unhappy. After Li Ziqi’s hundred poems recital, who didn’t know that Sun Mo was skilled in both calligraphy and painting? He had unmatched poetry talent. It was just an emperor verse, and he definitely would be able to write it if he wanted to.

He didn’t write it because he didn’t want to write for him!

“Let’s check out the next painting?”

Grand Tutor Su suggested.

“I’ll give up!”

Jiang Yuzhen conceded.

Everyone turned to look at Wei Wu`an and Xiang Zhao.

“I...”

Wei Wu`an sighed. “I’ll give up!”

“Ah?”

Everyone was stunned. (You have produced a famous painting, so why do you have to give up?)

“Could it be that the famous painting isn’t complete?”

Zeng Gongnian shook his head. “What a pity!”

Wei Wu`an had thought of a few humble sentences, but in the end, when he saw Sun Mo’s gaze on him, he wasn’t able to say them.

It was truly too difficult to cheat Sun Mo’s intelligent eyes.

“Let’s take a look at Her Highness Ziqi’s painting?”

Xiang Zhao suggested.

The little sunny egg had no objections.

The two eunuchs carefully took Li Ziqi’s painting over.

After everyone saw it, they were dumbstruck.

“What is this?”

Even great teachers with broad horizons were stunned at this moment.

“My beloved subjects, do you guys know what this is?”

The Qi Emperor asked. He looked around and his gaze finally landed on Grand Tutor Su. However, Grand Tutor Su shook his head.

Li Ziqi didn’t care about the thoughts of others. Rather, she was sneaking glances at Sun Mo. When she saw her teacher smiling, her heart finally relaxed.

In this world, she only cared for her teacher’s evaluation.

“Ziqi, what is this?”

The Qi Emperor was curious.

“The starry sky!”

Li Ziqi introduced.

On the white paper, there was a nebula on the upper part. It was mysterious, magnificent, and profound. Because Wondrous Blossom was invoked, it had color. Hence, this nebula fully displayed the mystery of the starry space.

When looking closer, one could see a blue planet. A human was floating in outer space staring at the nebula in the distance, and the human was as tiny as a particle of dust!

Chapter 1209: I Have To Obtain Him!

On the stage, everyone fell silent and didn’t speak. They were all quietly gazing at this starry sky!

A sense of majesty, ancientness, and distance gushed forth.

They didn't understand this and couldn't tell what this meant. However, all of them were stunned.

Sun Mo understood their feelings. He recalled the first time he gazed upon the endless ocean or the unobstructed sky that was filled with stars...

It was like an infinite extension of space. It would also allow one to forget about time. It looked like the line between the sea and the sky, inseparable.

Humanity was as tiny and inconsequential in the universe as a speck of dust!

Zou Yin's lips trembled a few times, wanting to find a flaw to criticize, but he couldn't. This was because his rationale told him that if he didn't know what he was seeing, he had best not comment rashly or his face would be smacked.

"Why did you want to create such a painting?"

The Qi Emperor was puzzled.

"This is because we shouldn't cast our sights on the Nine Provinces. We should instead lift our heads and stare at the starry sky!"

Li Ziqi gazed at the sky. "Our journey should be the great ocean of stars!"

Xia Taikang immediately frowned. Why did he feel like this girl was scolding him in a roundabout manner?

"What place is this?"

Grand Tutor Su was curious.

"The universe!"

Li Ziqi spoke honestly.

Ever since Li Ziqi had seen many sci-fi movies and books in the Black-White Game and knew the concept of starry space, Sun Mo no longer kept it a secret and imparted much physics knowledge to the little sunny egg.

Although the knowledge wasn't deep or profound, it could broaden Li Ziqi's horizons at the very least.

"..."

(What is the universe?)

Grand Tutor Su didn't know it, but he didn't dare to ask. If not, wouldn't that make him seem to be very ignorant?

"I feel that compared to exploring deep space and searching for the secret of our origins, the wars in the Nine Provinces are truly too insignificant."

Li Ziqi self-mockingly laughed. "It would feel like the gods are watching ants fighting against each other. Such a life would be too meaningless."

“Our dreams shouldn’t be restricted by gravity!”

Li Ziqi felt that it would be too much of a waste if they put all their resources and energy to see who would reign supreme through wars in the Nine Provinces. They might as well group together and form a human-fate community.

Sadly, the history of humanity was a saga of endless war.

“The three of you, what do you think?”

The Qi Emperor asked.

Zou Yin stared at Zeng Gongnian before turning to Wang Zan.

Wang Zan wanted to praise it, but he didn’t know what to say because he couldn’t understand this at all.

Analyzing it from the painting technique?

This was too shallow!

Wang Zan always felt that this painting of Li Ziqi had risen to the boundaries of philosophy. Right, it was the exact same concept that Sun Mo had mentioned to the ancient sages in the Ancient Sage Building.

Currently, this subject had spread to many schools in the Nine Provinces, and several people were researching this.

“Grand Tutor Su, what do you think?”

The Qi Emperor asked.

“Highness Taikang’s painting has a clear concept within. Ambition wafted through the sheet, causing people to want nothing more than to become this person, ruling supreme with tyranny through the Nine Provinces.”

Grand Tutor Su evaluated. “As for Ziqi, I don’t understand it. The concept within seems to be extremely lofty and I feel very small before it. At the same time, I’m also filled with a dream to head toward ‘that world’ to see.”

Many people nodded, they felt the same way too.

“Everyone, you guys have not evaluated Prince Xiang Zhao’s painting yet!”

The queen reminded them.

Everyone regained their senses.

Li Ziqi’s painting had so much charm that everyone was completely immersed.

Two eunuchs were stunned when they went to take Xiang Zhao’s work.

“What’s the matter?”

The Qi Emperor asked.

“Y...your majesty, there are butterflies!”

The eunuchs exclaimed.

Xiang Zhao painted a field of flowers. Due to it being too realistic, it actually attracted a few butterflies.

“Is this the famed oil paintings from the Western Countries?”

Zeng Gongnian was shocked. “I didn’t expect that his highness Xiang Zhao is also skilled in western painting techniques.”

“That’s right.”

This was Xiang Zhao’s trump card. It was too difficult to paint a famous painting. Hence, he chose to use oil painting techniques to secure his victory.

“Eastern painting techniques pursue the charm within the painting and the indescribable concept. But western paintings don’t emphasize on Wondrous Blossom, rather, they seek to bring out the truth of the painted subject!”

Xiang Zhao introduced. “Painting realism onto a piece of paper, imprinting the world onto the canvas!”

As Xiang Zhao spoke, he snuck a glance at Sun Mo and discovered that Sun Mo was smiling. After that, his heart couldn’t help but thump.

(He couldn’t have seen through my little trick, right?)

“I don’t believe that your western painting technique is so strong. Could there be a problem with the dye you used?”

Wei Wu`an doubted.

“You can check it for yourself!”

Xiang Zhao passed the color palette to Wei Wu`an.

Traditional painting was done on white paper using black ink. If the Wondrous Blossom Realm was invoked, it would then become colored. However, oil painting of the west was different. They used many different colored dyes to create a vibrant-looking painting.

Wei Wu`an didn’t take it. He didn’t understand oil painting and it would be useless even if he checked the dyes. However, he was very cunning and decided to involve Sun Mo.

“Most probably Teacher Sun understands oil paintings, right?”

This was called killing with a borrowed knife!

“It’s pretty well painted, but it’s best not to add flower fragrance in the dyes!”

Sun Mo teased.

Xiang Zhao’s face turned red. His secret was exposed so easily.

“This is a layered painting, right?”

Sun Mo laughed. "Although your painting technique isn't that proficient yet, your thoughts are very intelligent!"

"Layered painting?"

Many people had dumbfounded looks on their faces. What did this mean?

"You can even see through this?"

Xiang Zhao was stunned.

"Beloved Subject Sun, what are you guys talking about?"

The Qi Emperor was completely clueless.

"It's best to get Xiang Zhao to explain it himself."

Sun Mo passed the chance to perform to Xiang Zhao. Even if he couldn't get the first place, being able to display this painting technique could also bring a boost to his fame.

Xiang Zhao first bowed to Sun Mo to thank him for the opportunity. After that, he walked to the paper and tugged at a corner forcefully.

Ah!

Many people exclaimed in shock.

What was he doing?

But very soon, louder sounds of exclamations rang out. Because as Xiang Zhao tore the drawing paper, another painting was revealed.

This time around, the subject of the painting was a beauty.

After everyone saw it, Xiang Zhao tore the paper away again.

On the third layer, it was a completely different painting once again.

"Haha, the western oil paintings are actually so fun?"

The Qi Emperor was joyful.

"Just a minor trick!"

Xiang Zhao embarrassedly scratched his head. After that, he looked at Sun Mo and felt very curious.

"Teacher Sun, you know about western paintings?"

"My teacher's western painting technique is at the grandmaster level!"

Li Ziqi spoke gloriously. Sun Mo had displayed his technique before when he was giving her tuition.

"Just continue bragging!"

Zou Yin didn't believe this.

Next, the appraisal continued. However, only a few princes and princesses brought their paintings over. The others knew they were inferior and didn't want to be embarrassed.

Among them was Li Xuan. He even felt that he had no more face to remain here. Hence, he decided to return to the audience stand first.

Li Xiu didn't say anything. Her disappointed expression conveyed more than what words could describe.

"Everyone, what do you guys propose for the rankings?"

The Qi Emperor asked, it was time to rank the participants.

Everyone fell silent. They felt that the rush of impact from Li Ziqi's painting was the greatest, but they couldn't explain clearly. On the other hand, they instantly understood what Xia Taikang's painting wanted to portray.

Ultimately, Xia Taikang was number one, Li Ziqi was number two, and Xiang Zhao was number three.

"Teacher, I've lost!" Li Ziqi felt a little sad. "I shouldn't have chosen this to be my subject."

"There's no need to blame yourself!"

Sun Mo rubbed Li Ziqi's head. "Creating something for the sake of victory is simply not what we should do. As great teachers, we have the responsibility to guide others. Others cannot understand what you do, but this cannot be the reason why you refuse to do something.

"Several thousand years later when humans stand in space, when they gaze at your painting once more, they would then know how lofty and majestic your dream is!"

Bzz~

A bright light illuminated the surroundings as Priceless Advice was activated.

"What the hell?"

The surrounding people all glanced over.

"Hehe!"

Li Ziqi smiled, feeling very happy.

This was because it didn't matter to her whether she won or lost. She only wanted to get her teacher's recognition and approval.

"Great Teacher Sun, what did you teach your beloved student? Why don't you share it with everyone?"

Grand Tutor Su was curious.

Priceless Advice actually activated. It must be the impartment of some valuable insight.

"Some of my own insights that are unworthy of a mention!"

Sun Mo rejected.

“Leaving aside the insights, Great Teacher Sun is a famous artist! This is such a large stage that happens only once every four years, the Five Empires War Discussion. Shouldn’t Great Teacher Sun paint something to broaden our horizons?”

Zou Yin suggested.

“That’s true!” The Qi Emperor laughed. “This emperor precisely has this intention!”

Everyone also started agreeing in passing.

Among these people, some truly wanted to see Sun Mo’s painting, but others just wanted to see him being embarrassed. After all, a famous painting wasn’t something that could be produced just because one wanted to.

“Sure!”

Sun Mo didn’t reject it.

“Quick, bring paper and ink!”

After the Qi Emperor shouted, he asked again, “Can we watch from the sidelines?”

When some famous artists painted, they hated being surrounded by an audience.

“Yes!”

Sun Mo didn’t mind it.

“No one is allowed to make any noise to disturb Beloved Subject Sun, or that person will be immediately executed!”

The Qi Emperor threatened.

Sun Mo lifted his brush. After a moment of consideration, he started to paint.

Since his fame was so great, some people would want him to paint sooner or later. Moreover, the current setting had so many crown princes and princesses, including high officials. Sun Mo felt that he shouldn’t waste such a chance.

He had to make them understand that water might keep the boat afloat but can also sink it!

In history, changes in the dynasty always brought suffering to the commoners.

...

In the current Nine Provinces, it was the peak of feudalism, the same as the ancient eras of China in his modern world. Sun Mo hoped that the nobility and royalty could treat the commoners better.

Boom!

When Sun Mo fully focused on painting, his aura erupted forth and spread to the painting paper.

This scene stunned everyone.

“It can’t be, right? Yet another famous painting?”

Zou Yin was speechless. (Isn't your production rate a little too high?)

Zeng Gongnian's countenance also grew unsightly. Because even if he painted for his entire life, he probably wouldn't be able to produce eight famous paintings.

"Impressive! Impressive!"

Wang Zan wanted to go over and observe closely. In the end, he was held back by Xiang Zhao who was beside him.

"Don't disturb him!"

Xiang Zhao reminded.

"Haha, this emperor's treasury can finally have a painting done by Saint Artist Sun!"

The Qi Emperor felt very joyful and directly changed his way of address for Sun Mo.

Jiang Yuzhen didn't look at the painting. Instead, she was looking at Sun Mo who was creating it. She felt that the current him with his focused expression was simply too mesmerizing.

(I must obtain him!)

(Regardless of the price I must pay!)

Chapter 1210: A City in Exchange for a Painting!

Because Sun Mo already had an idea in his mind, he was able to draw and produce twice the results with half the effort.

He finished his painting in a mere twenty minutes.

"So quick?"

The three famous artists were directly scared to death. It was like when they were watching p*rn, and Sadako suddenly climbed out from their computer screens. Their little brothers withered immediately.

Because Zeng Gongnian and the other two had produced famous paintings before, they understood how shocking Sun Mo's current performance was.

"Someone come, put the painting up for display!"

The Qi Emperor instructed.

Two eunuchs initially wanted to go forward. In the end, they were being kicked away by the internal affairs butler of the emperor. After that, the butler personally headed forward to display this painting for everyone to view.

(This is such a good chance to fawn. Whoever dares to seize it will be killed by this daddy!)

Si~

At the instant everyone saw the famous painting, an immense sense of sorrow and tragedy flowed forth like the eruption of a volcano from the bottom of their hearts. Everyone felt extremely unbearable.

“I...isn’t this too pitiful?”

The queen sobbed, and her tears flowed down uncontrollably.

The others also felt the same way.

“Beloved Subject Sun, isn’t your painting a little too sorrowful?”

The Qi Emperor choked and sobbed. However, he felt even more remorse.

What did Sun Mo paint?

On a broken land, a young girl of four to five years old, as skinny as bones, was crawling there while being on the verge of death. Not far away, a vulture was eyeing her like how a tiger would eye its prey. It could already smell the stench of death. Once this little girl died, the vulture would immediately swoop forward to devour her corpse.

This little girl was skin and bones. Her legs weren’t strong enough to support her to walk. She didn’t even have the slightest bit of strength to lift her head or to glance forward.

Many people shifted their gazes away after taking a look because the scene was too overly cruel.

“Isn’t this something that has happened in many places before and is even happening now?”

Sun Mo rebutted.

The content of his painting originated from ‘The Vulture and Little Girl.’ It had once stunned the world in the modern era. Because of this photo, many international organizations had strongly increased their support to the country it originated from.

That photographer also received the Pulitzer Prize for this, but he was also mocked and ridiculed by many. All of them said that he didn’t help the little girl and in the end, the photographer suffered so much pressure that he chose suicide.

When Sun Mo first saw that photo, he was deeply stunned. He felt the most fragile part of his heart was stirring.

In the modern era, he was an ordinary person and had no authority to speak. He couldn’t even do things he wanted to. But now, he was a great teacher whose fame resounded through the Nine Provinces!

(What should I do?)

Sun Mo’s gaze swept past these people. They were all crown princes, princesses, and high officials. Five among them would become the emperor of the Five Empires in the future. The words and actions of these people would affect the fates of countless commoners, whether they be happiness or sorrow.

Those who were looked at by Sun Mo subconsciously wanted to evade his gaze, not daring to meet it.

“Death of a person can come in many forms. Murder, suicide, or even dying from a fall when venturing outside because of bad luck. However, the most tragic thing is none other than dying from starvation!”

Sun Mo chortled as a smile appeared on his face. "Everyone here is clothed in luxurious clothes and eats fine food every day. Even the food your pets eat is countless times better than the commoners' food. This is why you guys cannot imagine that someone could possibly die from starvation."

"Do you know? If a human truly suffers from hunger, they can even eat tree bark and soil!"

Sun Mo gave the Qi Emperor some face. However, he looked at Xia Taikang. "Everyone here is an educated individual and there's no need for me to explain how people would trade their children for food in famine, and the tragic lives they lead after war or a disaster, right?"

"Teacher Sun, during the few years of famine, we did our best to provide disaster relief!"

Wei Wu'an rebutted, not wanting to bear the blame.

"And then?"

Sun Mo counter-asked. "Do you guys feel that by doing it, others wouldn't be able to blame you anymore? What irresponsible thinking. After citizens paid their taxes, you guys naturally have the responsibility to protect their lives and assets instead of treating them like garlic chives waiting for you to harvest!"

Let alone Wei Wu'an, the expressions of the others also turned unsightly. After all, they were at the top of the social ladder and the people who benefitted the most!

"I painted this because I want you guys to remember a point. Each and every meal you enjoy comes from the flesh and blood of the commoners. After eating them, please do things that won't let down the wealth brought to you by the sweat and effort of your people."

Boom!

Priceless Advice activated.

Golden motes of light illuminated the entire Victory Public Square.

Many people sank into silence.

"Teacher has truly spoken well!"

Xianyu Wei felt a sense of worship.

"Yeah. Those in power shouldn't squander it. The fall of every dynasty is caused by massive exploitation and the emperor losing the hearts of his people!"

Helian Beifang sighed.

"Our teacher has spoken beautifully, but his words would undoubtedly offend many people here!"

The sickly invalid felt worried.

"This is the responsibility a great teacher ought to bear. Could it be that one shouldn't say it just because they fear offending people?"

Lu Zhiruo felt that her teacher had done correctly and could stand shoulder to shoulder with Saints.

“Sun Mo’s ego is too high. He doesn’t know how tall the heavens are and how immense the earth is!”

Han Cangshui coldly laughed. Even though these people didn’t say anything now, they definitely would hate Sun Mo deeply in their hearts. No one liked being lectured.

(Besides, the Qi Emperor clearly wanted you to paint a famous painting that is worthy of collection. In the end, you actually painted this nonsense? How disgusting.)

Gradually, voices also rang out from beneath the platform.

“This painting is filled with the meaning of education. Sadly, it isn’t a famous painting!”

Someone sighed with regret.

“Who told you that this isn’t a famous painting?”

“Isn’t this clear? All famous paintings would invoke the Wondrous Blossom Realm. That is the most important mark. A famous painting wouldn’t be in black-and-white but filled with colors!

“You are really ignorant. Great Teacher Sun intentionally didn’t fill the colors because he wanted to enhance the artistic concept of this painting!”

The audience below kept arguing and discussing. However, the Qi Emperor and the others on the platform had a broader horizon. They naturally knew that Sun Mo didn’t color the painting intentionally.

Black and white would look more solemn and serious!

“Great Teacher Sun, it’s truly regretful if such a good painting doesn’t have a poem to accompany it!”

Wang Zan spoke, beseeching Sun Mo to write a poem!

The Qi Emperor smiled bitterly. This was indeed a good painting, but its concept truly caused one to feel embarrassed. It was simply scolding a monk for being bald under the pretense of mocking a donkey. However, Sun Mo was truly impressive. Even when it came to scolding someone, he was still so outstanding. He wasn’t vulgar at all.

Sun Mo had an idea in his heart. He then used the semi-cursive script and wrote some words at the bottom left corner of the painting.

“Peaks like brows knit, angry waves spit, with mountains and rivers far and near!”

“Gazing on the Western Capital, I hesitate, alas! To see the place the ancient warriors did pass. The ancient palaces, hall and all, are all turned to dust, one and all.”

“Before my eyes, the empire’s rise is the people’s woe. The empire’s fall is the people’s woe.*”

“Good verse!” Wang Zan praised.

Zeng Gongnian and Zou Yin both sighed in their hearts. They couldn’t help but be convinced!

Although everyone had already had some clear understanding of Sun Mo’s talent from the 100 poems of Li Ziqi, they suddenly realized that it wasn’t Sun Mo’s complete form yet.

“If all talents in the world can be rated as high as 10 points, Teacher Sun alone will score 9.9!”

The Qi Emperor sighed ruefully. After that, he bowed deeply to Sun Mo. “Many thanks for Great Teacher Sun’s teachings!”

When the others saw this, despite them not being willing to do so, they also bowed to him. After all, even the Qi Emperor had bowed. The others naturally had to put up an act even if they didn’t want to.

Naturally, there were exceptions like Xia Taikang.

At this moment, those words suddenly glowed with a golden light and produced a halo that illuminated the surroundings.

When Xia Taikang was struck by the light, a sense of shame and self-reproach filled his heart. After that, he couldn’t help but bow.

“This is actually a famous painting with an aphorism?”

Grand Tutor Su was dumbfounded.

“Ah?”

The Qi Emperor was puzzled.

Everyone also looked over. They had never heard of this verse before!

“All great teachers have to educate and impart the dao. It is impossible for them to spend all their energy on improving their painting techniques. However, in the long river of time, there would always be a few extraordinarily talented individuals. They were not only great teachers but also famous artists. The paintings they produced had an additional layer of educational intent compared to works from ordinary famous artists!”

Grand Tutor Su explained.

“Those great teachers could imprint the effect of a halo into a famous painting, and everyone who viewed the painting would be affected by the halo. Such a painting is known as a famous painting with an aphorism!

“For such a famous painting...there are only nine in the entire great teacher world according to my knowledge. Their number hasn’t even surpassed the number of fingers on two hands!”

Si~

Upon hearing Grand Tutor Su’s explanation, everyone was stunned. After that, when they cast their gaze on this famous painting again, a deep desire to possess it rose in their hearts.

“Quickly, keep it for this emperor!”

The Qi Emperor urged the butler in charge of internal affairs.

He originally felt that this famous painting was a mood-damper and signified unluckiness. But now, he felt that this probably would be the most valuable treasure in his treasury.

“Your majesty, this famous painting was created by Great Teacher Sun. It isn’t too good for you to do this, right?”

Li Xiu spoke. She also wanted it. She even secretly cast a glance at her niece, wanting Li Ziqi to help persuade Sun Mo.

Such a famous painting could be claimed as a national treasure that possessed a great collection and educational value!

“Beloved Subject Sun, I’m willing to give Taicang City to you in exchange for this famous painting!”

The Qi Emperor directly gave a price.

The moment he said this, everyone here was stunned.

Taicang City was a major city with a population of a million. It was located at the north of the Qi Empire and was bordering on Xia. Although it wasn’t a grain-producing zone and also didn’t have any mines, this city possessed immense value.

This sentence of the Qi Emperor meant that Sun Mo could become the Taicang City Lord and enjoy taxes paid by this city. He would even have the power over the life and death of the people living there.

This was more exaggerated when compared to the rewards granted when someone was given an Earl title. At the very least, the emperor would grant them slaves and fields but not ordinary citizens.

When would they give ordinary citizens?

Only during times when they were defeated during the war and had to pay compensation.

Hence, when the high officials regained their senses, they immediately knelt in unison.

“Your Majesty, please take your order back!”

“Your Majesty, please think thrice!”

“Your Majesty, this is an action that might doom our country!”

A few of the officials were so agitated that their stances indicated that they were ready to die if they could change the emperor’s mind.

Grand Tutor Su had a headache. The Qi Emperor was really too random. Even if this was meant as a joke, such words couldn’t be uttered recklessly. After all, an emperor’s words were worth their weight in gold.

Li Xiu actually looked at the Qi Emperor in a new light when she viewed things from his perspective.

The Xia Empire had grand ambitions. Because of the existence of the Saint Gate, they didn’t dare to openly invade other countries. Hence, they merely armed their soldiers and trained them very well. This was why Taicang City that was bordering Great Xia kept getting plundered by bandits.

In order to oust the bandits and maintain order there, the Qi Empire had to send soldiers to defend the city. This was something that cost money. Hence, the taxes from Taicang City were lacking every year, and the Qi Emperor even had to inject a lot of money for military funds.

How good would it be if he could use that sum of money for enjoyment?

So, the Qi Emperor had long since been thinking of how to resolve Taicang City's problem. Now that Sun Mo had appeared and after witnessing his talent, especially his ancient massaging technique, the Qi Emperor decided to recruit Sun Mo.

After all, exchanging troubles for days of relaxation and enjoyment was simply way too beneficial. In the future, if Great Xia attacked Taicang City, that would be Sun Mo's problem and not his.

Given Sun Mo's strength, he could suppress the Xia Empire and most probably resolve Taicang City's problem forever!

At the same time, the Emperor could forge a good relationship with Sun Mo!

In the future, after Sun Mo became a Saint, it would also be hugely beneficial to the royal clan of the Qi Country.

The subjects naturally wouldn't be able to think of all these things. They only saw a city being gifted away. Other than heartache, they also felt indescribable envy.

Zeng Gongnian and Zou Yin seemed to have been soaked in jars of vinegar for 1,000 years. Their stench of jealousy was extremely strong, and they wanted nothing more than to be the one to replace Sun Mo.

Using a city to exchange for a painting, even Wudaozi, a Saint Artist, wouldn't have such glory!

No, it should be said that the entire painting world had no such character.

"In history, there have been people using cities to exchange for jade or absolute beauties, but I've never heard of someone using a city to exchange for a famous painting. Now, our teacher has filled the slot!"

Qin Yaoguang chortled. "Our teacher's name will definitely leave a mark in history!"

"Our teacher should now have the qualifications to be called a Saint Artist, right?"

Xianyu Wei muttered hopefully.

"Be braver, remove the word 'should now have'."

Jiang Leng calmly spoke in an imposing manner.

The entire Victory Public Square burst into a huge uproar because of the Qi Emperor's words. Many ordinary folks started staring at him with unhappy looks like seeing the wastrel son of a rich landlord.

(Using a city to exchange for a painting? Just this point alone is enough to qualify you as a foolish emperor!)

"Your Majesty, I have taken note of your admiration in my mind. However, I cannot take Taicang City!"

Sun Mo was also started. After calming down for a few seconds, he quickly rejected it.

He was also a man with a mine and fields (Greenhaze Forest). The income he generated yearly wasn't less than Taicang City. Moreover, being a city lord wasn't his ambition.

(No matter how impressive a city lord is, is he more impressive than a great teacher? This great teacher can simply depend on my fame to sleep with all the courtesans in thousands of brothels along the two shores of Qinhuai River. All of them are waiting for this great teacher to bring happiness to them!)

Sun Mo was very rational and he wouldn't stir such trouble.

If he truly dared to take Taicang City, maybe someone would try to assassinate him the next day for daring to mislead the emperor.

"Alright, alright. Let's discuss this matter in the future!"

The Qi Emperor moodily waved his hands. When he saw a few people wanting to speak more, he directly waved his hands and sent his guards to remove them from the area.

"Beloved Subject Sun, why don't you draw another painting, the ordinary kind?"

The Qi Emperor beseeched. "I wish to hang it in my study so I can admire it daily!"

Sun Mo actually didn't want to paint anymore, but since the Qi Emperor had given him so much face, he felt embarrassed to reject him.

"Alright then!" Sun Mo nodded. "But I dare not guarantee that it will be a famous painting!"

"No problem, no problem. I believe in Beloved Subject Sun's talent!"

The Qi Emperor laughed loudly.

The little eunuch was very shrewd and took the initiative to grind the ink. However, the moment he took the ink slab, he was kicked away by the Qi Emperor.

"Beloved Subject Sun, allow this emperor to personally grind the ink for you!"