

## Teacher 1211

### Chapter 1211: Two Famous Paintings in a Single Day

“Change to another piece of drawing paper!”

Sun Mo instructed. “It has to be at least 18 feet long and 1.5 feet wide!”

“Ah?”

The Qi Emperor first started but then grew agitated. Sun Mo wanted to paint something huge. If not, why would he need such a large piece of paper?

“Go quickly!”

The Qi Emperor urged.

“Sun Mo, it’s fine just to paint something normal!”

Li Xiu felt heartache and persuaded him. Such a famous painting ought to belong to the Great Tang. Now, the Qi Empire was going to benefit.

“It’s just a painting!”

Sun Mo didn’t mind it. He was giving a plum in return for a peach.

In society, one naturally had to interact with others. Sun Mo himself didn’t need the friendship of the Qi Emperor, but his students did.

What if there came a day where they committed an offense in the Great Qi or they needed to seek protection? Sun Mo hoped that when such a time came, the Qi Emperor could give him some face and take care of his students.

Very soon, all the brush, paper, and ink were prepared. Sun Mo stood before the desk and closed his eyes as he ‘brewed’ his emotions.

Speaking of which, the most famous traditional painting of China was undoubtedly ‘Along the River During the Qingming Festival’ by Great God Zhang Zeduan. He had simply imprinted all the passionate and glorious scenes of the Great Song onto paper.

Sun Mo had seen that painting before, but he wouldn’t copy it. He used his own thinking and prepared to paint a brand new painting named [Jinling Wind and Moon Painting].

This was a city he had the most feelings for and was the most familiar with.

Sun Mo exhaled a breath of turbid air. He then dipped his brush into the ink and started to paint!

He started painting a swallow with a mouthful of mud, the end of autumn, and the coming of spring, The bird was building its new nest under the roof of a farmer’s house.

The door opened and a child carrying a fish basket ran out. There was a river not far away and there were wives of farmers taking water and washing clothes on both shores!

As one gazed in the direction of the water, more and more humans appeared. The sound of peddlers, the rebuke of constables, and the buzz of a crowded marketplace seemed to emit forth from the paper, clearly resounding in the ears of everyone.

This was because each expression of every character within was different. Each detail was exquisitely drawn.

Sun Mo's grandmaster-level traditional painting technique included characters, flowers, birds, bugs, fishes, mountains, and rivers. So, he could depend on every little detail to fully transmit the feelings of the characters outward.

Sun Mo gradually entered a magical state.

On the platform, everyone no longer spoke as they were admiring Sun Mo's painting skill. They had no idea why, but they felt very comfortable when they saw the characters taking vivid form as they appeared under Sun Mo's brush.

This had something to do with psychology. It was like when some people watched stress-relieving videos. They didn't know why but they would feel very relaxed after that.

Sun Mo had originally wanted to paint the life of Jinling's citizens, with the artistic concept of national peace and security in a flourishing county. After all, this was a gift and he naturally wanted things to be more auspicious.

However, when he started painting the brothels and the courtesans coming out to welcome guests, Sun Mo suddenly felt an urge to add more details to the figures and faces of the famed courtesans.

Before he came to Jinling, Yui Hatano had retired. But luckily, there was Eimi Fukada. It was said that she did cosmetic surgery before, but since Sun Mo had no practical experience, he didn't know if this was true or not.

In any case, even if Eimi had new videos now, he wouldn't be able to watch them.

Jinling had many temples, a total of 480 of them. But comparatively, the number of brothels was not to be outdone.

Sun Mo drew all the brothels on the shores of Qinhuai River in detail, including the boats floating on the water and the bustling city...

Other than this, there were also some farmers doing small businesses, nodding and acknowledging their customers.

Sun Mo drew the images of all female celebrities he had seen before, and he even included the details exquisitely, to the point of the movements of their fingers, their clothing, and their decorative assortments.

Actually, when these female celebrities were clad in the clothing styles of the Great Tang, they exuded another type of charm.

"Ai, I don't want to paint their clothes!"

Sun Mo felt regret. All of a sudden, he felt a burst of inspiration. On the second floor of the building, he drew the silhouette of a woman bathing that could be seen through the window.

She seemed to have forgotten to close the windows before this.

An extremely ambiguous intention leaped out from the paper.

At this stage, Sun Mo was already high from painting and started to draw more freely, giving full rein to the inspiration that was akin to a gushing spring in his head.

Since this was the case, he also decided to paint Pan Jinlian from [Water Margin]. Naturally, Wu Song killing Ximen Qing inside an inn had to be added too. However, this was a peaceful era and he couldn't make the scene too bloody. He had to draw it in a more concealed manner.

Oh right, there were also scholars. So, he couldn't neglect scenes from the [Romance of the Western Chamber].

Inside a gigantic courtyard, the maids were taking a break, the young miss was sneaking out to meet with someone, and a cheater was jumping over the walls!

Maybe it was because he was too focused, the Wondrous Blossom Realm was invoked.

But at this moment, no one paid attention to it because all their gazes were attracted by the women in the painting.

(A..aren't they too nice to look at?)

(Wrong, it was incorrect to say that they are nice to look at. There's an indescribable demeanor that they exuded.)

There were so many women, over tens of them, and yet there wasn't a single one who had similar features. They were all at least 70% dissimilar.

"Beautiful, I want them!"

The Qi Emperor was preparing to ask Sun Mo what was going on with these girls after he finished painting.

One couldn't help but say that this person truly did have the aptitude to become a 'foolish emperor'.

When others were viewing the painting, they would only innocently feel that these characters were very beautiful. At most, they would use the painting as masturbation material. But the Qi Emperor actually wanted these women to come to life.

Sun Mo had spent three hours painting. Because the sky had darkened, the Qi Emperor instructed his officials to light up oil lamps so the entire stage would be as bright as day.

Not everyone loved to watch someone paint. For example, Xia Taikang left under the pretext that his body was unwell.

Just when he returned to his hotel and entered his room, he saw a black-robed man standing before the windows with his hands behind his back. This black-robed man was staring in the direction of the Victory Public Square.

“Teacher!”

Xia Taikang quickly bowed while feeling some suspicions in his heart. His teacher’s movements had always been mysterious. Once he appeared, his teacher surely had tasks he needed him to do.

“Help me obtain Li Ziqi’s painting!”

The black-robed teacher instructed.

“Mn?”

Xia Taikang frowned. His teacher had seen too many things and always had no desires. But why did he want Li Ziqi’s painting this time around?

Could it be that she could paint even better than his teacher?

That’s right, Xia Taikang had cheated. When he painted halfway, he wasn’t able to create a famous painting. Hence, through the usage of a certain spiritual control technique, his teacher’s consciousness possessed his body and drew the painting for him.

Hence, the sentence of the black-robed teacher also meant that he was inferior to Li Ziqi.

“Li Ziqi’s painting has surpassed this era. It’s very normal that you guys cannot understand it!”

The black-robed teacher explained.

Xia Taikang’s countenance grew unsightly. He knew that the standard of his teacher could suppress all the great teachers on the scene today. This also meant that in his teacher’s eyes, Li Ziqi was undoubtedly extremely outstanding.

“The endpoint of parents is the beginning of their children. I don’t blame you for losing to Li Ziqi. Her teacher stands at a peak that’s truly far too high!”

The black-robed teacher sighed.

“Are you inferior to Sun Mo too?”

Xia Taikang’s lips twitched.

“If you are speaking of vision, I’m indeed inferior to him!”

The words of this black-robed teacher directly stunned Xia Taikang. He knew how proud this teacher of his was. In his eyes, beings below the Saint Realm were like dogs and pigs, unworthy of a single mention!

“Enough. Remember to get Li Ziqi’s painting no matter the cost!”

After the black-robed great teacher finished instructing, he didn’t make any movements, but he suddenly vanished before the windows. It was like he had never appeared before.

Xia Taikang didn't dare to defy his teacher's orders. Hence, he could only hurry and return to the Victory Public Square to look for the Qi Emperor.

Although the Qi Emperor wasn't very old, due to him working overly hard every night and not knowing restraint, his body couldn't take it anymore. He persisted for two hours and had to return to his temporary tent on the public square for a break.

When Xia Taikang begged for an audience, he discovered that the vice headmaster of the Black-White Academy, Wan Kangcheng, was here as well.

"Great Teacher Wan, how about we discuss this matter another time?"

The Qi Emperor originally wasn't interested in Li Ziqi's painting. But now that Wan Kangcheng wanted it, he changed his mind.

"Your majesty, Li Ziqi's painting has no significance to you guys. It can only receive splendor if we place it in the Black-White Academy!"

Wan Kangcheng patiently explained.

"What do you mean?"

The Qi Emperor didn't understand.

"You basically won't understand if you have not experienced the Black-White Games before!"

Wan Kangcheng bitterly smiled. This was like playing zither to an ox; it was useless no matter how much he played.

"Taikang, do you need help?"

The Qi Emperor changed the topic.

"Your Majesty, I wish to use my own painting to exchange for Her Highness Ziqi's painting!"

Although he only heard a bit of their conversation, Xia Taikang understood that Wan Kangcheng wanted Li Ziqi's painting too.

"Why?"

The Qi Emperor felt curious.

"I wish to use her painting to spur myself to work harder!"

Xia Taikang found an excuse. He naturally couldn't say that it was his teacher who wanted it.

The Qi Emperor almost rejected this request, but then he noticed his butler of internal affairs hurriedly rushing over.

"Your Majesty, the Sect Lord of the Saint Gate has arrived!"

"What?"

The Qi Emperor hurriedly stood up and went to welcome him.

“Your Majesty, it has been a long time since we last met!”

Su Taiqing was clad in an ordinary white robe. However, his entire body exuded a celestial demeanor!

“Sect Lord Su, what sort of wind blew your esteemed self over here?”

The Qi Emperor used honorifics, executing the etiquette of a disciple.

There was no solution as the power of the Saint Gate was simply too vast. Moreover, Su Taiqing himself was at the very least at the secondary saint realm. However, rumors stated that he had long since ascended into sainthood; it was just that he intentionally masked his realm.

However, even if he was just a secondary saint, he wasn't someone the Qi Emperor wanted to offend.

“I heard that Li Ziqi produced an ocean of stars painting. The concept within is very lofty, so I decided to be shameless and come here to see if I can obtain it!”

Su Taiqing spoke bluntly.

The Five Empires War Discussion was a major event in the Nine Provinces. As the Sect Lord of the Saint Gate, Su Taiqing naturally had to pay attention to it. Hence, he had sent assistants over.

Those who could be highly regarded by Su Taiqing and become his assistants naturally had visions and talents that couldn't be doubted. After he saw Li Ziqi's painting, he understood that the meaning of the painting was extraordinary. Hence, he immediately sent a letter to Su Taiqing with an image-recording stone.

After Su Taiqing saw it, he immediately rushed over.

“Ah?”

The Qi Emperor was shocked. He had originally thought that Su Taiqing came here for Sun Mo's painting. After all, it was a rare masterpiece that had its own great teacher halo effect. He didn't expect that Su Taiqing would come here for Li Ziqi's painting.

Xia Taikang's gaze turned over.

The sect lord's taste was the same as his teacher's!

“Sect Lord Su, I was here first.”

Wan Kangcheng was unhappy now.

“Haha, the order of our arrival isn't as important as who is the one fated with it!”

Su Taiqing laughed. “How about we leave it to the painter to decide?”

“You...”

Wan Kangcheng felt vexed. What did he mean by fate? This was a clear case of bullying. Although the position of a Black-White Academy's vice headmaster was very high, it was clearly inferior to the Sect Lord of the Saint Gate.

As long as one wasn't retarded, they would definitely give the painting to Su Taiqing.

The Qi Emperor knew that he wouldn't be able to keep this painting no matter what. Hence, rather than getting Li Ziqi to decide, he might as well do someone a free favor. "For a famous painting like this that contains so much 'philosophy', I think it's better to let Sect Lord Su handle it."

Xia Taikang tactfully didn't speak because he knew he couldn't win no matter what.

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"Have you guys heard it? Sect Lord Su came!"

"Ah? The painting battle is already over, so what is he doing here?"

"Could it be that he wants to see how Great Teacher Sun paints?"

Ordinary people didn't know the situation, but this news spread crazily among the nobility. Some people racked their brains, wanting to appear before Su Taiqing so he would at least remember their faces.

But they weren't qualified.

Very soon, the reason for his visit spread as well.

"Sect Lord Su came here not because of Sun Mo's paintings. Instead, it's for the one Li Ziqi painted!"

"Ah? Is Li Ziqi's painting that good?"

"A famous painting that Sect Lord Su likes will definitely not be something ordinary!"

Many people didn't believe this news. After all, that painting from Sun Mo had a great teacher halo effect. In the entire famous painting world, there were only a total of ten, including that one.

However, several people were confident that this news was true because it was circulated from the internal affairs butler of the Qi Emperor. It was very credible.

If this was truly the case, it would mean that Xia Taikang's win over Li Ziqi was something he didn't deserve.

The sky was already dark, but Sun Mo was still painting.

In the past, Western Jing would have long since hit the curfew. But today, they made an exception. Many people didn't return as they wanted to wait for the birth of a new famous painting.

When Su Taiqing appeared, a commotion arose in the surroundings. Many people wanted to crowd forward for a better look.

Su Taiqing smiled gently. He gazed at the surroundings and an instant later, the emotions of everyone calmed down. They couldn't say anything and could only watch in silence.

"My heavens, he cast a halo without speaking!"

Qin Yaoguang was stunned. "Isn't this a little too impressive?"

Being able to cast a great teacher halo with just a thought. This magical technique was something that only those who were at least at the secondary saint realm could achieve.

“Fa... Sir Sect Lord is definitely very impressive!”

Lu Zhiruo felt glorious.

“Eh? There’s nothing for you to be proud of even if he is impressive. Why are you so proud?”

Qin Yaoguang didn’t understand.

“Eh!”

“Zhiruo is a great teacher, hence, she definitely reveres Sect Lord Su!”

Helian Beifang helped her to speak.

“Correct!”

Lu Zhiruo nodded.

“But I worship our teacher even more!”

Xianyu Wei heaved a sigh of relief. When she saw the crowd, she thought that the mental state of her teacher would be disrupted. She didn’t expect that Su Taiqing could use a single glance to make them stay quiet.

Su Taiqing stood beside Sun Mo. His brows furrowed when he looked at the Jinling Wind and Moon Painting.

This painting was pretty well painted. However, wasn’t the number of females a little too many?

Oh right, Sun Mo was a virgin. It was very normal for him to think of girls.

Sun Mo had used close to eight hours to paint this. Honestly speaking, he was somewhat tired. Although he was still inspired, his passion had calmed down.

“Let’s end it like this...”

Sun Mo stopped his brush. In any case, this famous painting had invoked the Wondrous Blossom Realm. It was enough to give it away.

“Mn?”

Su Taiqing was shocked as he asked, “Teacher Sun, why did you stop painting?”

Chapter 1212: Obtaining the Title ‘Saint Artist Sun’, Due to an Absolute Masterpiece!

“It’s done!”

Sun Mo kept his brush. After that, he greeted, “Sect Lord Su, good evening to you!”

Upon hearing that the painting was finished, everyone immediately crowded forward. But because Su Taiqing was present, they didn’t dare to get too near.

“It’s done?”



Su Taiqing frowned. He glanced at the painting again before he shook his head and smiled. He then tapped Sun Mo with his finger as though he was saying that Sun Mo was really a rascal!

For other artists, if they invoked the Wondrous Blossom Realm, they would surely do their best to maximize the beauty of the painting so they could leave behind a work that lasted through the generations. But Sun Mo completely didn't care.

What a waste!

The others didn't have Su Taiqing's appraising ability. Besides, they were completely immersed the moment they saw the Jinling Wind and Moon Painting.

This painting was completely exquisite everywhere one looked. Even the wild dog at the roadside exuded a sense of realism and charm. That ferocious aura of guarding its food seemingly leaped out from the painting.

In fact, even the mules that defecated while passing through the small alleys looked exquisite. Their feces seemed to be piping hot.

Tea shops, liquor stores, banks, clothing stores, and even a great institution made from green roof tiles and bricks—these buildings appeared row upon row and constituted the style of Jinling.

Not only so, but the demeanor of both the lower class people and high officials was also displayed in the painting.

“Excellent, very excellent!”

The Qi Emperor praised loudly. He took two steps forward and lowered his head as though he wanted to press his face against the painting. It felt like if he didn't do this, he wouldn't be able to fully feel the charm exuded by this famous painting!

The tiny stores on the pathway, the street artists selling performances, the rich guests in inns enjoying wine...be it their expressions or their attires, they were extremely fine down, to the very detail.

Although the Qi Emperor had mingled with the people incognito quite a few times before, it was all done in the capital for the sake of his safety. Hence, he simply yearned too much for life in the outside world.

Right now, the itchy feeling of being unable to obtain something sprang up in his heart.

As the Qi Emperor admired the painting, he felt himself being pulled into it. He could see a middle-aged tycoon dressed in luxurious drops. Why did he appear alone in a small alley?

The Qi Emperor suddenly felt interested and glanced in the direction the tycoon was walking. After his eyes passed a crossroads, he saw a small residence not far away.

Right now, the door to the residence was open and in there, a woman with a voluptuous figure was gazing outward.

“!...is she sneaking out to meet with a lover outside?”

The Qi Emperor glanced at that young married woman as many scenes suddenly appeared in his mind.

“Interesting! Interesting!”

The Qi Emperor revealed a child-like smile like he had discovered a great secret that no one knew about.

Could it be that Sun Mo had done this intentionally?

After having this thought, the Qi Emperor started to observe these characters in greater detail. After that, he discovered that each of them indeed had their own stories.

For example, another woman on the second floor was speaking and cupping her face with one hand while speaking with a young man in a cotton shirt below.

The young man touched his forehead and there was a wooden stick on the ground beside him. Clearly, this wooden stick that was propping the window up had fallen and hit him.

However, why did the expression of the woman seem a little wrong?

It felt like she was seducing him!

The Qi Emperor didn't know that this was the first meeting between Pan Jinlian and Ximen Qing\*.

The others admired the painting and gradually discovered some interesting parts.

“Quickly look at this woman. Her body is tied up in ropes and she looks like she was kidnapped. However, why is the way she was tied up so strange?”

Xiang Zhao was stunned.

He didn't know that this thing was called bondage.

“Haha, you guys look over here quickly. There's a scholar climbing over the walls. Clearly, he is going to secretly go and meet a young miss from a rich clan!”

“This part is very interesting. This man should be a thief. He's currently acting as a peddler and searching for targets!”

“There's also a fortune teller that steps on dogshit. There's no need to ask, he's clearly a swindler!”

Everyone had their own minor discoveries.

They suddenly discovered that each character in the painting had their own stories.

This was truly impressive!

“Damn, you guys quickly look over here!”

A prince pointed to a part of the painting as he screamed.

Everyone glanced in the direction where his finger pointed and discovered that there was an underground sewer. There was nothing at the entrance but a green dress with a black hand imprint on it.

This dress was small, only the size of a yellow bean. In a painting like this, this was something easily neglected by everyone. But after everyone saw it, they suddenly felt cold sweat running down their backs from shock.

This was because the material of this clothing wasn't common, it came from a female. In addition to that handprint, everyone could easily deduce that the female must have been out shopping and knocked unconscious before a strong human trafficker pulled her into the underground sewer.

Things were over for that girl!

Everyone felt tightness in their chests. It was very unbearable.

"Great Teacher Sun, is this a case of a young girl being abducted?"

The queen asked in shock. Between her brows, there was a furrow that made it seem like she wanted to hear the answer but was afraid that she might not be able to endure the terrifying truth.

"For famous paintings, one has to gain their perspectives by themselves!"

Sun Mo smiled and didn't make any explanations!

For a time, everyone was completely immersed in the painting. They would occasionally see some interesting places and discover some small secrets.

However, all men gradually didn't care for these. They turned their attention to the women in the brothels that lined up on both shores of the Qinhuai River.

Weren't these women painted too beautifully?

The Qi Emperor admired them for a while and lowered his voice as he silently tugged on Sun Mo's sleeves. "Beloved Subject Sun, I wonder if you can paint a few characters for this emperor?"

"Paint who?"

Sun Mo didn't mind. In any case, his painting techniques were at the grandmaster level. He could paint anything with ease.

"These few!"

The Qi Emperor chose over ten women and gave a secretive smile. "You should understand, don't make them wear too much!"

"..."

Sun Mo was speechless. (I didn't expect that an emperor of a nation like you would be into older-type females! It seems that you must lack motherly love severely!)

"Say...everyone, should we turn off the lights to admire this painting, so the artistic concept would be stronger?"

Grand Tutor Su finally regained his senses.

"Right, off the lights!"

The Qi Emperor instructed.

Famous paintings glowed with their own colors, so everyone could admire them in the darkness as well.

The officials immediately went to the oil lamps and snuffed them out. After that, a total of six staff from the department of internal affairs cautiously lifted the painting, causing the entire place to burst out in a huge clamor. However, the clamor was silenced immediately. The atmosphere became so quiet that it was scary.

Under the moonlight, the Jinling Wind and Moon Painting was perfectly portrayed. These characters seemed to come alive, and everyone could even hear the sounds of children playing, scholars studying, and women whispering and chatting with each other...

The entire painting was radiantly colored and appeared like an absolutely gorgeous pearl at night. Its brilliance illuminated everything and it seemingly had transcended the mortal world!

“Teacher Sun!”

When Su Taiqing spoke, the Qi Emperor interrupted him.

“No way. This painting belongs to me. I won’t give it to whoever!”

The Qi Emperor stared at Su Taiqing and decided to offend the Sect Lord for the sake of obtaining this painting. This was because something like this painting truly could be considered an heirloom-level treasure that could be passed down through generations.

The location, scenes, and characters in this painting could be said to contain a profound meaning and possess an exceptionally immense collection value.

“...”

Su Taiqing was dumbstruck. After that, he smiled helplessly. “I was trying to say that it would be a regret if such a beautiful painting didn’t have a poem to accompany it!”

“True!”

The Qi Emperor nodded furiously. After that, he stared at Sun Mo. “Beloved Subject Sun, how about producing a poem too?”

Sun Mo knew that he couldn’t reject this. However, he was prepared.

“Lifting the brush, dipping it in the ink, gracefully drawing on the paper!”

“On top of the Phoenix Terrace, phoenixes used to roam. Now gone are phoenixes, a desolate lookout remains as the river continues to flow.”

“Flowers and verdure of the Wu Palace are now buried under isolated trails. The upper ranks and decorated officers of Jin are now mounds topped with growth.”

“The barely discernible Trident Peaks range beyond the blue skies. The river waters part into two waterways that around the Egret Islet roll. Floating clouds eventually conceal the sun.”

“Being so far away from Changan has me worried in the shadows.\*”

A graceful flourish completed the thin gold body script. The Qi Emperor and everyone else immediately cheered. Being able to see this painting and the words being written was truly a fortunate event in their lives.

“Great Teacher Sun’s words are written very beautifully!”

The queen sighed ruefully and felt awed. (I really want him to write a famous poem on my body!)

If Sun Mo knew that the Qi Queen had such thoughts, he would absolutely not reject it. However, he wouldn’t be writing a poem but the word ‘正’ instead.

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“What a pity, why is it Jinling and not Western Jing?”

Jiang Yuzhen, who didn’t speak from earlier up until now, sighed.

“Yes!”

The Qi Emperor also felt very regretful.

After tonight, the fame of this painting would surely spread through the Nine Provinces. At that time, Jinling’s popularity would surge to another level and might even become the number one famous city of the Nine Provinces, attracting countless rich merchants and travelers to visit. They might even decide to relocate there.

How much tax could the city earn from this?

“Your Highness, don’t ask for the impossible. After all, Teacher Sun has never lived in Western Jing before!”

Grand Tutor Su spoke a word of justice.

“Our teacher is too awesome!”

Xianyu Wei’s face was flushed as she tugged on Ying Baiwu’s arm excitedly.

“From tonight onward, our teacher will be known as a true Saint Artist, right?” Tantai Yutang’s eyeballs spun. “We have to make this real!”

“Our teacher doesn’t care for such glory!”

Ying Baiwu’s lips twitched.

On the stage, Li Ziqi who had always remained silent glanced toward Zeng Gongnian and the other two.

“Artist Zeng, Artist Zou, and Artist Wang, what do you guys feel about these two famous paintings my teacher produced?”

Li Ziqi asked.

“A true masterpiece!” Wang Zan praised without hesitation. “I’m truly inferior to him!”

Zou Yin and Zeng Gongnian fell silent. Honestly speaking, they didn't want to praise Sun Mo, but in such a setting, if they didn't say anything, wouldn't that make them seem narrow-minded and jealous of Sun Mo's talent?

Besides, even a retard knew that these paintings were extremely valuable treasures that would be handed down for generations.

"An heirloom-level masterpiece!" Zeng Gongnian praised as well.

"Mn!" Zou Yin nodded.

"What about the calligraphy skills of my teacher?" Li Ziqi asked again.

"His writing is relaxed and graceful yet revealing sharpness. It contains the aura of a proud hero with enough force to break jade and cut gold. It also has a certain charm to it. I heard that this style is known as the thin gold body?"

Wang Zan stroked his beard and had admiration in his eyes. "It isn't too much to give Great Teacher Sun the title: Great Calligrapher!"

Both Zeng Gongnian and Zou Yin nodded.

"What about the literary works produced by my teacher?"

Li Ziqi continued to ask. "Oh, I mean Journey to the West and A Dream of Red Mansions!"

"A good read!"

"When will the next half be published?"

"He actually cut off all updates and refused to continue writing, what a rascal!"

Everyone scolded.

Many of the rich were culture snobs, and they only supported a piece of art because of its popularity. They had no idea how to admire the charm of calligraphy and famous paintings, but they still knew how to understand good books. Hence, the praises from the high officials and nobles were much more solid.

After all, these people were successful candidates in imperial examinations and had a high literacy level.

"In that case, is my teacher worthy of the title: Dual-Sage in Calligraphy and Painting?"

Li Ziqi asked with a smile. (Since my teacher won't vie for these things, I will do it for him.)

Everyone fell silent.

After all, this title sounded too impressive and no one dared to speak recklessly.

Usually speaking, the titles of Calligraphy Sage and Saint Artist were bestowed upon the creator's death, or their works possessed a high enough quality to suppress all other works in their same era.

Even the Qi Emperor didn't dare to speak recklessly on this. Although his status was very high, he had no status or influence in the calligraphy or painting world.

It also meant that he was an outsider and his words had no weight.

“In terms of calligraphy, Teacher Sun’s gold thin body is at the grandmaster level. Moreover, this calligraphy style is something he invented, creating a whole new style. It isn’t too much to refer to him as a Calligraphy Sage!”

Su Taiqing spoke.

Everyone immediately lowered their heads and listened attentively.

This was the Sect Lord of Saint Gate. Based on status, reputation, level of literature, and standard of knowledge, it wouldn’t be too over the top to say that he was the number one in the great teacher world of the Nine Provinces.

His words were absolute authority!

“As for painting, everyone has seen it. Leaving aside the previous eight famous paintings he painted, just the one he created this morning can rank within the top three in the history of the Nine Provinces. What’s even rarer is that Sun Mo used this painting to conduct a lesson for all the princes, princesses, generals, high officers, and the emperor!”

“All of you, please remember this. The country you are governing doesn’t represent land or wealth. If you guys don’t love your citizens, you guys will be dethroned by them sooner or later!”

Bzz~

Priceless Advice activated and circulated through this entire area.

The high officials and the Qi Emperor hurriedly lowered their heads to indicate that they understood the teachings.

“Moreover, for this Jinling Wind and Moon Painting. Teacher Sun’s thinking is very profound, and the artistic concept within would open one’s eyes. When you gaze at each character, a story about them will somehow magically appear in your mind.”

Su Taiqing laughed. “Your Majesty, you have benefitted. If it wasn’t for the fact that a gentleman wouldn’t seize something someone loved, I would definitely fight for it!”

“Yeah, we won’t be able to see it in the future!”

Xiang Zhao sighed. “Teacher Sun, can you tell me what story this guy has? Why is he standing at the roof of a tall building?”

“His name is Ximen Chuixue\*. He stands there because he is waiting for his fated enemy named Ye Gucheng\*!”

Sun Mo shrugged.

Xiang Zhao’s eyes brightened. The moment he heard their names, he knew they were experts. Hence, he impatiently asked, “Can you speak more in detail?”

Sun Mo smiled and shook his head.

“So, Great Teacher Sun is truly worthy of the title Dual-Sage in Calligraphy and Painting!”

Su Taiqing looked at Sun Mo. “Truly skilled in both fields!”

Why didn’t he speak about literary works?

Because in the eyes of Su Taiqing, [Journey to the West] and [A Dream of Red Mansions] might be classics, but they weren’t enough to be considered heirloom-level treasures that would be passed down throughout the generations.

Wow!

The gazes of everyone were now filled with envy as they stared at Sun Mo.

This was a praise from the Sect Lord of the Saint Gate!

Zeng Gongnian and Zou Yin were so jealous that they wanted to vomit blood. They had been painting for several decades but weren’t even Saint Artists.

But after thinking that the number of famous paintings produced by Sun Mo had reached 10 in number, they felt at ease.

Incomparable!

Li Ziqi’s wish had been realized, and she was grinning happily.

“Everyone, for something like admiring paintings, it can be done any time. Should we go and rest for now?”

Sun Mo felt somewhat tired now.

“Right, you should rest!”

The Qi Emperor nodded hurriedly. “Men, come and escort Beloved Subject Sun back to the royal palace for a good rest!”

Chapter 1213: The Martial Battle Begins

“Mn?”

Sun Mo frowned. Why did he suddenly feel like happiness had descended? “Your Majesty, I think it’s better for me to return to the hotel. I still have some matters I need to handle.”

“Oh!”

The Qi Emperor thought about it. In any case, he wanted to admire the painting tonight and also wouldn’t have time to chat with Sun Mo. Hence, he decided to agree.

“Sect Lord, farewell!”

Sun Mo clasped his hands.

“Teacher Sun, please wait!”



Su Taiqing smiled. "I actually came here this time because I wish to obtain the ocean of stars painting created by your brilliant disciple. I wonder if I can have the honor of doing so?"

Although the Qi Emperor said that he didn't want it, the painting was ultimately something created by Li Ziqi, so it was better to ask the true owner.

Si~

Upon hearing this, everyone was incomparably shocked. So, the Sect Lord came to Western Jing for the sake of Li Ziqi's famous painting?

Didn't that mean that this princess of Great Tang had won against Xai Taikang?

Yet, the ranking of that battle showed Li Ziqi to be in second place instead.

The countenance of Zeng Gongnian and the other two artists turned unsightly. One must know that they were the judges. By doing this, Su Taiqing was implying that they had eyes but couldn't see clearly.

Just think about it, how outstanding a painting had to be if it was admired by the number one great teacher in the Nine Provinces?

"I think it's best for you to ask Ziqi about this question."

Although Sun Mo could make the decision, he decided to give the chance of gaining the Sect Lord's favor to the little sunny egg.

"Teacher Li, might I have the honor to obtain it?"

Just Su Taiqing's address for Li Ziqi was enough to bring much fame to her.

Look at the princes and princesses of the Five Empires, other than Li Ziqi, no one else had this much clout.

...

The painting battle finally concluded. The audience was fully satisfied, discussing with each other as they headed home.

The conclusion of the literature and arts battle produced two victors – Great Xia and Great Tang. These two empires fought to a draw. Now, the crucial point was the martial battle.

Three days later, the martial battle would begin in the Flying Swallow Drill Ground in the outskirts of Western Jing.

Sun Mo returned to the hotel after bidding farewell to the major characters here.

"Senior martial sister Zhiruo, what's wrong?"

Xianyu Wei could see that Lu Zhiruo kept turning her head back after every step. She didn't know what she was looking at. "Did you lose your wallet?"

"Nope!"

Lu Zhiruo hurriedly shook her head. She then snuck a glance at Su Taiqing who was chatting with the Qi Emperor.

(Father doesn't seem to have any intention of speaking with me?)

(Should I go and greet him?)

Because she snuck out from home, Lu Zhiruo was worried she might be punished. Naturally, the thing she was most afraid of was that her father would want to bring her back to the Saint Gate.

(If he does that, I won't be able to follow and learn from Teacher anymore!)

Upon thinking of this, the lucky mascot decided to cower back. Out of sight, out of mind. Hence, she hastened her steps. "I'll make a move first and get the hotel boss to prepare hot water and a good meal for us."

"Eldest Martial Sister, as long as you continue displaying such performance, even if you cannot obtain the first place in the war discussion, your prestige in the empire will surely exceed Li Xuan."

Qin Yaoguang's eyes glowed brightly. "At that time, you can even seize the throne!"

"I won't seize the throne!"

Li Ziqi shook her head. If she did so, Great Tang would surely descend into chaos.

...

Three days later, the information about the literature and arts battle had spread. The main point was that there were too many fascinating segments in this battle.

This was especially so for Great Tang Princess Li Ziqi. She was the youngest great teacher in history, shining in all glory.

In the zither battle, she performed seven solos, and each of them was an heirloom-level music piece. Finally, she even comprehended the great teacher halo that countless musicians yearned for.

One could say that Li Ziqi was already on the verge of becoming a Music Sage.

After that, in the chess battle, everyone knew how Qing Wuzi became a Chess Sage and also the story about his spiritual chess soul. However, it seemed so lackluster when the news of three Ancient Sage halos appearing within Sun Mo's group.

After all, no matter how great one's chess skills were, it was just a method to cultivate one's mind and prove one's intelligence. It wouldn't be of much help to the country's development. But Ancient Sage halos were different.

That was a great teacher halo that could summon thousands of ancient sages. Those who comprehended this were all believed to have the potential to become Saints.

After that, it was the calligraphy battle. The competition didn't have many brilliant points, but in the dinner banquet after that, Li Ziqi got drunk and her 100 poems recital stunned the world.

What was more impressive was that she had even comprehended a brand new great teacher halo!

For the fourth battle, the painting battle, leaving aside Xia Taikang and Li Ziqi, Sun Mo alone had fully displayed his capabilities. Not only did he produce two famous paintings in a single day, but each of his paintings could also be considered extremely rare treasures. Now, even when counting all the famous paintings in the Nine Provinces, Sun Mo's two paintings could be ranked within the top ten.

The first painting had an automatic halo effect and was filled with strong educational intent, allowing emperors and high officials to be more benevolent. However, everyone wasn't too interested in that. They placed all their attention on the second painting – the Jinling Wind and Moon Painting.

It was said that Great Teacher Sun had painted 100 beauties, and each of them was extremely fine in detail. Each character within had their own stories.

In any case, after the literature and arts battle ended, Sun Mo and Li Ziqi became completely famous.

Sun Mo was even recognized by Su Taiqing as the 'Dual Sage of Calligraphy and Painting, the only one in the world!'

Hence, several people who were originally not interested in the Five Empires War Discussion decided to set off and head to Western Jing, wanting to view Sun Mo and Li Ziqi's brilliance personally.

...

The resting time passed in the blink of an eye, and the martial battle started!

At the vast Flying Swallow Drill Ground, hoisted flags could be seen everywhere.

This was the base of the Flying Swallow Army, so it could be considered Jiang Yuzhen's home ground.

Early in the morning, there were already tens of thousands of people coming in and filling the temporary audience stand to the brim.

"A ticket actually cost 1,000 taels of silver. They are basically out to eat us!"

"Oioi, the martial battle would involve deaths. Spending 1,000 taels to watch a war game isn't too bad!"

"That's right, I heard that all previous martial battles were extremely bloody!"

Western Jing, as the capital of the Qi Empire, naturally had many wealthy people.

For an opportunity like this where one could strike it rich openly, the Qi Emperor wouldn't spare it. If it wasn't for his loyal subjects doing their utmost to persuade him, he actually wanted to sell the entry tickets for 10,000 taels a piece.

"You guys don't understand. What I want is for these wealthy people to spectate."

The Qi Emperor felt that these officers were brainless.

For something like a bloody clash like this, if one didn't watch it, they would really regret it for their entire lives. So, many wealthy figures would definitely grit their teeth and pay up even if it cost 10,000 taels.

The general officers and field-grade officers of Great Qi helped to maintain order and acted as guides, bringing the various participating groups into the preparatory areas.

“I wonder what the results of the lot-drawing are?”

Ying Baiwu felt somewhat worried.

The martial battle could be split into three parts. Firstly, the army unit battle, the commander battle, and the individual battle!

The first round, the army unit battle. As its name implied, it was a slaughter between two army units!

Each diplomatic group could send out two army units of at least 500 pax. They were separately known as the main team and secondary team. After that, the ten teams would undergo a lot-drawing and fight one against one for the ranking.

Two teams from each country were permitted to battle in case one team screwed up, allowing the other team to mitigate for it.

“Quickly look, Li Xuan and the others have returned!”

After Qin Yaoguang spoke, the students all quickly went over.

“Eldest Princess, how’re the results?”

Sun Mo asked.

“Li Xuan got matched against Great Chu. Ziqi is a little more unlucky, she drew Great Xia!”

Li Xiu silently sighed. Ziqi would definitely not be able to win as the strength of Great Xia’s war units was extremely strong.

“Aunt, it’s fine. I will get into the finals!”

Li Xuan smiled. For this first round, Great Chu was like a freebie!

Chapter 1214: The Crown Prince Screwing Things Up!

1

The Five Empires War Discussion was known as the most popular event in the Nine Provinces. Being able to participate in it was like a type of glory. It was unknown how many countries would be willing to do anything to join.

But after so many years, only Great Xia and the four other empires could participate. This was because these five countries were ranked at the top in terms of comprehensive strength such as level of culture, finance, military, etc.

Bluntly speaking, those who wanted to join the Five Empires War Discussion had to be top-tier countries in the Nine Provinces. It was just like the Permanent Five of the UN Security Council. If you didn’t have a nuclear bomb and your ancestors hadn’t ruled the world before, you had no qualifications to enter.

Currently, Great Xia was the most ferocious country out of the five. Their economy was thriving, and their military was powerful as their soldiers didn’t fear death. As for the Great Chu, they enjoyed love

and freedom, they didn't like being bound by rules. But when their country was on the verge of death, they were also the ones who would resist the most frenziedly.

The people of the Nine Provinces knew that people from the Great Chu would rather be killed than surrender!

Great Qi was an old strong country without flaws. They were as stable as a ten-thousand-year-old turtle. No matter how the world changed, they would always be able to be ranked first.

Before Great Qi rose, Great Wei was the boss. This entire country was too capable in fighting. Even three-year-olds around the world knew the name of the Wei Troops.

Naturally, the Wei Empire declined because they kept engaging in wars of aggression at will.

Lastly, was Great Tang. Their territory had once been the greatest, and they had had an emperor with the most far-sightedness and vision, along with the weakest foolish emperor. In any case, their range of ancestors was the widest. However, things were different now.

Hence, given the current states of each empire, Great Chu was ranked fifth, Great Wei and Great Xia were the toughest to deal with, followed by Great Qi and finally Great Tang.

Naturally, there were no absolutes. Because the soldiers brought by the crown princes for the war discussions were all elite troops that used the best weapons and armors, it would be hard to determine who the victor might be.

"Two rounds of army unit warfare will be conducted daily. The first battle today will be Xiang Zhao of Great Chu against Li Xuan of Great Tang!"

The ceremonial officer announced in a loud voice.

"Li Xuan of Great Tang. This sounds truly imposing, I feel like a famed general!"

Li Xuan felt extremely happy in his heart. "Aunt, teacher, I'm going to prepare for the battle!"

"Mn, please be more careful!"

Han Cangshui wasn't familiar with military strategy and couldn't help much. Hence, only Li Xiu went to the army camp together with Li Xuan.

"Beloved Subject Sun, how about coming over for a chat?"

At the host platform, the Qi Emperor smiled as he greeted Sun Mo.

Sun Mo jumped in fright when he looked at the Qi Emperor. (What the hell are the two huge eyebags? Could it be that you didn't sleep for three days?)

"Yawn!"

The Qi Emperor yawned and praised. "Beloved Subject Sun, your Jinling Wind and Moon Painting is too interesting. I love the part where the rich young master sneaks out during the evening to meet with a married woman the most. Could you speak of that in detail?"

During these three days, the Qi Emperor only slept a little every day. The rest of his time was used to admire the painting. In fact, he even tried to copy it and researched the details.

“...”

Sun Mo mentally mused that his guess was correct. The Qi Emperor was into older females.

“Your Majesty!”

The queen cast a look of resentment over. As for Grand Tutor Su, he also showed a hint of helplessness on his face. But the other major subjects no longer felt strange looking at the Qi Emperor’s behavior.

“Cough! Cough!”

The Qi Emperor smiled awkwardly before continuing to urge. “Beloved Subject Sun, quickly come over!”

Sun Mo found this very troublesome. Was this a brainless fan?

15 minutes later, the two army units of 500 pax each were fully prepared. They entered the drill grounds from the East and West respectively.

In the east was the prince group from the Great Chu. They were clad in white armor, but the pictures on their armors were all different.

In fact, even pictures of naked court ladies could be seen.

“Isn’t that a little too repulsive?”

The audience was stunned. The appearance of this army unit was so bad.

These Chu soldiers weren’t uniform in height. When they gathered together, they also weren’t in a formation at all and all of them looked very lazy.

On the other hand, the soldiers from the Great Tang all had uniform height. They were burly males that were at least 1.8 meters tall and they were clad in black armor. A crossbow hung at the left side of their waist, and a long blade was attached to the right side of their waist. They also had a long spear with them. It could be said that they were fully armed.

“What’s going on with Great Chu?”

Sun Mo was clueless, he couldn’t understand. Could it be that Xiang Zhao had given up?

“This is the battle style of Great Chu. They depend on an individual’s martial strength to win!”

The Qi Queen introduced.

Logically speaking, it didn’t conform to the rules for a queen to speak to a man who wasn’t even a subject after the event had begun. However, the Qi Emperor didn’t mind it. Since that was the case, none of the officials bothered to speak up as they didn’t want additional trouble.

“Oh!”

Sun Mo felt that the victory for this round should be most assuredly confirmed.

When armies fought, discipline was the most important, and an individual's courage and strength were secondary. This was a lesson comprehended from many wars that had been fought in history.

Li Xuan felt the same way too. Hence, when he saw the Chu soldiers' appearance, he was filled with confidence and felt even more complacent.

Bang! Bang!

Two signals were fired into the sky. After that, they exploded.

The martial battle had begun!

"The Great Tang is invincible!"

Li Xuan shouted loudly. After that, he pulled out his longsword and rapped his chest with the hilt.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The soldiers stepped forward, advancing slowly while roaring to intimidate their enemies.

"Invincible! Invincible! Invincible!"

One couldn't help but say that this army unit was chosen from the elites of the Tang Army. Their auras were truly extraordinary.

The spectators held their breaths!"

"Xiang Ge`er, it depends on you now!"

Xiang Zhao spoke and passed over the command authority.

Right now, he was like a mascot. He was the captain in name, but if he was to be the one directing the battle, they would lose for sure.

In truth, other than Jiang Yuzhen and Xia Taikang who were truly capable in warfare, it was really very rare for princes and princesses to be good at it. At most, they would have only read a few military books and engaged in theoretical discussions.

After all, they were born with a golden spoon in their mouths. Who among these princes and princesses would really go to the military drill grounds and train with a group of people shouting that they wanted to kill?

Xiang Ge`er whistled and the soldiers of Great Chu immediately advanced. However, they were chatting leisurely and joking around, completely not being serious at all.

When both parties were 50 meters apart, the soldiers of Great Chu suddenly sped up. They were like crazy wild beasts that galloped forward.

"Halt, load the crossbows!"

Li Xuan immediately ordered.

His soldiers quickly halted and unloaded the hand crossbows hanging on their waists. They started to tighten the string and load the arrows. Because they were clad in heavy armor, their movements were very cumbersome. This was why their action of loading the crossbows was slower in comparison.

“Too slow, it feels like the speed of loading a arquebus!”

Sun Mo shook his head.

Actually, a weapon like a hand crossbow wasn't suitable for heavily armed soldiers to use. However, Li Xuan chose to do so because he wanted to fire some arrows before the clash. Even if he couldn't kill many enemies, he could boost his soldiers' morale.

The idea was good, but reality was like a crazy wild dog!

Right after the Great Tang soldiers finished loading their hand crossbows, the soldiers of Great Chu were already ten meters away from them. After that, they sped up once more.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

They either leaped forth to slash down or they were like bulldozers rushing in head-on. For a time, the soldiers of Great Tang were in complete chaos.

“Oh no!”

Li Xiu became badly anxious. If the soldiers directly chose to defend, they wouldn't end up in such a dire state.

“Shoot! Shoot!”

Li Xuan roared loudly.

“Yuzhen, what do you think?”

The Qi Emperor asked his daughter.

“At this moment, they should throw the crossbows away and change their formation to stabilize their defense, not allowing those hundreds of enemies to disrupt them. If a chaotic battle unfolded, the Great Tang would lose for sure.”

Jiang Yuzhen analyzed.

“Li Xuan wants to use his archers too much. Sadly, since there's no chance, he should just decisively give up on his plan!”

Grand Tutor Su evaluated.

The arrows shot by the Great Tang soldiers in chaos had a 50% hit rate. However, the armors worn by their enemies weren't inferior either. Only a few actually died from being shot.

After that, the Tang soldiers tossed away their crossbows and prepared to use long spears to face their enemies. However, at such a close distance, they couldn't control the spear well at all. The soldiers of Great Chu were already before them.



Long spears were truly not practical in close combat. Hence, some soldiers tossed aside their spears and pulled out their blades but sadly, things were already too late. As the Chu soldiers rushed forward, many of the Tang soldiers died and their formation collapsed, leading to their morale plummeting.

“Stabilize the situation!”

Li Xuan roared until his throat became dry.

Jiang Yuzhen shook her head. Such an order was the most useless. Li Xuan might as well lead by example and lead his men to counter-rush his enemy.

“Collapsing just like that?”

Li Xuan’s eyes turned red. (Why? I have not displayed my intelligence yet. No. I can’t give up now.) “Eat the alchemy pills!”

Li Xuan roared in a low voice. This was his trump card.

Sadly, there was no more chance.

Xiang Ge`er led a bunch of crack troops and slaughtered the enemies freely.

The purpose of the Five Empires War Discussion was to display the strength of each country instead of killing people. So, the martial battle had a rule that once 200 pax died from each side, the round would end.

So, by the time the soldiers of Great Tang ate the pills and their combat strength got enhanced, the battle was already over.

“Brother Li, I won by a fluke!”

Xiang Zhao smiled and greeted Li Xuan.

“You...”

Li Xuan’s face was flushed and his expression was a mixture of embarrassment and anger.

“We won!”

The diplomatic group of Great Chu returned to the audience stand amidst cheers, while the people of Great Tang fell completely silent.

“Isn’t this crown prince a little too trash?”

Helian Beifang was shocked. Li Xuan couldn’t even struggle. He was simply trampled onto the ground and crushed.

(Ai, what a pity for those dead soldiers.)

Han Cangshui turned his head and glanced at Li Xiu. He discovered that her expression was gloomy and this caused him to frown.

“Beloved Subject Sun, what do you think?”

The Qi Emperor asked.

“The attack of Chu seemed chaotic like a pile of loose sand. However, that was just a distraction.”

Sun Mo could be considered a military-movie maniac after all. He had seen plenty of war movies. “They looked like they were charging forward recklessly. But in truth, those in front were ‘sharp knives’ made up of extremely powerful experts. The opponent cannot see through it, hence, they don’t know the point they should focus their defense on. When the sharp knives pierce through a weak spot, the others of Chu will rush over to reinforce them.

“At that time, if the opposing soldiers still don’t adjust their formation, their defense will be completely broken. If they adjust, the sharp knives in other positions will exert force and create more chaos.”

When Jiang Yuzhen heard this, she involuntarily cast a glance at Sun Mo. She didn’t expect him to know this as well.

This was the battle style of Great Chu. They placed a heavier emphasis on individuals’ combat strength and talent. If you were a hundred-man general, not only must you know how to fight, but you also had to see through your enemy’s formation and know where their weak points were.

So the famous generals from the Great Chu could always perform war examples that allowed one to broaden their horizons.

“Although His Highness from Chu is mediocre, he understands his limits and knows how to use the correct people instead of recklessly taking command of the army himself. This is a plus point!”

Grand Tutor Su evaluated. Comparatively, Li Xuan had no talent but wanted to display his strength. In the end, he ended up screwing up.. If the Tang army was led by a general with practical experience, their instant reactions would surely not be so lousy.

Chapter 1215: Sir, the Era Has Changed!

“Eldest Martial Sister, don’t be depressed. It isn’t injustice that Li Xuan lost!”

Helian Beifang consoled Li Ziqi.

This strategy of the Chu Army was extremely practical when it came to small-scale skirmishes. However, once the scale of battle increased to that of above ten thousand people, the effect would be greatly discounted. This was because the importance of single fights in such a great war would dwindle immensely.

Ten thousand soldiers might be very formidable, but they wouldn’t be able to block the shots of ten thousand arrows.

The soldiers of Great Tang actually weren’t bad. If the commander was one with practical experience, they would still be able to trounce Great Chu. Yet, none of Li Xuan’s reactions were correct.

The second round was Great Xia against Great Wei. One could say that this was the main event.

Wei Wu`an originally could choose to clash against the second unit of Great Xia. However, he didn't do so. Instead, he stood out and directly challenged Xia Taikang.

He wanted to prove that he was the most outstanding one among the crown princes of this generation.

Usually speaking, the first unit was stronger than the second unit.

Very soon, the two army units appeared on the drill grounds.

The Great Xia Army was clad in red, while the Great Wei Army was clad in black. Based on their auras, Great Wei seemed somewhat stronger. This was because soldiers of Great Wei, when they were recruited, were all above two meters tall and had an iron-like muscular body, looking extremely fit and imposing.

When the ceremonial cannon sounded and the battle began, the two troops marched forward directly.

Great Xia's soldiers were equipped with heavy swords and used no shields. However, Wei's soldiers had a round shield in one hand and a hammer in the other. Clearly, it was used to break the shields of their enemies.

They didn't use bows or long spears.

From the viewpoints of the commanders from both armies, bringing along bows just for a single shot increased the difficulty of transitioning between military formations. There would also be additional loads on the soldiers.

During a close-ranged fight, things would be even more chaotic. Hence, the simpler the battle was, the better it would be. It was like during a fight, there were no fancy moves. The most effective move was a punch straight to your opponent's face.

When both parties were 20 meters away from each other, both Xia Taikang and Wei Wu`an gave the command to charge.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The soldiers ran and clashed against each other.

A slaughter began.

There were no fancy tricks but stark naked ferocity and bloodiness. Whoever felt fear first would be the first to lose.

The comrades beside them had their heads crushed. But even so, the Xia soldiers showed no fear. They waved their swords and hacked and slashed. When their swords hacked into corpses and couldn't be pulled out, their enemies took this chance to kill them.

The Xia soldiers didn't scream or roar. They were as silent as a machine. As for the Wei soldiers, they kept letting out roars of anger.

Blood and scattered pieces of flesh flew everywhere as corpses littered the area.

The soldiers stepped on the bodies of their comrades and continued killing. They were like two ancient ferocious beasts that wanted to kill the other no matter the cost.

“I didn’t expect that the army of Great Xia could actually compete equally with the army of Great Wei!”

The Qi Emperor was shocked. “Yuzhen, what are your thoughts?”

“My Flying Swallow Army is inferior to them!”

Jiang Yuzhen honestly spoke. She actually didn’t approve of changing the battle strategy, but it just so happened that only this battle strategy could display the military soul of a unit.

Li Xuan looked at this scene. His originally depressed mood dispersed by quite a bit because he knew that it was impossible for him to get the first place.

“Xiang Ge`er, what do you think?”

Xiang Zhao also turned pale from watching.

“Although the people of Chu don’t fear death, honestly speaking, we can’t win against them. Even if we can, it would be a pyrrhic victory!”

Xiang Ge`er sighed.

The most important point in their strategy was to crush the morale of their enemies and pick up the stragglers. However, for Great Xia and Great Wei, even if only a few of their soldiers were left, they were those types that were willing to continue fighting, going all out even if there was no hope all the way until they died.

“Besides, the armors of Great Xia were forged very well. Look, the Wei soldiers actually possess an advantage in terms of martial strength, but they are losing out in terms of equipment.”

Finally, both sides had casualties of 200 pax and it was a draw.

Sun Mo once again rejected the Qi Emperor’s invitation. He then went into a tent erected by the Tang soldiers as he shared his observations.

The martial battle started again on the second morning.

The first round was Great Qi against Great Wei.

Great Qi sent Jiang Yuzhen and her Flying Swallow Army out.

Jiang Yuzhen knew she would lose in a head-on clash. So, she chose guerilla tactics and split her 500 soldiers into five waves that continuously fired arrows as harassment.

The Wei soldiers’ shields were soon riddled with arrows.

“Isn’t this a little too unfair?”

Lu Zhiruo mumbled.

“This is a battle between 500 people. What fairness are you speaking of?”

Helian Beifang explained. "Strictly speaking, the Flying Swallow Army is a cavalry unit. They would be the ones suffering in this type of foot battle!"

A cavalry unit without their mounts, wanting to fight with foot soldiers on the ground. Weren't they courting death?

Jiang Yuzhen looked at the turtle-like armors of her opponents. They were calm and unhurried, waiting for her soldiers to finish using up their arrows before charging them for the slaughter. Hence, Jiang Yuzhen decided to charge them now.

"The Flying Swallow Army is going to lose!"

Tantai Yutang's lips curled. Such an attack was meaningless.

"Yeah, that's purely courting death!"

Helian Beifang was very fond of these Wei soldiers.

On the surface, they won very easily. But in reality, their powerful will was the crucial point of why they won.

Not all armies could handle the rain of arrows, remaining composed and unmoving. Many would have chosen to charge forward impatiently to close in the distance, wanting to lower the times the arrows could be fired.

That sort of pressure of watching your comrades dying was too tormenting. And as expected, Great Qi was the loser.

"The second round. Li Ziqi of Great Tang against Xia Taikang of Great Xia. The battle will begin in half an hour!"

After hearing the ceremonial officer's words, Li Ziqi, who was clad in armor today, stood up. "Teacher, I'm heading over!"

"Mn, be more careful!"

Sun Mo encouraged her. He had said everything he needed to say before this.

Xuanyuan Po and Helian Beifang also followed her. Although the two of them were still youths, they were tall and muscular. They acted as Li Ziqi's left and right hands to protect her safety.

"Ziqi, I'm cheering for you!"

Li Xiu hoped that her niece could win because this concerned the prestige of their country.

Very soon, the two armies were in formation.

When the ceremonial cannon sounded, the battle began. The Xia soldiers' footsteps were heavy and stable.

As for the Tang soldiers, a minor commotion occurred among them.

There were no solutions. After witnessing the soldiers of Great Xia and Great Wei going all out with no fear of death, who wouldn't panic?

This was death! Even if the princess had given their family compensation, when death came, everyone would still feel nervous.

Because this was a battle to the death!

"Teacher has said before that on the battlefield, we must not give the soldiers time to think. The more they think, the more terrified they will be!"

Li Ziqi didn't blame these soldiers for being cowards. After all, it was human innate nature to fear death. Hence, she spoke out, "Everyone, there's no need to be afraid. Just act accordingly to our battle strategy earlier. Not a single one of us needs to die."

"Now, listen to my countdown and await my command. Ten, nine."

There were still people panicking, but halfway through the countdown, they started to pay attention to the countdown."

"What's going on? Why aren't the Tang soldiers moving?"

The Qi Emperor was astonished.

"They must have been frightened silly?"

The queen guessed.

"They should want to counter action with stillness!"

Grand Tutor Su analyzed.

"Che, it's boring!"

The Qi Emperor preferred to watch the hot-blooded clash between armies instead.

"The Tang army probably will lose!"

"Be bolder and remove the word 'probably'. Look at the morale and formation of their army. They can't possibly be stronger than Wei, right? Even the Wei Army failed, so how can the Tang Army succeed?"

"Oh no, it's going to be another massacre!"

The audience discussed. But at this moment, the Tang Army changed its formation.

After the Great Xia Army reached a distance of 30 meters away from them, Li Ziqi gave a command.

"Everyone, pay attention. Levitate!"

Upon hearing the command, the soldiers immediately did what they had trained for. They channeled spirit qi into the Skyward Spirit Rune on their backs. After that, their legs left the earth's surface.

"What the hell? Why are there people flying?"

"Are my eyes dazzled?"

“Damn, I recalled it now. Great Teacher Sun has invented a spirit rune that is capable of allowing a human to fly. He couldn’t have tattooed the spirit runes on these soldiers, right?”

The spectators were directly in an uproar. Many people even stood up from shock and stretched their necks forward, wanting to see the scene more clearly.

In fact, envy appeared on the faces of many people. After all, flying was everyone’s dream.

“Damn!”

The Qi Emperor cursed.

Jiang Yuzhen’s eyes immediately narrowed as a heavy look appeared on her face. As someone on the verge of becoming a military god, she instinctively sensed that the way of warfare in the Nine Provinces was going to change.

These Skyward Spirit Runes were just tattooed on these Tang Soldiers. Besides, in order to keep this a secret, they had to hide their flying training from everyone’s eyes. Hence, the amount of training time they had was too short and they weren’t used to it yet.

Hence, someone flew high and someone flew low. The line-up wasn’t uniform and looked like hornets flying wildly.

“Stabilize your emotions, don’t be anxious!”

Li Ziqi reminded them. Sadly, there would always be human errors.

Some lost control and fell, while a few even knocked into each other mid-air, losing their balance.

When Xia Taikang saw this, his countenance changed as he immediately roared.

“Charge, kill them all!”

The Xia soldiers started to charge furiously. Some of them took the chance and leaped up into the air, wanting to kill their enemies.

At this moment, the majority of the Tang soldiers had risen to a height of over 30 meters in the air. Only a small portion of them were still in the lower part of the air due to not being proficient enough in flying. Hence, these people were slashed by the Xia soldiers.

Helian Beifang could see that his eldest martial sister was very nervous. She seemed to want to give the command to save those soldiers that landed on the ground. Hence, he hurriedly grabbed her and reminded her in a low voice.

“We can’t save them, get everyone to scatter!”

In the air, there was basically no need to maintain a strict formation. This was just everyone’s habit as they were not used to air battles yet.

“Scatter! Scatter!”

Li Ziqi shouted loudly.

Finally, three minutes later, other than twenty plus unlucky fellows, the others had successfully floated in the air.

The Xia soldiers stood on the ground and lifted their heads to roar at their opponents.

“What?”

Li Xuan, who was spectating, stood up in shock.

(Damn, I’ve forgotten this tactic?)

“Can we win?”

Li Xiu was excited.

“Eldest Princess, you are thinking too much!”

Han Cangshui coldly laughed.

“Get into formation!”

Xia Taikang glanced at the weapons of the Tang soldiers and chortled before giving an order.

(Wanting to use arrows to shoot my soldiers down? What a foolish dream!)

(I might not be able to do anything to you guys, but you guys won’t be able to win. At most, it will be a draw.)

(No, flight-type spirit runes like this will consume a lot of spirit qi. They can’t possibly remain floating in the air for a long time, right?)

Upon thinking of this, Xia Taikang’s battle will ignited once more.

“Shoot!”

Li Ziqi gave the command.

The Tang soldiers pulled their bows and fired.

Swish~ Swish~ Swish~

Because they were at a height advantage, they could casually take aim. As for those Xia soldiers, they were like live targets. However, the arrows blasting into the Xia soldiers were useless as they could at most break the first layer of defense.. They wouldn’t be able to pierce the inner armors.

Chapter 1216: Beloved Subject Sun, You Have To Help This Emperor To Do One Too!

“Get into formation and defend!”

Xia Taikang decisively gave the order.

The soldiers immediately gathered. They stared up at the Tang soldiers in the sky and formed a defensive formation while relying on their great swords and armors.



The Five Empires War Discussion, to speak about it bluntly, still had to have some spectacles for the audience to watch. If one sent ordinary troops to fight, things wouldn't be cool enough. But if the soldiers had too high of a cultivation base, individual strength would be able to decide the victory as well. Hence, after some discussion by the five empires, they decreed that the cultivation bases of the soldiers couldn't exceed the fifth level of the Body Refinement Realm.

Xia Taikang didn't understand the Skyward Spirit Rune, but he felt that a spirit rune that could grant flight was simply magical and it would surely consume plenty of spirit qi. At that time, when these people were spent, he would be able to slaughter them with ease, like killing chickens and dogs.

One couldn't help but say that Xia Taikang's wealth of experience allowed him to make the correct judgment.

If Li Ziqi armed her soldiers with ordinary bows, she would truly not be able to break the Xia soldiers' defense. However, she was the brilliant disciple of a great ancestor-level spirit runist.

"Xia Taikang, just concede. I don't wish to kill!"

Li Ziqi persuaded.

"Even if the people of Xia have to die, they have to die on the battlefield!"

After Xia Kangcheng finished shouting, the Xia soldiers let out battle roars, wanting to intimidate their enemies.

"Alright then!"

Li Ziqi knew she would never be able to convince him with just words. "First team and second team, prepare the lightning rods. The other teams, stand guard!"

The soldiers of the first two teams took out a rod-shaped object from their backpacks. It was about a foot long with arm-sized thickness.

"Prepare!"

Li Ziqi commanded.

Xia Taikang felt uneasy. Scattering at this moment? Would there be a trap? Would the enemy use this chance to break their defense?"

Just when Xia Taikang was hesitating, Li Ziqi had given the order to attack.

"Activate, throw!"

Upon hearing the command, the soldiers used force to break the spirit rune wooden rods in their hands and tossed them toward the formation of the Xia soldiers.

"Knock them away!"

Xia Taikang roared.

Some Xia soldiers waved their swords, but when their swords slashed into the spirit rune rods, the rods immediately shone with dazzling lightning and exploded.

Rumble! Rumble!

Blue lightning akin to snakes lunging out from bushes wreaked havoc through Xia Taikang's soldiers.

Everywhere the lightning passed by, the Xia soldiers there would be charred black by it. Some even slumped over and fell to the ground while screaming miserably.

The armors of all empires were made of metal, and they were simply the best conductors. Even if it was against the first unit, as long as one tossed ten spirit rune rods over, the destructive might would be overwhelmingly great.

Other than those who died directly from the shocks, those that came in contact with it but survived felt their bodies turning numb. They couldn't even stand straight.

Hua~

In the audience stand, the guests were all dumbfounded as they stood up from shock.

Why did it only take one round of attack, no, not even one round...in fact, only ten rods were tossed over and the Great Xia Army, who might be on par with the Great Wei Army, already collapsed?

At this moment, as long as the Xia soldiers descended. A massacre would begin.

However, Li Ziqi wouldn't bring herself to do such a crude thing personally. She waved her hand and her second-team advanced. Wooden rods could be seen being held in their hands.

Si~

Many people involuntarily drew in a breath of cold air. If the Tang Army did that again, the Xia Army would be annihilated.

"You are cheating!"

Xia Taikang howled in rage. He waved his sword and slashed toward the air.

A wave of sword qi surged to the sky, shooting straight for Li Ziqi. But before the sword qi could strike her, Xuanyuan Po unleashed a spear attack, while Helian Beifang unleashed a blade attack.

Bang!

Their weapons were knocked away. The sword qi continued on its way toward the little sunny egg.

But at this moment, a giant turtle shell suddenly sprang in front of the little sunny egg and blocked the wave of sword qi.

"Mn?"

Upon seeing this scene, Sun Mo frowned.

"Eldest Martial Sister, you have to be careful. This fellow seems to be wielding a saint weapon!"

Helian Beifang reminded her.

Such a weapon would greatly enhance the destructive might of any techniques.

“Xia Taikang, please pay attention to your words. What do you mean by cheating?”

Li Ziqi was very angry.

“You are shameless!”

Ying Baiwu couldn't bear to watch any longer and directly roared. “If it wasn't for my eldest martial sister being kind, all of your soldiers would have died!”

“Eldest Martial Sister, don't waste words with him. Finish his men off first!”

Qin Yaoguang urged her on.

The countenances of the remaining Xia soldiers grew somewhat unsightly. They weren't afraid of fighting to the death, but dying for nothing like this truly made them feel helpless.

Luckily, although the Qi Emperor was not very focused, he could tell this matter was very serious. So, he hurriedly stopped them.

“Ziqi, Taikang, stop fighting. Come over to speak if you guys have things to say!”

If these two truly went all out and fought until one died, there would be huge trouble. After all, one was a crown prince that was beloved by his entire country and a genius that was rarely seen in 1,000 years, tasked with the mission of leading the Xia Empire to the peak. And Li Ziqi was the princess most doted upon by the Tang Emperor and also Sun Mo's favorite student.

Very soon, the two of them arrived before the throne and stood in opposition to each other!

“The Five Empires War Discussion is a test of our soldiers' quality and our commanding skills. If you guys fly in the air, how can we still fight?”

Xia Taikang reproached.

“You guys can fly too!”

Qin Yaoguang sneered.

The students all followed behind Sun Mo to support their eldest martial sister.

“Crown Prince Xia, the era has changed.”

Tantai Yutang chortled, “After my teacher created the Skyward Spirit Rune, the style of wars has to follow. It doesn't matter whether you recognize this as legitimate or not, a change is coming.”

Those who could stand here were all high officials. Upon hearing this, they immediately started discussing in low voices.

“I admit that Teacher Sun's spirit rune is very impressive. However, he can't possibly tattoo this rune for soldiers every day, right?”

Xia Taikang coldly snorted. “This is an exception so this doesn't count. In a war, it still depends on whose soldiers are stronger and which army trained the hardest!”

“Since you are a commander and are skilled in battle formations, you should know the term ‘directly attack Huanglong’, right? On the battlefield, cutting the enemy’s flag and killing their commander might be something difficult to do. But everyone knows that this is one of the ways where defeat can be reversed into victory.”

Li Ziqi stared at Xia Taikang like how she would look at an old and inflexible antique. “Since my soldiers can fly, we can fly straight to your commander camp and execute a beheading strategy!”

Some high-ranking military officers immediately turned pale when they heard this.

“Wait a minute, doesn’t that mean that This Emperor isn’t safe as well?”

The Qi Emperor was afraid of death. He suddenly thought of the scene where there was a bunch of Tang soldiers flying above his palace and tossing the wooden rods down. Wouldn’t he die from shock then?

“Your Majesty, we from the Great Tang wouldn’t do something like that!”

Li Ziqi quickly consoled him.

“Hehe!”

The Qi Emperor laughed dryly before looking at Sun Mo. “Beloved Subject Sun, if you are to help This Emperor form a regiment of flying soldiers, how much money would that cost? Feel free to speak!”

Earlier, everyone had still felt that the Qi Emperor was foolish for wanting to give a city to Sun Mo. But from the looks of things now, the Qi Emperor was brilliant!

At the very least, he had built a friendship with Sun Mo.

“Xia Taikang, this spirit rune isn’t difficult to draw at all. As long as my teacher is willing to teach, a spirit runist with three years of experience and more will be able to replicate it.”

Li Ziqi divulged another important secret.

The atmosphere directly froze.

What did this mean?

It meant that the soldiers of Great Tang would all be capable of flight.

What?

Worried that this spirit rune would leak out?

The Tang Emperor could kill all the spirit runists after they tattooed the runes on the soldiers.

To emperors, they had a multitude of methods to keep a secret.

“Alright, I’ll accept the flying part. But what’s going on with the wooden rods?”

Xia Taikang changed the topic.

“That’s the lightning rod my eldest martial sister invented!”

Qin Yaoguang laughed. “If you are unconvinced, why don’t you invent one too?”

“...”

Xia Taikang felt extremely suppressed. This feeling was very unbearable. It was like someone had kicked his chest.

(If I could invent something like this, would I still be here talking nonsense with you? I would have long since used it!)

“The martial battle is a war simulation. A spirit rune rod like this cannot be mass-produced, right?”

Wei Wu`an interjected.

“This is a military secret of our Great Tang. It’s inconvenient to reveal it.”

Li Ziqi rebutted.

“Since you put it like this, it’s meaningless to argue.”

Xia Taikang coldly laughed. “In that case, we can use all sorts of alchemy pills and forbidden techniques too. Don’t assume you are the only one with trump cards!”

“Sure!” Li Ziqi countered, “In any case, these spirit rune rods have no side effects, but your alchemy pills and forbidden techniques have.”

Xia Taikang’s countenance turned black.

“Alright, everyone, let’s stop arguing. Let’s resolve this calmly.”

The Qi Emperor persuaded. “Yuzhen, what do you think?”

“If we don’t restrict Great Tang’s flying spirit runes and spirit rune rods, there’s no need for army unit warfare anymore. Great Tang is definitely the victor!”

Jiang Yuzhen spoke directly. After that, she glanced at Sun Mo.

This man caused her training of several years in terms of war strategy and commanding soldiers to become useless. “In the future, victory for wars in the Nine Provinces will be determined by these two spirit runes!”

“So terrifying?”

The Qi Emperor was shocked now.

“That would have to depend on Ziqi’s producing speed for this type of spirit runes.”

Jiang Yuzhen bluntly explained.

“Alright then, let’s talk about future things in the future. Ziqi, the Five Empires War Discussion is a performance competition, shouldn’t you give others a chance to perform? Why don’t you stop using that wooden rod?”

The Qi Emperor persuaded nicely. He felt that Li Ziqi would surely not agree, but she actually agreed to this straightforwardly.

“Sure!”

Li Ziqi didn't mind. In any case, she had many trump cards.

For this round, the final verdict was that Great Tang was the victor.

Next, after 30 minutes of break, it was the second round of battle – Great Chu against Great Qi.

This battle was very fascinating. Jiang Yuzhen displayed her command and control to their absolute limits and used her sharp observation and astute on-the-spot reactions to finish off the valiant generals of Great Chu. The remaining soldiers of Chu then became like a pile of loose sand.

Everyone sent their congratulations.

However, Jiang Yuzhen had a desolate expression.

“Yuzhen, why are you not in a good mood?”

The queen felt pain in her heart.

“Queen Mother, the era has changed.”

Jiang Yuzhen was determined. She definitely had to have a kid with Sun Mo. Even if their son wasn't intelligent enough, as long as he could obtain some of Sun Mo's inheritance, the Qi Empire would still continue and prosper.

The first round concluded. Because Great Wei had one victory and one draw, both of their army units remained. If it wasn't for Li Ziqi being an unknown variable, one could say that it was almost definite that Great Wei would obtain the first place.

The battle continued and on the fourth day, Wei Wu`an faced Li Ziqi.

When the Tang soldiers floated in the air, the Wei troops immediately got into a defensive formation and raised their ox leather shields up. They looked like a bunch of lotus leaves joined together, forming a shield with an extremely large surface area.

“Your Highness Ziqi, your lightning rods can only bully the Xia soldiers. For our Wei soldiers, we are both invincible in offense and defense!”

Wei Wu`an bragged. “So, I'll permit you to use them.”

Indeed, although the destructive might of the lightning rods weren't weak, ox leather shields wouldn't conduct electricity.

“Wei Wu`an, you have not even seen half a percent of the secrets of spirit runes!”

Li Ziqi's lips curled. “First team, prepare the spiritwave cannons!”

As Li Ziqi gave the command, the soldiers of the first team took off their gloves and stretched out their right arms with palms facing outward.

“Begin the attack after gathering qi for three seconds!”

Light suddenly emerged from the palms of the soldiers, forming apple-sized qi spheres. After that, a whooshing sound rang out as they blasted forth.

The spirit qi spheres weren't large, but when they blasted into the ox leather shields, a large hole directly appeared. After that, the qi spheres continued penetrating through and killing the soldiers hiding beneath the shields.

The tough Wei Country's armor couldn't withstand such a spiritwave cannon.

Ten attacks struck their targets perfectly, and ten lives were lost.

Wei Wu'an's countenance immediately turned green.

The others also fell completely silent. The main point was that none of them had seen such a weapon before.

"Is this another invention of Sun Mo?"

Everyone saw Xia Taikang suddenly stand up fiercely as his eyes were wide open.

Jiang Yuzhen closed her eyes.

"Wei Wu'an. Surrender or be annihilated!"

Li Ziqi snapped her finger. This time around, all her soldiers raised their right arms.

"I..."

Wei Wu'an didn't want to concede defeat, but it was also impossible for him to watch his soldiers die for nothing. In the end, he could only lower his head helplessly. "I admit defeat!"

"Beloved Subject Sun, what is this?"

The Qi Emperor was shocked.

"A spiritwave cannon, a spirit rune that can release spirit qi directly as an attacking method!"

Sun Mo explained.

"In that case, can This Emperor do the woosh woosh too?"

The Qi Emperor gestured with his hands. He hated cultivating, so he liked this type of method where one could kill with the lift of a hand. It was cool and very relaxing.

"As long as you have spirit qi in your body, you can achieve that after activating the spirit rune!"

Sun Mo laughed. He saw many people itching to try it.

Honestly speaking, as long as one wasn't a retard, they would be able to sense the benefits of the spiritwave cannon. This thing was like having a handgun. One could shoot their opponents as long as they were unhappy. It was much faster than unleashing a move with a sword.

"Beloved Subject Sun, you have to make one for This Emperor!"

The Qi Emperor stood up and tugged Sun Mo's hands to exhibit amiability. "This Emperor heard that you have not married yet. Look at them. They are This Emperor's daughters. If you like any of them, This Emperor will betroth them to you!"

"..."

These words were somewhat inappropriate, but this time around, the other officials didn't try to persuade him. Even Grand Tutor Su pretended not to have heard it.

There were no solutions as they also wanted the two types of spirit runes. If they offended Sun Mo now, wouldn't they have no chance to get them?

"Your Majesty, please do not make such careless jokes!"

Sun Mo rejected.

"Ah? Could it be that you are fond of males?"

The Qi Emperor lowered his voice. He would also occasionally play with a few refined-looking court eunuchs. Speaking of which, Sun Mo was truly good-looking.

"Royal Father!"

Jiang Yuzhen frowned.

"Haha, I was just joking!"

The Qi Emperor then glanced at the daughter he liked the most. "Yuzhen, what do you think of Beloved Subject Sun?"

"Your Majesty, how can you ask this question so recklessly?"

The queen hurriedly interjected. The importance of Sun Mo was extremely high. He was someone the Qi Empire couldn't afford to offend. If Yuzhen said that she didn't like him, what should they do?

Things would be awkward then.

But that shouldn't be the case, right?

In any case, the queen herself was very fond of a man like Sun Mo. He was both handsome and talented.

(Aiya, I suddenly really want him to tattoo a spirit rune on me!)

Chapter 1217: The Qi Emperor's Recruitment

"I admire Great Teacher Sun very much!"

Jiang Yuzhen was gallant and straightforward, expressing the feelings she felt towards Sun Mo. "If Great Teacher Sun doesn't mind, I wish to interact more with you!"

Upon hearing this, all the young men revealed expressions of envy and hatred.



Jiang Yuzhen's personality was very direct. If she liked someone, she liked someone. If she didn't like a man, she would directly say that she disliked him. So, after she turned 16, she had rejected the pursuit of countless men.

Now, Sun Mo was the first man that got her to publicly proclaim her feelings.

If Sun Mo's EQ was slightly higher and he knew how to get women to like him even more, he would surely become a prince consort of the Qi Empire.

Many men—once they became prince consorts—were basically just a vassal of the princesses. However, Sun Mo was different. He was extremely talented and was a new rising superstar in the great teacher world. He would surely gain great authority in the Qi Empire.

If he was a little more black-hearted and good at schemes, he might even be able to shape the Qi Empire into his own vision and change the surname of royals to 'Sun'.

In just a few instances, all the major officials here on the scene decided to think of ways to stop Sun Mo from becoming the son-in-law of the Qi Emperor.

"Things are bad now!"

Li Xiu felt anxious as she watched. She calculated a bit and discovered that although the Great Tang had princesses that were of marriageable age, they were incomparable to Jiang Yuzhen be it in terms of looks, talent, or even status.

"I have to think of a solution and not let Teacher get swindled away."

Li Ziqi also felt somewhat anxious.

"Many thanks for Princess's love!"

Sun Mo tactfully declined. "However, I already have a fiancée."

Regardless of how much Sun Mo wanted many wives and concubines and even thought about visiting prostitutes, he still had to appear as a role model in terms of speech at the very least.

This was the basic requirement for great teachers.

"According to my knowledge, An Xinhui is merely exploiting you, making you work tirelessly for the Central Province Academy. If not, why doesn't she marry you?"

Jiang Yuzhen asked.

"Honestly speaking, this has nothing to do with An Xinhui. I was the one who was too busy and had no time to speak of romance and marriage!"

Sun Mo explained.

When the queen heard him speaking of his responsibility, she didn't feel that he didn't know what's good for him. Rather, she felt that he was affectionate and real.

(A man that can protect women is then a good man!)

Jiang Yuzhen smiled. She liked Sun Mo even more now.

She really admired men like this who could be completely focused on their dreams because she was the same type of person. What was love? She didn't understand that. She only wanted a talented son who could inherit the Great Qi in the future.

"Let's discuss matters like these in the future!"

Grand Tutor Su interrupted everyone. He then stared straight at Sun Mo. "Teacher Sun, what's going on exactly with those spiritwave cannons?"

"I have done research with Ziqi and we feel that for all cultivation arts, they are simply applications of energy like spirit qi. The stronger a cultivation art is, the more they can unleash greater might with a lesser amount of spirit qi. For spiritwave cannons, it's a method to replace cultivation arts and directly make use of spirit qi energy!"

Sun Mo didn't conceal anything and shared his understanding generously. "If you want the might to be greater, we can simply increase the spirit rune's conversion ability!"

Many people were confused but to people of Grand Tutor Su's level, these words actually allowed them to gain some enlightenment.

"So this is the case!"

Grand Tutor Su sighed ruefully. He then bowed deeply to Sun Mo. "Many thanks to Sun-laoshi and Li-laoshi for resolving my doubts!"

This answer consisted of a very bold hypothesis and inspiration. Usually speaking, no teachers would be willing to divulge these insights to another. One could only say that Sun Mo's heart was truly magnanimous.

"Teacher Su, you are too polite!"

Li Ziqi hurriedly dodged the bow. However, her sense of worship toward Sun Mo became even heavier.

The research was clearly her teacher's effort, but he was willing to list her name along with his. This was clearly done to increase her fame.

Some high officials who were weak cultivators didn't understand Sun Mo's words. But after seeing Grand Tutor Su executing the etiquette of a disciple to Sun Mo, they understood that every single one of Sun Mo's words was worth their weight in gold.

Xia Taikang and Wei Wu'an could only bow down to fate and no longer dispute whether Li Ziqi's methods were cheating or not. Hence, the first place in the army unit warfare belonged to Great Tang.

Li Xuan's countenance was completely pale.

He started to feel jealous of Li Ziqi. Why did she have such an outstanding teacher?

For this round, the victory purely came from the spirit rune Sun Mo invented. It had nothing to do with one's ability to command or the strength of one's army unit.

If he had such a spirit rune, he could win too.

“Xuan`er, you seem to have some resentment toward me?”

Han Cangshui glanced over as he asked.

“This student doesn’t dare!”

Li Xuan lowered his head, but there was indeed some resentment toward Han Cangshui in his heart.

...

On the day the army unit warfare ended, the Qi Emperor grabbed hold of Sun Mo.

“Beloved Subject Sun, please don’t reject me this time around. You have to sleep on the same bed as This Emperor!”

Sun Mo had no solutions and could only agree.

He actually wanted to add something more. (You are treating me like a bro, right? Why don’t you get the queen along so we three can sleep together!)

Usually when the emperor suggested sharing a bed with his subjects, it was because they wanted to express amiability. This was a preferential treatment that only highly esteemed officials were entitled to.

Sun Mo knew that the Qi Emperor coveted his God Hands, Skyward Spirit Rune, and the spiritwave cannons. So, he couldn’t be bothered to waste words and decided to give the Qi Emperor the full treatment.

—

“I’m flying! Quickly look, This Emperor is flying!”

The Qi Emperor floated in the air five meters above the ground. He was so excited that he was like a chubby kid as he floated left and right.

“Your Majesty, please be careful!”

The eunuchs and palace maids were all frightened badly. If he fell and injured himself, all of them had to die.

“Great Teacher Sun, is this queen worthy of you tattooing a flying spirit rune on?”

The Qi Queen’s phoenix eyes stared at Sun Mo imposingly.

If this brat dared to reject her request, she would tell the guards to drag him out and behead him...

But this naturally couldn’t be done.

Hence, she could only use beauties and money to persuade him.

However, Sun Mo most probably wouldn’t lack things like these.

“The queen’s body is too valuable. I have to get His Majesty’s agreement before I can proceed!”

Sun Mo glanced at the queen's voluptuous figure and suddenly felt that he should be the one personally doing the tattoo. There was no need to trouble his disciple Li Ziqi.

"Your Majesty!"

The queen acted coquettishly.

The Qi Emperor waved his hands. Right now, he truly treated Sun Mo as his brother. "Beloved Subject Sun, how do I do the woosh woosh?"

"Just tattoo the spirit rune on your right arm and that will do!"

Sun Mo mentally mused that the Qi Emperor was truly too casual and unfocused. Fortunately, he had no malicious ideas or he could very well ambush the Qi Emperor several times.

Woosh~

A beam of light shot out and blasted into a fake mountain in the distance.

Rumble!

A large part of the fake mountain collapsed.

"Haha, this king is also an expert now!"

The Qi Emperor was very happy.

He was lazy and didn't like to train hard. Hence, his cultivation base was very low. Now that he could blast a fake mountain with a lift of his arm, this feeling was too awesome.

Excellent!

"This queen wants it too!"

The queen requested.

Although Sun Mo didn't insist on keeping this a secret and getting the idle people here to leave, the Qi Emperor knew the rules very well. He got all his officials, eunuchs, and palace maids to depart. So right now, there was only Sun Mo, the queen, and the Qi Emperor in the room.

The queen was disrobed and was lying down on a bamboo couch.

When Sun Mo's hands were placed on the queen's shoulders, her body trembled because she subconsciously squirmed.

"Queen, please do not move randomly or there might be a mistake!"

Sun Mo warned.

"Oh!"

The queen bore with it.

Half an hour later, Sun Mo completed the Skyward Spirit Rune. As for why the amount of time it took was longer for the queen than for the Qi Emperor?

It was naturally because the queen was a female and paid more attention to aesthetics. So, Sun Mo tattooed the Skyward Spirit Rune in the form of a peony flower on her back.

“!...isn’t this a little too beautiful?”

The Qi Emperor was shocked. After that, another fire ignited in his heart. The love he felt for the queen, which had long since faded, began burning again.

“Someone, quickly bring a mirror over for this queen to see!”

The queen stood up from shock and urged in a loud voice.

Sun Mo turned and shifted his gaze away.

The palace maids quickly brought over a large mirror.

The qi queen turned her head and held her breath. She then looked at the peony flower tattooed on her back.

Too beautiful!

As expected of the king of all flowers.

No, one should say that with Great Teacher Sun’s skill, even a blade of grass could become the king of plants if he drew it.

(I like it!)

The queen smiled in admiration but suddenly she started.

(Wait a minute, didn’t I ask for the Skyward Spirit Rune?)

“Great Teacher Sun, this...”

The queen grew anxious. No matter how beautiful the peony flower was, it was useless if it couldn’t allow her to fly!

“Queen, please don’t be anxious. This peony flower is the Skyward Spirit Rune. I only changed its external look for beauty’s sake!”

Sun Mo explained. “As long as you channel spirit qi into the spirit rune, you will be capable of flight.”

The queen immediately did as she was told. After that, she discovered her body growing lighter as she left the earth’s surface.

“Ah, I’m flying!”

The queen was so agitated that her face was flushed.

“Beloved Subject Sun, since you can tattoo a peony flower, can you tattoo other designs?”

The Qi Emperor’s gaze was filled with a little resentment. “If I knew that you could do this, I would have asked you to tattoo a dragon for me!”

“Hehe!”

Sun Mo consoled the Emperor. "I can do that now too. My Ancient Dragon Capturing Hands can perfectly remove this spirit rune tattoo."

Upon hearing this, the Qi Emperor suddenly felt deep veneration for him.

After the queen was done flying, the Qi Emperor laughed and invited Sun Mo to bathe with him.

Sun Mo didn't reject it. But 15 minutes later when the queen entered, he was completely stunned.

"Ah?"

Sun Mo jumped in fright and directly dove into the bathing pool.

"Beloved Subject Sun, what's wrong?"

The Qi Emperor was puzzled.

"Your Majesty, this..."

Sun Mo was awkward.

"Oh, it's to improve our relationship!"

The Qi Emperor stretched his hand and pulled Sun Mo up.

"You really don't treat me as an outsider!"

Truthfully speaking, the nobles were always very wild when they were playing. After all, they had reached the peak of their lives, and their remaining joy in life was to pursue stronger excitement.

Did the Qi Emperor lack women?

Nope!

He regarded his lifespan, health, and strength even more importantly. After enjoying the ancient massaging technique, he could clearly sense that his body seemed to feel younger by thirty years.

The most terrifying thing was that those minor problems plaguing his body like his fats and back pains had all vanished. Now, he didn't need to stop drinking alcohol and could continue feasting on good food with no restraint.

What did a mere queen count for?

At most, he could dispose of her and establish another one. However, if he could use a single queen to recruit Sun Mo, that would be immensely profitable.

As long as he formed a good relationship with Sun Mo, he would be able to enjoy eternal youth.

Sun Mo didn't lack money and also didn't seem to be too fond of women. In that case, he had to use emotions, something like guilt from taboo acts to recruit him.

Bluntly speaking, the Qi Emperor had always been a selfish person. He loved himself the most.

Naturally, Sun Mo didn't do anything like what he had assumed.

After giving the two of them a massage, he simply left.

“What do you think?”

After seeing the door of the room closing, the Xia Emperor’s countenance turned cold.

“Do you feel younger by 30 years?”

The Qi Emperor glanced at his queen. Her skin was clearly tighter than before.

“Your Majesty, I...”

The Queen gulped down a mouthful of saliva, not knowing what to respond.

“I’ve sent people to investigate Sun Mo in detail. It isn’t too much to say that he’s a genius that might not even appear every 10,000 years. He possesses several peak-grade saint-tier cultivation arts and a magical massaging technique. He is even a great ancestor-level spirit runist, a grandmaster botanist, and a grandmaster puppeteer. He even invented a few powerful medicinal packets, causing him to roll about in wealth.”

The Qi Emperor sighed ruefully. “His accomplishment as a Dual-Sage in Calligraphy and Painting doesn’t mean anything in his resume! Someone like him is like an unrivaled subject. Obtaining him means that the national strength of my Qi Empire will enjoy a drastic improvement.”

“Your Majesty, are you not overestimating him a little too much?”

The queen frowned.

“I’m actually afraid that I am underestimating him!”

The Qi Emperor had a self-mocking smile. “I really envy Li Yingqi. He gave birth to a good daughter that Sun Mo was fond of!”

“Yuzhen isn’t bad either!”

The queen praised. Although Jiang Yuzhen was the daughter of the previous queen, her relationship with Jiang Yuzhen wasn’t bad.

“That Li Xuan has mediocre talent and is too ambitious. If he becomes the Tang Emperor, Great Tang will definitely decline in a few short decades. But with Sun Mo present, this isn’t for sure.”

The Qi Emperor sighed. “Could the Great Tang truly be blessed and have the protections of the heavens?”

Who would have thought that a princess rejected by a secondary saint could become the most dazzling genius among the crown princes and princesses of this generation after she obtained Sun Mo’s guidance?

Look at Xia Taikang, even he was crushed.

“In the past, both alchemy and weaponsmithing were the most popular professions that are highly regarded by the entire country. The former allows one to have a longer lifespan and maintain their

health, while the latter is then useful in war preparation. Whoever has the better weapon will be the strongest. However, Sun Mo's spirit runes are actually changing the world.

Flying soldiers tossing lightning rods or unleashing spiritwave cannons. Who could win against them?

Although Sun Mo had no enmity toward their country, what if he grew unhappy one day or became crazy? He could lead a bunch of flying soldiers to fly above the Qi Palace and toss down numerous lightning rods. If that happened, wouldn't the Qi Emperor die?

The safety of an emperor couldn't depend on the benevolence of an enemy. Hence, he had to depend on the sharp blades they had to protect themselves.

Look at the poor state of the country in the modern era that gave up on having nuclear weapons.

It was simply like a toilet bowl. It wouldn't be able to dodge whoever wanted to take a piss in it.

The queen saw the Qi Emperor shivering.

"We have to obtain Sun Mo's friendship!"

The Qi Emperor looked at the queen and patted the back of her hand. "If we cannot defeat him, we have to join him. It isn't enough for him to become our ally. He has to become my sworn brother!"

"W...what should I do?"

"Help me persuade Yuzhen. This kid has been very self-opinionated since she was young. But this time around, for the sake of our Qi Empire's future, she has to compromise. Regardless of whether she is fond of Sun Mo or not, she has to marry him."

The Qi Emperor's tone of voice brooked no rejection.

Chapter 1218: Thousand-Mile Surprise Attack, Wondrous Plan To Take Down an Enemy!

Qi Emperor Palace, Taihe Hall.

It was 8 a.m, and all the important characters of the four diplomatic groups had arrived.

"The second round is the commander's battle. But for this batch, there's something new, a thousand-mile surprise attack. The mission is to take the heads of a few bandit leaders that are wreaking havoc in the Qi Empire's borders.

The Qi Emperor sat on his throne and chortled as he looked at everyone. "Whoever can get the most heads the quickest will be the winner!"

"Alright, I've finished speaking about the rules and requests. The concrete content is in the book and the time limit is half a month. As for what to do, you guys can make your own plans!"

A few eunuchs hurriedly passed the books with the content of the commander's battle to everyone.

"Royal Father, I'll take my leave first!"

Jiang Yuzhen directly took it. She didn't view it carefully and decided to leave first.



This round was clearly advantageous to Jiang Yuzhen. However, no one cared too much about this because the home ground advantage was a hidden rule that everyone agreed to silently.

“Great Teacher Sun!”

A little eunuch bowed and passed the book to Sun Mo.

“Thanks!”

Sun Mo politely replied. This caused that little eunuch to feel overwhelmed by favor from a superior and he directly contributed 1,000 favorable impression points.

To put it unpleasantly, no one treated eunuchs as humans in the palace. Sun Mo was the only one that would say thank you to them.

“Are there any judges following them? What if someone cheats?”

Sun Mo frowned. At the very least, there had to be people bringing image-recording stones to record, right?

“The Qi Empire is on their home ground and they will definitely have an advantage. Moreover, which empire wouldn’t bring along some hidden trump cards?”

Li Xiu’s lips twitched. “Ziqi, just give up this round. Rest well and prepare for the individual battle!”

“That’s right, the Qi Empire is the host, and they definitely will obtain the first place. The first two parts of this battle are simply to allow them to boost their fame. Jiang Yuzhen would win for sure.”

After Han Cangshui finished speaking, he changed his tone. “But the more this is so, the more we have to seize the food from the mouth of the tiger. Xuan`er, let’s go!”

There was no need to ask. Han Cangshui would also personally set out.

“Teacher, what should we do? Should we give up?”

Xianyu Wei felt that it was more important to let her eldest martial sister rest well. After all, the Great Tang had secured the most victories as of now. As long as she could perform well in the individual battle, Great Tang would be number one for sure.

“Ziqi, what do you think?”

Sun Mo didn’t mind it.

“I want to win!”

These four words expressed her intentions clearly. They were filled with battle intent.

She was Sun Mo’s student. This battle not only concerned her reputation, but it also involved her teacher. She definitely had to win this beautifully.

“Eldest Martial Sister, I’ll go with you!”

Tantai Yutang recommended himself.

“I want to go too!”

Helian Beifang liked commanding soldiers to fight wars.

“Let’s go back and discuss in our hotel!”

Sun Mo glanced at them. Everyone knew this wasn’t a convenient place to continue speaking hence all of them soon departed.

...

In the hotel, in one of the guest rooms.

“I feel that speed is a crucial asset in war. If we want to win, we have to find those bandit heads before Jiang Yuzhen.”

Tantai Yutang was now frowning very intensely. “But I’m afraid that before Jiang Yuzhen even arrived, someone would have executed those bandits and prepared their heads for her.”

“Jiang Yuzhen isn’t someone like that.”

Sun Mo shook his head. “Even if the Qi Emperor wanted to do this, Jiang Yuzhen would never agree!”

“It will definitely be too slow if we bring our soldiers. We might as well rush there using Little Silver and offer high prices to recruit soldiers from there.”

Helian Beifang suggested.

“That type of soldiers won’t be able to fight well, right?”

Lu Zhiruo was worried.

“What if someone obstructs us and we won’t be able to recruit any soldiers?”

Xianyu Wei was also worried.

“Can you guys change your thinking a little? Why do we need a group of soldiers just to kill these few bandits?”

The sickly invalid was speechless.

“I thought this round was supposed to test one’s commanding ability in warfare. With no soldiers, how can this be tested?”

Xianyu Wei was astonished. “Besides, the information given by the Qi Emperor states that out of the four bandit leaders, the weakest one has 3,000 bandits under his command!”

“Recruiting soldiers wastes too much time. We might as well bring the royal guards. Because they can fly, the stronghold of the bandits, which are typically easy to defend and hard to attack, will be extremely simple for us to handle!”

Jiang Leng suggested.

Sun Mo smiled and watched everything, not expressing his opinion. He wanted his students to resolve this on their own.

After an entire morning of intense discussion, they had lunch. After that, a small team with Li Ziqi as the leader sat on the eight-gate cloud and set off.

Their target lived in the Golden Dragon Town, Zhishui Lake. It was the bandit leader Miao Xian with the title of 'Chaotic River Dragon'.

This small team consisted of a total of six people. The members were the team leader Li Ziqi, the think-tanker cum doctor Tantai Yutang, the scout Jiang Leng, Qin Yaoguang as well as Helian Beifang who will be in charge of the miscellaneous tasks, and lastly, the team's 'pet' Lu Zhiruo.

Actually, everyone didn't want to bring the papaya girl along as they felt she couldn't fight and wouldn't be able to think of any ideas. She would just be a burden. However, Sun Mo made the decision and got them to bring her along.

The papaya girl's luck was very good. It was enough for her to be a lucky mascot.

...

The journey on the eight-gate cloud didn't even need an afternoon. They traveled 300 miles and arrived at the Golden Dragon Mountain.

"As expected of a treasure ranked ten on the darkness species list!"

Tantai Yutang praised.

"What should we do now? Should we directly go over to start killing?"

Lu Zhiruo seemed to be brimming with desire.

"We should stay in the town and spread the news first!"

Tantai Yutang spoke confidently, "Wait for the right opportunity!"

...

Since Miao Xian could gather a group of a few thousand bandits, it showed that both his courage and brains weren't bad.

He knew that if he had to survive, he must have many informants to know the direction of the imperial court in advance. So, during these few years, his informant network had infiltrated the Golden Dragon Town completely.

Many lake bandits would pretend to be ordinary folks, or they would act as information gatherers to provide info for Miao Xian.

"Leader, things are bad. The old emperor has listed you as a mission target for the Five Empires War Discussion. The competition is to see who can cut off your head first!"

A bandit reported with an anxious expression.

“What?”

Although Miao Xian looked imposing and tyrannical, he was actually a young man with a very short stature that would look like a turtle if he carried a shell on his back. “Who told you about this?”

“Someone is already spreading this news in the town!”

The bandit didn’t dare to conceal anything.

Miao Xian sank into contemplation. If it wasn’t for his identity, he also wanted to go and watch the Five Empires War Discussion. He counted the time and right now was still in the midst of the war discussion. But even if there was some news, it wasn’t possible for it to spread here that quickly, right?

“Could it be that someone wants to target me?”

Miao Xian did a mental run-through of his enemies.

No matter who became the target of the mission in the Five Empires War Discussion, that target would die for sure. After all, for the sake of glory, the princes and princesses of the five empires would surely think of all sorts of methods to kill that person.

So, once he received this news, he would surely choose to flee. In that case, the position he left behind would surely benefit his competitors.

“Wanting to use such a childish trick to swindle me? How naive!”

Miao Xian coldly laughed. “Let’s leave. Go and tell our brothers to work harder and pay attention to the movements in the town. They are also to scout areas up to 30 miles away from it. I want to see who has the guts to pull my dragon’s beard!”

Two days later, Miao Xian was no longer so composed because the spies in the town reported that a group of people had stationed themselves there.

From the looks of things, they were very rich.

The moment they arrived, they immediately spent a lot and started to recruit soldiers and buy horses.

“Damn, it can’t be, right? Did I really become the target?”

Miao Xian felt a headache, feeling that this was an undeserved catastrophe.

“No, I have to hurry up and run away!”

Miao Xian glanced at the surroundings. (But I don’t wish to give up on this successful career!)

At this moment, a clear voice entered his ears.

“Hey, wanna make a deal?”

“Who?”

**Chapter 1219: Determining Victory**

Miao Xian roared. He speedily rolled and rushed to the side of the bed, pulling out his battle blade hanging there. After that, he stared at the door and windows warily.

Creak!

The door was pushed open and Ying Baiwu and Tantai Yutang entered.

Miao Xian's eyes narrowed violently.

How could he thrive here and had experienced being surrounded many times, but his bandit group was still not fully annihilated? This was because he depended on the complex terrain of this lake.

There were simply too many islands here and it was too difficult for the authorities to surround them fully.

But now, someone actually appeared here unknowingly?

"There must be a traitor!"

This was Miao Xian's first reaction. But after he saw Ying Baiwu and Tantai Yutang's appearances clearly, he started to frown.

(Aren't these two a little too young? They didn't even bring any weapons. What are they here for? To gift me their heads?)

"Who are you guys?"

Miao Xian's voice was low.

"Our eldest martial sister is the Great Tang's Princess, Li Ziqi. We came here this time around because we need your head for the second round of the martial battle, of the Five Empires War Discussion!"

As Tantai Yutang spoke, he tossed the booklet the Qi Emperor gave them over to Miao Xian.

Miao Xian caught it. When he opened and looked, his countenance immediately turned pale.

"Some soldiers have arrived at the nearby town, and you should have received some news with the information network you built, correct? Let me tell you now, the person leading the soldiers is none other than the Chu Crown Prince, Xiang Zhao."

Tantai Yutang calmly sat down and even poured a cup of tea for himself.

"What do you guys want to do?"

Miao Xian was wary.

"We naturally want to win!"

The sickly invalid's words caused Miao Xian to grab hold of his weapon hilt tightly as his killing intent surged.

"Don't be nervous!"

Tantai Yutang laughed. "Honestly speaking, someone like you is like an ant to us. If it wasn't for the Five Empires War Discussion, we probably would have had no interaction in our entire lifetime."

Although these words were very humiliating, Miao Xian admitted that there were no mistakes with them.

For descendants of nobility, ordinary people wouldn't be qualified to glance at them. When they toured the streets, the entire streets had to be cleared. The places they went for their entertainment also weren't places people like him could go to.

"The competition rules state that whoever obtains four heads first will be the winner!"

Tantai Yutang's lips twitched. "So, I wish to have a transaction with you."

"Are you not afraid that I might kill you two?"

Miao Xian surveyed Tantai Yutang and Ying Baiwu and discovered that despite the two of them being in his territory, their expressions were still very calm. It was as though they were strolling around the streets to find a breakfast stall. They felt no nervousness at all.

"Hehe, I feel that someone who can build such a foundation and possesses over 5,000 bandit subordinates probably wouldn't be an idiot, right?"

Tantai Yutang had a hint of praise in his tone.

Miao Xian revealed a satisfied smile. He always felt that if this era was a chaotic one, he could at least become a marquis or king with his own power.

"Leaving aside my eldest martial sister's identity, you should know who my teacher is, correct?"

Tantai Yutang counter-asked.

"Mn!"

Miao Xian nodded. Sun Mo's fame was truly too great. Leaving aside his other achievements, just the feat of him guiding a 'trash' unwanted by a secondary saint into the world's youngest great teacher was already a 'miracle'.

This stronghold consisted of many males and females who had formed families. Hence, other than plundering and robbing 'fat sheeps', their usual topics of discussion would consist of finding a good teacher for their kids.

Seeing their children becoming a 'dragon' (having a good future) was always the most fervent dream of all parents.

And Sun Mo was undoubtedly the shortcut that could allow children to transform into dragons.

"Given my teacher's might, do you think it is troublesome for him to exterminate this mountain stronghold?"

Tantai Yutang self-confidently laughed. "Oh right, the Qi Emperor also has the intention to betroth the Flying Swallow Princess to my teacher."

“Just say it straight. What do you guys want to do exactly?”

Miao Xian wasn't foolish. Since Tantai Yutang had come here to meet with him in this manner, it was clear that he had no intentions to fight.

“Our original goal is to spend heavily to recruit experts and launch a formidable attack here. However, the Chu Crown Prince came too fast. We have no solutions and can only come here to negotiate with you.”

Tantai Yutang had a look of helplessness on his face. “You should have heard of my teacher's God Hands before. My plan is for us to use God's Hands and change the face of a replacement body before cutting his head off to end our mission. As for you, you have to live in seclusion from now on!”

When Miao Xian heard this, his heart heated up but his face purposely retained a gloomy expression. Anger showed on his face. “I cannot give up my achievements here. The two of you, please return. Let us fight it out and see who is the victor!”

“Miao Xian, do you think you can survive if you become the target of the martial battle? Even if my eldest martial sister and Chu Crown Prince cannot do anything to you, what do you think will happen when the Xia Crown Prince and Princess Flying Swallow arrive here?”

Tantai Yutang mocked. “You only have a path of death.”

“I would rather die than submit!”

Miao Xian coldly snorted.

“Please stop acting in front of me. You just want more benefits, right? Let me tell you this. There's none!” Tantai Yutang mocked. “Do you know how much money those noble ladies and female great teachers with ordinary looks are willing to pay our teacher to help them do facial surgery? Now that you can enjoy it, you should already be burning incense to thank your ancestors.”

“...”

Miao Xian's heart grew chaotic.

“This is the only chance for you to ‘bleach’ your identity. After the facial surgery, you can take the wealth you accumulated for so many years to a brand new place and start over as a tycoon. Isn't that pretty good?”

Tantai Yutang rose. “When we come by during the evening, you better prepare a scapegoat for yourself!”

The sickly invalid and the iron-headed girl prepared to leave.

“What if I don't agree?”

Miao Xian asked but he only received Tantai Yutang's mocking laughter as a response. He rushed out only to see the two of them leaving via flying through the air.

This scene deeply stunned Miao Xian.

Let alone the Nine Provinces, even in the modern era, someone being capable of flying would be a major incident that would stun the entire world.

(Great Teacher Sun really does live up to his reputation!)

Miao Xian sank into contemplation and pondered how he could better grab this chance to retreat cleanly and begin a new life.

...

In the Zhishui Lake, on a certain island, the students were currently resting.

“What if Miao Xian doesn’t agree?”

Qin Yaoguang was worried.

“He will. He has no choice!”

Tantai Yutang calmly grilled a wild duck.

This afternoon, Miao Xian would surely send people or even personally head to the town to check the news. After seeing Xiang Zhao there, he would surely choose to compromise.

The only question was what methods he would use for his own self-protection?

...

The mist in the evening faded and night covered the land.

Miao Xian stood before his door and stared at the stars in the sky while feeling vexed in his heart. (Why aren’t Sun Mo’s students here yet? Did they change their mind at the last minute?)

This matter concerned his life and death. Miao Xian had secretly snuck to the town to take a look. That Chu Crown Prince was indeed spending huge amounts of money to hire experts. He even said that whoever could behead Miao Xian’s head would get a reward of 10,000 gold in addition to an official post.

Honestly speaking, after hearing this news, Miao Xian was so scared that he hurried back. Right now, there was even a hint of wariness in his eyes when he looked at his subordinates.

Wealth could move the hearts of men. What if his subordinates beheaded him because they wanted the rewards?

Miao Xian was too anxious. He didn’t feel like sleeping even after dawn arrived.

Bang!

Miao Xian kicked a table.

“Leader Miao seems to be in a bad mood, hmm?”

A teasing voice entered his ears. Miao Xian raised his head and saw that loathsome young brat from this morning.



“Where’s your princess? Why isn’t she here personally?”

Miao Xian questioned.

“Hehe!”

Tantai Yutang laughed. “You are considered a veteran, so can you please not say something so insulting to our intelligence?”

Miao Xian’s countenance stiffened.

However, this arrogant attitude of the sickly invalid made him believe in them more. If the other party spoke nicely to him and told him that the princess would meet him, he would actually not dare to believe them.

“Have you prepared the scapegoat?”

Tantai Yutang went straight to the point. “My mastery of the Ancient Dragon Capturing Hands isn’t as high as my teacher, and I cannot do things like shaving the bones. So, it’s best for you to find someone with facial features that bear a resemblance to you!”

“Yes!”

Miao Xian had done his preparations. “Please wait awhile!”

Ten minutes later, Miao Xian returned with a youth following behind him.

“This is my nephew!”

After Miao Xian did the introduction, he turned to his nephew. “This is an expert I hired. He knows a magical technique that can make you even more good-looking!”

“I hope you can get close to the Flying Swallow Princess and capture her heart!”

“Is it true?”

Joy immediately suffused the youth’s features. “Uncle, I will definitely not let your expectations down!”

The youth looked at Tantai Yutang. The sickly invalid purposely struck a pose that looked like an expert and completely ignored him.

“Please!”

Miao Xian indicated that the sickly invalid could begin. After that, he vigilantly took precautions.

This was his territory and the other party had no way to set a trap. Besides, even if there was a problem with the sickly invalid’s Ancient Dragon Capturing Hands, the one who died would be his nephew.

As for why he used his nephew?

Other than his nephew bore a resemblance to him, it was easier for him to gain the trust of these people. If he used a stranger, the other party would doubt his sincerity.

Tantai Yutang started to act.

He majored in the medical arts. In addition to the fact that he had to depend on the ancient massaging technique to relieve the pain he felt frequently, his technique was even better than Li Ziqi's.

Naturally, the sickly invalid couldn't achieve something like completely changing the face of a person. However, the effect of his efforts was already magical and terrifying enough in the eyes of someone like Miao Xian who hadn't seen the world.

As he watched his nephew's features gradually become something like his in the hands of Tantai Yutang, Miao Xian felt excited and also afraid.

He was excited because from now onward, he could live with a new identity. After all, he chose to become a bandit back then for the sake of earning money. Now that he had a large amount of wealth, he naturally wanted to 'bleach' his identity.

As for being afraid, it was because he didn't know if these people would give him a path of survival for sure.

If this wasn't his own territory, Miao Xian absolutely wouldn't dare to agree to any of their requests.

Under such feelings of trepidation, another hour passed.

All of a sudden, Miao Xian's head felt heavy and he slumped onto the ground.

His nephew jumped in fright and wanted to resist, but he discovered that his body was no longer able to move.

"Sickly invalid, what's going on with your secret medicine? Why does it take so long before he is drugged?"

Ying Baiwu waited too long and felt a little impatient.

"When I do things, I always pursue exquisiteness!"

Tantai Yutang's lips twitched. "This is an expert at the half-step Longevity Realm. If he was so easy to kill, he would have died countless times."

Miao Xian's cultivation realm was too high. This was why none of them dared to try an assassination. Even if they used poison, there was also a possibility that the other party might discover it.

"There's only a single opportunity so we definitely have to succeed."

Tantai Yutang was true to his words. He fed Miao Xian a medical pill first to ensure that he couldn't move. After that, he used the ancient massaging technique to seal Miao Xian's energy channels.

"Let's go!"

Tantai Yutang called out. When he exited the door, he cut off that nephew's head in the passing while also slashing the nephew's face to blur it.

These bandits would do all evil, so they deserved death.

...

After capturing a target, the students immediately headed for the next. However, they were too late. The Flying Swallow Princess had killed the bandit leader. Hence, they decided to continue rushing to the next city. However, they were still too late.

The other two bandits were already finished off by Xia Taikang.

“Is there something wrong? That fellow acted alone, so can this still be considered a commander battle?”

After learning of Xia Taikang’s attacking process, Helian Beifang was very unhappy.

“Forget it, our methods are also not considered to be a commander battle!”

Li Ziqi sighed.

Ten days later, all of them returned to Western Jing.

Qi Emperor Palace, Taihe Hall.

Xiang Zhao and Wei Wu`an both had awkward looks on their faces because their battle records were zero.

“First round. Xia Taikang beheaded two targets. He is ranked first!”

The Qi Emperor announced. “However, it’s worthy to mention that Ziqi captured her target alive. This is very impressive!”

The high officials on the scene immediately sent their congratulations to Li Ziqi. This was naturally done so because they wanted to give Sun Mo face.

Li Xuan’s expression was extremely unsightly because he, the crown prince of Tang, was completely being disregarded.

“Take a break for two days before the individual battle begins. Both members from the main and secondary team can register for it.”

The Qi Emperor laughed. “I heard that Ziqi’s performance in the individual battle of the 1-star great teacher examination was very dazzling. I hope you can continue to shine brightly!”

Xiang Zhao bitterly smiled. Since Li Ziqi could fly, she would naturally be very tough to deal with.

Xia Taikang and Wei Wu`an showed no change in their expressions. Clearly, they had some sort of plan.

...

Two days passed swiftly and the individual battle began. The event was still held in the Victory Public Square and that place was already flooded from the early morning.

The champion of this year’s war discussion would either be from the Great Xia and the Great Tang. This caused the people of the Qi Empire to feel a little unhappy. But these two were truly outstanding. This was especially so for Li Ziqi. She was simply the incarnation of a perfect goddess.

Not only was her talent unrivaled, but her appearance was also exquisite and beautiful. Oh right, she was also a princess. In the Nine Provinces, no one was worthy enough to match up to her.

“Ziqi, you must pay close attention to Xia Taikang.”

Sun Mo stared at the stage and reminded her in a low voice.

The opponents one had to face in the individual battle depended on the lots drawn for every round. So, luck was very important. If someone kept drawing weak opponents, they might even be able to enter the finals even if they were not very powerful.

“Eh? Will she lose?”

Lu Zhiruo was astonished.

From her point of view, as long as one could fly, they would automatically be invincible.

“What if they have flying-type equipment or spiritual beasts?”

The sickly invalid rapped the papaya girl’s head.

“This is not the actual reason!”

Sun Mo frowned.

“Mn?” Tantai Yutang started. “What is the reason then?”

“I can’t be sure for now. However, there’s a huge problem with that Xia Taikang!”

Sun Mo didn’t want anything to happen to Li Ziqi. “Remember, your safety is more important than victory.”

In the third round, it was Li Ziqi’s turn to appear. She still used her past ‘tycoon’s battle strategy’ and cast numerous shields for herself before unleashing lightning ripples and fireballs.

Her opponent naturally felt reluctant to accept this. However, after Li Ziqi proved that these spirit rune rods were created by herself, no one said anything more.

Since it was her ability, why couldn’t she use them?

On the second day, the individual battle continued.. Li Ziqi encountered her first formidable opponent – the Wei Crown Prince.

## **Chapter 1220: Guardian Divine Beast**

Based on cultivation level and spirit qi reserves, Li Ziqi was inferior to Wei Wu`an. If they fought in the most commonly seen method of the Nine Provinces, the little sunny egg would lose for sure.

Hence, if she wanted to win, she had to put effort into her battle strategy and equipment.

Although everyone was royalty, didn't lack money, and could obtain peerless-grade saint-tier weapons. However, this wasn't permitted for usage. Luckily, Li Ziqi's spirit rune rod wasn't considered one of them as it was a product of her own creation.

As for battle strategy, that was naturally bombardment from the air.

The moment the judge announced the start of the battle, Li Ziqi flew into the air and tossed out a spirit rune rod.

Wei Wu'an had guessed this might happen. He instantly rushed out the moment the fight began.

Rumble~

A sea of lightning erupted, but Wei Wu'an passed through that with no injuries. It was just that Li Ziqi had long since considered this possibility. She immediately unleashed her flame bullets seven times in a row, blasting Wei Wu'an.

Bang!

Wei Wu'an landed on the stage and glanced at the over ten spirit rune rods landing on the stage. He no longer hesitated. He directly bit the skin of his right thumb and swiftly drew a simple diagram as he cast his spiritual control technique.

Rumble~

A big lifeform with white scales resembling an eel appeared. Its body emitted an invisible qi barrier that blocked the lightning.

"What is that?"

Several people had their eyes wide open.

"Grand Tutor Su?"

The Qi Emperor questioned.

"It's a white jiao. It's an extremely rare wyvern-type creature that lives in the fifth level of the Darkness Continent."

Grand Tutor Su introduced as he watched with excitement.

"So it's a wyvern. No wonder, it's not as imposing as a true dragon!"

The Qi Emperor's lips twitched, but he actually felt somewhat envious in his heart.

During ancient times, the Nine Provinces had giant dragons, but they were already extinct.

All emperors were called the descendants of dragons. Who wouldn't hope to have a giant dragon guarding their empires?

True dragons could no longer be found, but wyverns still existed.

The so-called wyverns were creatures with a trace of true dragon bloodline. They weren't a true dragon lifeform, but they were still extremely strong.

This pet of Wei Wu`an was clearly a child white jiao.

The white jiao inclined his head and before its razor teeth, a coconut-size white ball of light gathered before shooting straight at Li Ziqi.

Woosh~ Woosh~ Woosh~

It attacked thrice.

Li Ziqi was erudite and multi-talented. Hence, the little sunny egg immediately recognized that this was a white jiao with a single glance and also knew of its attacking methods.

There was no hesitation. The little sunny egg activated the Skyward Spirit Rune and rapidly climbed up the sky. At the same time, she took out even more spirit rune rods.

Ah!

The white jiao unleashed a sharp soundwave and caused everyone to cover their ears in pain. Some children and women couldn't withstand it and directly slumped onto the ground.

A soundwave visible to the naked eye slammed into those spirit rune rods and exploded them in advance.

"She can actually fly so high?"

Wei Wu`an felt envy in his heart as he lifted his head and stared at Li Ziqi.

The white jiao coiled around Wei Wu`an and stared at Li Ziqi. This scene was extremely tyrannical.

"Li Ziqi, I can't win against you and you can't win against me. Why don't we draw this?"

Wei Wu`an suggested.

Given the current battle results of the Wei Empire, even if they got first place in the individual battle, they wouldn't be able to become the champion. Hence, his battle strategy changed. He wanted to defeat everyone other than Xia Taikang.

As for Li Ziqi?

Honestly speaking, no one would say anything even if she lost. After all, it wasn't about her fighting techniques anymore. This was just a showcase of suppression with the knowledge she had in the study of spirit runes.

If someone had the Skyward Spirit Runes and these spirit rune rods, even if it was a dog, it would be able to win battles.

"Sorry, I wish to become the champion!"

Li Ziqi tactfully reclined. "Moreover, Xia Taikang has to be defeated by me."

"You mean there's no room for negotiation, right?"

Wei Wu`an didn't mind. He shrugged. "Come on then, let me show you how imposing and tyrannical my jiao is!"

Roar!

The white jiao howled and its voice reverberated through the sky. But all of a sudden, it was like its throat was grabbed by a giant hand, and it could no longer make any sound.

“Mn?”

Wei Wu`an started. He wanted to speak but a sense of impending doom suddenly rose in his heart. His fine hairs instinctively stood up.

This was because a brutal aura suddenly gushed over.

BOOM!

A huge wind kicked up on the stage and formed a three-meter-long tornado.

“Crawling worm, scram!”

This voice contained the might of a king. Everyone in the Victory Public Square felt as though they had been shocked by thunder, and their eardrums were on the verge of bursting.

“G...grand Tutor Su, what is that?”

The Qi Emperor asked in shock. His legs were even trembling.

“No idea!”

Grand Tutor Su shook his head. “From the might it exudes, it should be some type of ancient gigantic beast!”

“You...”

Wei Wu`an didn't want his demeanor to be weakened. He was prepared to say a few ruthless sentences, but his white jiao suddenly wooshed and flew off the stage. After that, it fled while flicking its tail rapidly, resembling a mud fish.

...

Wei Wu`an felt very awkward.

The tornado vanished, as though everything that had just happened was an illusion.

“Thanks for letting me win!”

Li Ziqi clasped her fist and descended.

“I heard that you have a mysterious spiritual beast. Was that it?”

Wei Wu`an was curious.

“Yup!”

Li Ziqi smiled and floated down the stage.

Ze!

Wei Wu`an felt so envious that he almost drooled. As expected, the art of spiritual control was the best way to posture.

The competition continued but after watching the battle between Wei Wu`an and Li Ziqi, some of the princes and princesses no longer had the desire to do their utmost.

Anyway, even if they fought until the end, they wouldn't be able to win against Li Ziqi.

Xiang Zhao encountered Jiang Yuzhen. They fought for ten rounds and he took the initiative to concede. After that, Li Xuan faced off against Xia Taikang. Li Xuan wasn't convinced and wanted to fight to the death. He even consumed the alchemy pill Han Cangshui had created that could boost his combat strength. But in the end, he was still crushed badly.

If it wasn't for Grand Tutor Su and Han Cangshui acting in time, Li Xuan would have been beaten to death.

"Trash!"

This time around, even Li Xiu couldn't control her temper and directly cursed out.

Li Xuan's performance in the Five Empires War Discussion was truly lackluster. If someone like him became the Tang Emperor, things would surely be extremely dire for the country.

"Should I support Ziqi to ascend to the throne?"

In the past, Li Xiu had never thought like this. Because regardless of royalty or the common people, it was a norm for the son to take over the father's business. Daughters were treated as water that was thrown out. However, Li Xiu had witnessed how much the Qi Emperor doted on Jiang Yuzhen and also seen how outstanding Li Ziqi was. So, she decided to change her mind.

If the Great Tang was under Li Ziqi's lead, it might really be able to become the top hegemon of the Nine Provinces.

As for bloodline?

For the next Tang Emperor, they could choose one from Li Xuan's heir. If his heirs couldn't make it, the sons of other princes could do as well.

Han Cangshui who was standing at the side could clearly feel that Li Xiu's gaze toward Li Xuan had turned cold. This caused her to feel a sense of unease.

Li Xiu was someone Li Yingqi trusted the most. Her title as the eldest princess wasn't an empty one. Not only was she in charge of all businesses that the Great Tang controlled, but she also had a spy network and the responsibility to supervise officials.

On the surface, it looked like she had no connection with the officials. But as long as she shouted, all the officials would surely gather around her to await her bidding.

If someone like this supported Li Ziqi to ascend the throne, Li Xuan's position would no longer be secure.

"Trash, you only know how to make trouble for me!"



Han Cangshui felt very depressed.

The individual battle continued. Finally, when 8 people were left, Li Ziqi faced off against Xia Taikang.

Currently, both the Great Xia and Great Tang had won two rounds in the literature and arts battle and one round in the martial battle. So, the victory and defeat of this battle would decide the ranking of this war discussion.

The Victory Public Square was packed to the brim.

Grand Tutor Su had long since arranged 'Circle Confinement' to be placed in the surroundings of the platform to prevent the shockwaves of the battle from spreading too far and injuring the audience.

As the judge announced the start of the battle, the great sword in Xia Taikang's hands slashed out.

Swish~

A wave of sword qi whistled but soon collapsed after it slammed into the wind shield that materialized before Li Ziqi.

Xia Taikang didn't expect to succeed in a single strike. His legs stomped the ground and he leaped into the air with utmost speed. It felt like he had teleported, appearing before Li Ziqi and slashing out multiple times with his sword.

Swish~ Swish~ Swish~

Li Ziqi's wind shield trembled from the impact. She couldn't help but raise her hand and unleash her trump card.

Rumble!

A bolt of lightning shot out from Li Ziqi's left hand. After that, it became like a spider web and spread out. As for her right hand, a transparent windwave bullet blasted forth.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

At the same time, Li Ziqi climbed vertically in the air, avoiding the attacks.

Facing such a huge AOE attack, Xia Taikang had no way to charge forward. He was forced to retreat and fell back onto the stage.

"Aiya, what a pity!"

The people from the Great Xia felt it was too much of a pity as their crown prince almost did it. Those who had bet on the Great Xia's victory were all cursing now, while people from the Tang Empire felt a lingering fear in their hearts.

This Xia Taikang was truly too impressive!

RUMBLE~

A ferocious wind kicked up, forming a tornado.

The Wind King was summoned.

“Ant, scram!”

The Wind King merely spoke and everyone felt intense pain in their eardrums.

“One Heart Two Uses? Impressive!”

Xia Taikang praised. Li Ziqi was using this halo, fighting while summoning the Wind King. “But I know it too!”

“Mn?”

Li Ziqi was shocked. She hurriedly moved, but she was still too slow.

A fiery fireball blasted toward her. Luckily, the Wind King’s reaction was fast enough, and it cast a shield for her. Otherwise, she would have died.

Everyone looked up and only now did they discover that there was a winged ferocious beast even higher up in the sky. It flew down and landed beside Xia Taikang.

“What’s that? A lion?”

“Idiot, that’s a kirin, the guardian divine beast of Great Xia!”

“My heavens, has the Xia Emperor decided to abdicate his throne? If not, why would he allow Xia Taikang to bring the kirin out?”

The commoners were stunned by the external appearance of the kirin. After all, it was a divine beast that had a lion head, deer antlers, the body of a moose, and it was covered in dragon scales. It was also known to be something auspicious, and ordinary people probably wouldn’t have any chance to see it.

Although the children of royalty and nobility hadn’t seen one before, they understood the meaning of this auspicious beast better than the commoners.

It was the guardian divine beast of the Great Xia. Only the Xia Emperor had the qualifications to command it.

Xia Taikang leaped and sat on the kirin’s back. After that, the kirin flew up into the air, standing at an equal level with Li Ziqi.

“It’s over, we will lose for sure now!”

Lu Zhiruo was so worried that she started panting.

Her eldest martial sister’s trump card was flight, spirit runes, and the Wind King. However, her opponent could now fly as well, and the kirin appeared to be on the same level as the Wind King.

How to fight then?

“Li Ziqi, concede!”

Xia Taikang stared straight at the little sunny egg. “You won’t be able to win against me!”

“How would you know before we fight?”

Li Ziqi was unhappy.

“That thing below is an elemental lifeform, right? Even if my kirin cannot win against it, there’s no problem for my kirin to obstruct it and give me three minutes. Do you feel that you can win against me within three minutes?”

Xia Taikang smiled. “Naturally, I can let you be the champion, but you have to agree to one of my conditions!”

“I don’t need you to give me victory!”

Li Ziqi was angry now.

“Listen to me first!”

Xia Taikang surveyed Li Ziqi. Although her figure couldn’t make it and was as flat as an iron board, her brain was simply too good so she was worthy of him possessing her. “Be my queen. If we join hands, we will definitely be able to establish the strongest empire!”

“Huh? Is this fellow dreaming?”

Lu Zhiruo grew angry now. Based on what? In her heart, her eldest martial sister was super impressive. No other men could match up to her save for their teacher.

(Aiya, doesn’t that mean that eldest martial sister will have to be lonely in old age?)

“Quickly look!”

Qin Yaoguang used her elbow to prod Tantai Yutang.

The sickly invalid turned and noticed that their teacher’s countenance was now extremely unsightly.

“Your Majesty, we have to stop this matter for sure!”

The queen was worried. These two were phoenixes and dragons among humans. If they married each other, the Qi Empire would be finished.

“Relax. As long as we obtain Sun Mo, these two are nothing to be feared!”

The Qi Emperor was very calm.

“I will propose a marriage to the Tang Emperor once the war discussion concludes.”

Xia Taikang grew increasingly fond of Li Ziqi the more he looked at her. Although she was still very young, she exuded the aura of an intelligent beauty.

“Scram!”

Li Ziqi grew angry from embarrassment. She subconsciously glanced down and looked at her teacher.

(Damn, I will never marry you! I want to serve my teacher forever. Aiya, Teacher seems to be angry now, what should I do? Right, I’ll kill this fellow!)

“Wind King, finish him!”

Li Ziqi called out in rage.

The tornado on the stage directly produced a large number of crescent wind blades.

Woosh~ Woosh~ Woosh~

Roar!

The kirin roared and sprayed a fire wall that was over ten meters tall, burning all the wind blades away.

“Li Ziqi, you...”

Xia Taikang still wanted to persuade her, but he then saw that Li Ziqi was now standing in the formation’s eye as a tornado surrounded her. She could defend and attack with ease.

This caused his expression to turn ugly.

His opponent was stronger than he had expected.

The kirin and wind king continued to and fro. Xia Taikang and Li Ziqi’s combat strengths were insignificant before the fight of these two ancient divine creatures.

“Are you not an elemental king? You can’t even defeat a mount?”

Li Ziqi mocked.

“This is but a clone, alright? If you can fully release the seal on me and allow my real self to descend to the Nine Provinces, I can slap it to death with a single hand.”

The Wind King raged.

Li Ziqi had been researching the seals around the Wind King Altar and gained the inspiration to break them. However, she wouldn’t do this because once the Wind King was freed, it would surely become a calamity.

A hegemon like this definitely wouldn’t be willing to be enslaved.

“No, I can only depend on myself then!”

Li Ziqi racked her brains. “It’s fine if I lose, but I absolutely cannot lose face for Teacher.”

Xia Taikang rode the kirin and charged forward a few times, wanting to get close to Li Ziqi to slash her. However, he was obstructed by the tornado.

For a time, the situation was deadlocked.

“Your Majesty, it’s best to announce a draw. A competition like this is meaningless!”

Grand Tutor Su suggested.

Although the two of them could summon two powerful spiritual beasts, there was no individual skill to speak of in the fight.

“Alright then!”

The Qi Emperor stood up but just when he wanted to announce it, the situation suddenly changed.