

Weaponsmith 241

Chapter 241: Do I need your concern?

Adding on the fact that she had not prepared anything else in advance. If she were to force a performance, she will certainly perform worse than the other young ladies.

What can be done!

She blamed the little slut Huang Yueli. It was all her fault!

Like she was born to bring misfortune to her!

“Are you still hesitating Bai Ruoqi? Are you not ready to play the qin today? I can that you brought your Winter Water qin too. Do you not want to use it?”

Bai Ruoqi quickly turned around and found that those words were spoken by the sitting Third Young Miss from the Dingguo Minister House, Liu Yiyi.

Bai Ruoqi’s face immediately sank.

Liu Yi is a third grade talent. Apart from her, she is another talented aristocratic young lady.

She heard that Dingguo Minister House had requested the help of an Pill Master to help Liu Yiyi advance to the Qi Profound Realm seventh level. This was to aid in her challenge for the position of Imperial Consort.

Moreover, Bai Ruoqi also heard people say that due to her quarrel with Crown Prince at the auction, Liu Yiyi took advantage to visit the Crown Prince several times. She was also seen shopping in the markets with him!

Compared to Huang Yueli who could not cultivate, this Liu Yiyi...is her bigger trouble!

Fortunately Bai Ruoqi gained that bottle of Spirit Cleansing Pills from Bai Liujing. After a painstaking three days, she successfully broke through to the Qi Profound Realm, ninth level!

She first decided to remove the medicine smell from the pills. Then use this new strength to crush Liu Yiyi at the Peach Blossom Banquet. With her glares of jealousy and hatred, she will finally become the Imperial Consort.

Unexpectedly, not only was Huang Yueli not forced to her death, but such a big scandal had ensued. And now, this Liu Yiyi jumped out to challenge her!

Bai Ruoqi nearly crushed her ivory teeth. In a sharp tone, she grinded out a few words.

“Do I need your concern? ?”

Liu Yi laughed: “Of course I will be concerned. After all, there are so many people waiting to perform. If you dally here, neither the show, nor allowing the next person to perform, you will just be wasting our time. Hence do you not need the reminder?”

“So what? If I want to think about it for a while, it’s up to me.....”

The dispute between the two the Imperial Empress’ ears.

She coughed impatiently and asked: “Qi’r, have you thought about it yet? Why is it taking you so long? Liu Yiyi, what do you have to say?”

Liu Yi Yi stood up without fear gave her respects to the Imperial Empress.

“Your Highness, Bai Ruoqi is embarrassed that the qin prepared today will not be up to par. She did not expect that Bai Ruoli would perform better than her, so she does not dare to perform! Yiyi is courageous to say, since she is not willing to perform let’s not make it difficult for her. Allow me to go perform instead!”

Since the disappearance of Bai Liufeng, Liu Yiyi’s grandfather Liu Yi became the new number one master of South Yue.

Therefore, Liu Yiyi had always been straightforward. Whatever she wished to say, she would say it.

Due to her good family and grandfather’s backing, people were helpless. But due to her inferior talent, Bai Ruoqi was able to press her down. Even the Crown Prince paid more attention to Bai Ruoqi.

Liu Yiyi envied Bai Ruoqi endlessly.

So when she saw a rare instance of Bai Ruoqi’s shame, she could not help herself but to ridicule her.

“This.....” The Imperial Empress frowned, unhappy: “Qi’er, are you really not going to perform?”

Chapter 242: Playing too crappily

The Imperial Empress did not expect for Huang Yueli’s qin skill to be so masterful. Knowing her plan will not come to fruition, she became highly impatient.

She just wished for this segment to quickly end and start the next one as soon as possible.

Also the others turned their attention to Bai Ruoqi, jest flashed within their eyes.

The presence of knowing people, Bai Ruoqi’s reluctance to perform was understood by everyone!

As Bai Ruoqi’s turned redder and redder, she finally made up her mind. Biting the bullet she said: “I will perform.....the qin also! I will play for everyone a “Water from High Mountains”!”

She knew the rules of the Palace. Performing no matter how bad is still better than refusal. The latter option was to treat the Emperor disrespectfully and possibly suffer punishment.

At her wits end, Bai Ruoqi held her winter water qin and went to the middle. Taking a deep breath, she began to play.

Chin raised, Huang Yueli drank her peach wine while listening to Bai Ruoqi.

In all fairness, Bai Ruoqi expended quite a lot of effort on her qin.

Her fingering had reached perfection, but she failed to integrate her feelings. So the sounds always felt a bit stiff.

Without Huang Yueli's earlier demonstration, a layman would say that Bai Ruo Qi's playing is quite good.

Sitting on the stage, Bai Ruoqi forced herself to calm down to play the guqin with a calm mind. She must, at least, perform up to her usual standards. She will not allow for them to see any mishaps!

However, the more she thought, the harder it was to calm down.

Finally, fingers trembled and really missed a note!

Finally completing the performance with great difficulty, Bai Ruoqi almost fled back to her seat.

Today's performance, not only did she fail to become the object of praise, she also made a mess. Did not even achieve half her usual level.

If one must use a words to describe it, it would be—rotten!

In previous years when she performed in the Palace, whether in front of the Emperor, Empress Dowager or Imperial Empress, she would always receive a reward. But today, the faces of these Royals remained expressionless, not expressing a single thought.

The Imperial Empress' brow twitched a bit, apparently somewhat dissatisfied with her.

She intended to rely on Bai Ruoqi to pressure Huang Yueli and dispel the Emperor's thoughts on making this girl the Crown Prince's Imperial Consort. Who knew this girl failed to fly at the crucial moment!

Even the applause of the audience was sparse; one of purely courtesy.

Rights after Bai Ruoqi sat down, the Imperial Empress could not wait to announce the next person.

"Next up is the Third Young Miss from Dingguo Minister House, Liu Yiyi."

Liuyi Yi smiled and walked to the middle of the stage.

Her belt done, footsteps light, she danced a beautiful "A Raiment of Rainbows and Feathers".

Because this was right after two qin performances, it was hard for people not to become bored.

Liu Yiyi's dancing skills always were famous in the Capital. As a result, watching now it seemed even more refreshing than usual. It immediately won the applause of all.

Sitting under the stage, Bai Ruoqi almost crushed her cup.

A dignified aristocratic young lady, what need was there to learn dancing. It's not like she was a prostitute!

Such an undignified show, did it deserve such an applause?

What made Bai Ruoqi more indignant was the Crown Prince's enthusiastic applause. Using so much vigor, watching so attentively that his eyeballs were almost glued to Liu Yiyi swaying and moving waist.

Liu Yiyi the fox, daring to seduce the Crown Prince!

Chapter 243: Imperial Tutor accepting disciple

Huang Yueli smirked in response: "Ai, Second Sister look quickly! Liu Yiyi's dancing sure is superb. Beautiful but not bewitching, colourful but not gaudy. Truly a young lady from Dingguo Government House ah! This is quality! I also heard that her cultivation talent isn't bad at all, I really respect her!"

Bai Ruoqi was angered to the point of her liver hurting.

Completing her dance, Liu Yiyi was filled with radiant happiness. She even sent a provocative smile to Bai Ruoqi

Afterwards, Zhenguo General Manor's Qi Tang'er, Military Family Jing's young mistress, went on stage one after the other.

A blaze of colours, each holding its own merits.

Due to Bai Ruoqi's first performance, they did not choose the taboo qin. Instead, they prepared other forms of entertainment.

This would allow them to escape Huang Yueli's world astounding performance. The only one to show a dreg-like performance ended being Bai Ruoqi only!

As Bai Ruoqi turned angrier and angrier, she consoled to herself that this talent show was but a charade. It meant nothing.

No matter how talented one was in this aspect, it was still strength that spoke waves!

Finally, the talent show concluded.

Not only Bai Ruoqi, even the Imperial Empress felt relieved.

This really is a miscalculation. Huang Yueli's limelight was too big! She had to suppress down her glory!

Fortunately, the next event was the martial talent competition. It was here that she would utter pummel this trash. There will be no mistake!

Regardless of what heavenly skills she possessed, it would be impossible for her to stand back up!

As the Palace ladies replaced the dishes, everyone drank a few glasses of wine. gradually, discussions about talent show subsided.

The Imperial Empress wasted no time to say: "This Royal has heard tall of these young ladies are renowned martial experts. Several which are nationally famous female geniuses. Unfortunately, because this Royal resides in the Royal Palace, she has no chance to see."

Turning her head, the Imperial Empress smiled at the Emperor.

"The Imperial Empress wishes to experience this, what difficulty does this pose? The Imperial Tutor is also present, so we shall invite these young ladies to execute a move or two whilst also receiving the pointers of the Imperial Tutor. Imperial Tutor, how does this sound?"

The Imperial Tutor stroked his beard while laughing: "This old man is also interested. If one has enough talent, this old one might consider taking them as his disciple!"

Eyes bright with happiness, the Emperor said: "That is too good!"

The Imperial Empress immediately laughed, "The Imperial Tutor is our South Yue's fourth realm expert and his fighting experiences are the most abundant. Usually he resides in the palace and only my son the Crown Prince can receive his guidance. To the young ladies present, do not squander this chance!"

His remark made the entire audience excited.

Unexpectedly, not only was it the Imperial Consort selecting banquet, the Imperial Tutor is even considering to take a female disciple!

As one of the most influential experts South Yue's countable fourth realm experts, the Imperial Tutor has always been highly respected. There are only a handful of disciples under his tutelage. Apart from the Crown Princes still residing in the Palace, the two disciples he took years before had already left South Yue for many years already.

That being said, the Imperial Tutor dearly doted on his disciple the Crown Prince. His action of accepting a female disciple is clearly for the Crown Prince. This would aid him and ensure he can firmly plant down his influence. Truly used all his consideration and heart.

As for the young ladies present, there were very few who could see through to this level.

But this does not hinder their eagerness. Set on this notion, the competition flurried!

As Bai Ruoqi watched them one by one with her indescribable look, she could not help but sneer.

Chapter 244: The competition begins

They are but second grade talents, third grade garbage. How could they possibly compare to her. They really thought they would be able to win?

They were simply daydreaming!

Whether it was the opportunity to become the Imperial Tutor's disciple or the position of Imperial Consort, they were all bound to be hers, Bai Ruoqi's!

The Imperial Empress coughed and the noise immediately settled.

"Well then, this Royal will announce the rules. This is not an official martial gathering, but a Peach Blossom Banquet, so there are no strict rules. Everyone can freely pick their opponent. Of course, the challenger may refuse as it is all voluntarily. We can not force others to accept."

In the Tian Ling Continent, the martial way is respected.

At banquets, a testing of the younger generation's prowess has been a long time tradition.

But due to its banquet setting, no formal assessments were in place. As a result, permission and voluntarism was a very important principle to abide by.

However, to be challenged yet refuse in such formal occasions like so, it will definitely be a very shameful thing to do.

After all as martial practitioners, to cultivate is already fighting against the heavens!

As a result, one can only move forward and never back down!

If you encounter a stronger opponent and dare not fight, not only will you gain the despise of others, in more serious cases, it could also affect your future convictions. This will then lead to stagnation.

Of course unless there are special reasons, generally no one would go and challenge those weaker than themselves.

This kind of pick soft persimmon behavior, even if one gained victory, they will be regarded as a scum and with ridicule wherever they go.

The Imperial Empress continued: "In addition, please be sure to pay attention, as this contest is a friendly trade. Be careful to not cause any casualties. After all, we are young ladies from South Yue's noble houses. It would not serve well to break any good relationships."

These the few routine explanations taking up a tea cup's worth of time, the remainder was left for the displays for these young ladies.

After a moment, a petite round-faced girl stood out and bowed down deeply. She then said: "I am the daughter of the Minister of Revenue, Wen Shangshu, Wen Xiaowan. My cultivation is the Qi Profound Realm fourth level. I wish to challenge my cousin family, Xie Zhong Family's Second Young Miss, Xie Ling."

The Imperial Empress nodded her head.

Xie Ling heard this and immediately stood up to begin the battle.

In the open ground in front of the Palace of Peace and Tranquility, an enclosed area had already been set up for the bouts of these golden spooned young ladies.

At the edge of the venue were numerous Golden Scaled Guards hidden along the sides, ready to rush in, in the event of uncontrolled circumstances. Stopping all battles immediately.

The two girls gave the courtesy pre-battle movements and began to move. You go I come, appearing to be very lively.

However, in the eyes of the audience, this sort of test was quite a bore.

Wen Xiaowan and Xie Ling are second grade talents, both at the Qi Profound Realm fourth level. And amongst these young ladies, they were ranked in the middle.

Moreover, the two had special or unique martial skills for everyone to watch. Their moves were also very cautious in fear of injuring the other side. This caused a complete lack of excitement.

Soon, Wen Xiaowan gained the upper hand and earned her victory.

Below the stage, there was sparse applause.

However, the two girls also did not mind.

With their cultivation, they knew it would be impossible for them to catch the eye of the Imperial Tutor. And it is equally impossible to become the Crown Prince's Imperial Consort.

But there are so many other Princes who will select their Imperial Consorts!

Chapter 245: Liu Yiyi's challenge

Apart from the Imperial Consort, the Crown Prince still needed to select four other side concubines.

Originally, none of the ladies present possessed anything outstanding or eye catching. But the current battles gave them the opportunity to leave a small spark of interest in the various Princes. Who knows, maybe their battles captured the attention of a certain Prince?

With someone paving the way, each of the young ladies began to step up and showcase their talents.

Amongst the show, there were a few cases of secular and hidden martial skills appearing. This aroused the interest of the Imperial Tutor and obtained the bestowals of the Imperial Empress.

There were even a few golden spooned young ladies who cultivated agility and speed related techniques; so their moves and strikes appeared like extremely graceful and elegant dances. Extremely pleasing and attention grabbing.

Very quickly, almost every single young lady had stepped up for a challenge.

There were only three people who had yet to step onto the stage. They haven't even moved their bottoms from the beginning till now.

These three people were the seeded competitors of the Peach Blossom Banquet. The top three candidates were—Huang Yueli, Bai Ruoqi and Liu Yiyi.

These three, each one was a heavyweight character. Furthermore, they all held extremely high chances of becoming the next Imperial Empress.

None of these competitors had moved an inch, and displayed no intention of battling.

The only reason why no one challenged Huang Yueli was due to her status as a wastrel. To challenge her, they did not have that much face to lose!

While the issue of battling Bai Ruoqi and Liu Yiyi, not enough courage!

Who didn't know Bai Ruoqi as the number one female cultivator of South Yue, the only fourth grade talent! And with her natural talent and hardwork, she had already reached the seventh level of the Qi Profound Realm at the tender age of fifteen!

While Liu Yiyi, was only second to the Bai Ruoqi, another talent. Sixth level of the Qi Profound Realm at sixteen years. As a powerhouse, she also cultivated the Liu Family's secret art—Gale Blades.

This profound skill was something the Liu Ancestor, a fourth realm expert, had handed down to his family. It's power was no laughing matter.

As a result, Liu Yiyi was considered to be the second most powerful female cultivator after Bai Ruoqi.

With identities such as these, these relatively talented golden spooned young ladies could only look from afar. Who held enough courage to challenge them?

After all, as daughters of these influential families, their only goal was to display their talents and obtain the good graces of the Imperial Empress. They had no need to risk their lives. It was simply not worth it.

After the other golden spooned young ladies left the stage, quite some time lapsed before the next challenge was issued.

The entire Palace of Peace and Tranquility settled down.

Everyone's gaze travelled and inspected the direction of the sound; Bai Ruoqi and Liu Yiyi's side.

Of these three people, apart from the trash Third Young Miss, the challengers would naturally be the remaining two.

Of these two, either Bai Ruoqi or Liu Yiyi had made the decision to enter the field. As for their desired opponent, it would definitely be a battle between the two.

This would be a true battle between the dragon and tiger!

The number one and two ladies of South Yue battling for their honor and the position of Crown Prince's Imperial Consort! As one imagined the scene, emotions welled up inside their heart.

Was the question now laid in, who was the one that issued the challenge? And who would be the challenged one?

Of the two people, it was finally Liu Yiyi who stood and walked to the centre of the battle stage.

"Your Imperial Highness, Imperial Empress, my Dingguo House's Third Young Miss Liu Yiyi, third grade talent had the fortune to breakthrough to the seventh level of the Qi Profound Realm seven days prior! I wish to challenge Wuwei Manor's Second Young Miss Bai Ruoqi!"

As the words left her mouth, quite a few spectators spilled their cups of wine.

"Qi Profound Realm seventh level! Liu Yiyi actually reached the Qi Profound Realm seventh level? How could this be? She is only a third grade talent, how could she possibly cultivate this fast ah!"

Chapter 246: Liu Yiyi vs Bai Ruoqi (1)

"This you don't know ah? From what I hear, Dingguo House has recently invited the assistance of power's alchemist and specially asked him to refine a few pills to assist Liu Yiyi. Only then was she able to advance to the Qi Profound Realm seventh level!"

"From what I remember, Bai Ruoqi is also at the seventh level of the Qi Profound Realm? Since this is the case, Liu Yiyi and Bai Ruoqi have the same cultivation?"

"That's right. Liu Yiyi really hid it deeply! If she is able to defeat Bai Ruoqi this time, it would truly become an astonishing affair!"

As Liu Yiyi listened to the envious and admiration filled discussions around her, she could no longer conceal the smile on her face.

In the past, her position in the hearts of others had always been second place. No matter how much she strived or how hard she worked to become strong, Bai Ruoqi was always a step ahead!

Now her cultivation had caught up to Bai Ruoqi. Furthermore she held her family's Gale Blades, a killing ace within her grasp!

For two people of the same cultivation, with her arsenal, her winning chances are much higher than Bai Ruoqi!

She definitely could defeat Bai Ruoqi today and snatch the seat of Imperial Consort!

Liu Yiyi could practically see victory in front of her, defeated Bai Ruoqi and elevating the respect the Crown Princes held for her to a whole new level!

Raising her eyebrow, she laughed at Bai Ruoqi: "Bai Ruoqi, do you dare accept? If you are afraid of losing face, you may refuse. After all, Her Highness did say these battles are all about free will."

Bai Ruoqi nearly laughed out loud.

After bottling up so much anger today, she finally had an opportunity to let it all out!

Since Liu Yiyi delivered herself to her doors, then naturally she would not refuse!

As long as she was able to showcase her prowess to everyone on site and suppress Liu Yiyi, no matter how bad of an impression the Empress Dowager held of her, it would have no effect.

This is the power of strength!

In a straightforward manner, Bai Ruoqi rose from her seat and replied: "Liu Yiyi, did you really think that your promotion to the seventh level of the Qi Profound Realm is enough to pose a threat to me?"

Liu Yiyi replied in a tone that implied she held confidence in her victory: "We shall see once I try. What, you do not dare?"

"Why would I not dare? Humph, today I will show you just how large of a difference there is between a fourth grade talent and third grade talent!"

In the battle space, the two parties faced each other.

Before the battle could even commence, fire and lightning erupted from their eyes.

As soon as the Imperial Empress said the word "begin", Liu Yiyi could not wait but to attack first. Furthermore, her first move was her family's skill—Gale Blades!

Gasps erupted from all around.

"Ah—so this is Gale Blades. From what I hear, it is a black level lower grade profound skill!"

“So amazing. From the recounts, Gale blade has the ability to seriously injure an opponent one small level above them. Previously, Bai Ruoqi possessed a higher cultivation and could still resist. But now with the same cultivations, how will Bai Ruoqi defend against this?”

“Such a powerful move. If it were me, I would have been sent flying already!”

Even the Emperor couldn't help himself but cry out: “This girl Liu Yiyi is really not simple. As the number female cultivator, Bai Ruoqi might have to give her title away!”

Just as Liu Yiyi's execution was swift as lightning, all her attention and powerful focused on this one move!

She made her decision. She was determined to knock down Bai Ruoqi with his one move and win cleanly!

As the incoming Gale Blades brought an imposing rush of profound qi, it rushed and enveloped Bai Ruoqi. Quite clearly, Liu Yiyi used all her efforts for this one move.

Just as this thousand pound might was about land, Bai Ruoqi actually laughed out crisply.

“Liu Yiyi, you did not think that you could rely on this measly Gale Blade to defeat me?”

Chapter 247: Liu Yiyi vs Bai Ruoqi (2)

As those words just finished, they heard a loud “pa” sound.

Bai Ruoqi did not dodge at all, in fact she counterattacked. Throwing out a hand, Bai Ruoqi disarmed Liu Yiyi's offensive strike and sent it hurtling back towards her!

“Bang!”

Liu Yiyi was sent flying instantly towards the outside of the stage.

Luckily the Golden Scaled Guards monitoring the event flew out in time; catching Liu Yiyi in a timely manner.

Regardless, she had been sent flying by Bai Ruoqi's cruel strike. A trail of blood leaking from the corner of her mouth.

This change was too sudden.

Just then, it was still Liu Yiyi who held the upper hand. Yet in a single move, she was defeated by Bai Ruoqi!

Everyone looked at each other, unable to believe their eyes.

Although Bai Ruoqi is pronounced as the nation's number one female, for her to triumph over the newly promoted Liu Yiyi was a great surprise.

Liu Yiyi was at the seventh level of the Qi Profound Realm and had used all of her strength. Yet she was unable to even harm a hair on Bai Ruoqi?

Was Bai Ruoqi that powerful?

Struggling up, Liu Yiyi looked at her in an incredulous manner.

“You.....Bai Ruoqi, did you breakthrough? You are no longer at the Qi Profound Realm right?”

Proudly, Bai Ruoqi lifted her chin and looked down at Liu Yiyi’s face. Filled with arrogance, her glistening eyes revealed her disdain.

“Heh, Liu Yiyi, you discovered it as expected! You did not predict I would actually be ahead of you. Did you assume I would also be at the Qi Profound Realm seventh level? Let me tell you, since you can breakthrough, others can as well!”

Eyes stretching wide, she stared unrelentlessly at her.

“This cannot be, this cannot be! You were still at the seventh level of the Qi Profound Realm just three months ago. How could you breakthrough to the eighth level so quickly?”

“Eighth level?”

Bai Ruoqi sneered, “Look carefully, carefully at what level I really am at!”

As she said this, she began to release qi from her body and increasing her presence to the maximum!

In an instance, everyone felt a suffocating pressure on their bodies.

“Qi Profound Realm.....ninth level!”

The Crown Prince was the first to react, and cried out in shock.

“What? It’s actually the Qi Profound Realm ninth level?”

“What jokes are you making? Bai Ruoqi is at the Qi Profound Realm ninth level?”

“Your kidding me right? Are you sure did you did not make a mistake anywhere, for how can she possibly breakthrough that quickly! If you were to say she is at the eighth level, then it would still be believable. But the ninth level.....this is too mindblowing!”

“But, even the Crown Prince said so. He could not have made a mistake right?”

The various golden spooned young ladies below the stage were much weaker in comparison to Bai Ruoqi, so they could only sense she had grown in power. As for the exact growth margin, they were under to tell.

But the Crown Prince was far superior to Bai Ruoqi. Once he sensed her qi, he was immediately able to tell her cultivation.

Revealing a victorious smile, Bai Ruoqi bowed in the direction of the Royal Family. She then said in a loud voice: “Reporting to the Emperor, Empress Dowager, Imperial Empress, Imperial Tutor, Qi’er broke through to the ninth level just last night. Due to the sudden breakthrough, she had yet to announce this.”

The Emperor displayed an expression of shock.

“You really have reached the ninth level of the Qi Profound Realm! Qi’er, you are only fifteen right? Ninth level of the Qi Profound Realm at fifteen years! Imperial Tutor, you were also at level in your youth right?”

Holding his beard, the Imperial Tutor was full of smiles, “Not bad. This child is not simple. Did not expect that apart from the Crown Prince, our South Yue produced another genius!”

Chapter 248: A snowfall of shame

The Imperial Empress beamed with a smile.

She had, long in her heart selected Bai Ruoqi as her daughter-in-law. So she was afraid of Huang Yueli inserting herself into the mix.

The Imperial Empress was pretty upset of Bai Ruoqi’s crushing defeat at the showcase earlier and thought she lacked skills. She couldn’t even surpass that straw bag young sister of hers.

Unexpectedly only an half hour later, Bai Ruoqi gave her a big surprise!

Qi Profound Realm ninth level!

This was the Qi Profound Realm ninth level!

What did this mean for her to reach this stage at fifteen years?

Great importance was attached to cultivation. The faster one broke through in their early years, the greater heights they would reach in the future.

If Bai Ruoqi could successfully enter the Defensive Profound Realm next year, then she was likely to reach the height of the Imperial Tutor——fourth realm, Dan Profound Realm!

In the kingdom of South Yue, experts of this level could be counted!

The Crown Prince’s potential was already very good, so if this Imperial Consort could also reach this level, then who could threaten his position?

The Crown Prince himself was clearly aware of this point. His outlook towards Bai Ruoqi was completely different than before.

If the Crown Prince only considered marrying Liu Yiyi, then currently he could only see Bai Ruoqi in his vision!

Liu Yiyi, of course, was also very beautiful. More so, her personality was much more amicable than Bai Ruoqi’s!

However, who asked Bai Ruoqi’s to have such amazing cultivation? Power is the fundamental and crucial deciding factor! So, his Imperial Consort could only be.....Bai Ruoqi!

As for Liu Yiyi, she could only be a side concubine.

Only Empress Dowager had a gloomy expression. Her gaze towards Bai Ruoqi was not favourable. A pity, she could not say anything at all!

With the strength of Bai Ruoqi, even with her questionable character, it was nothing strange.

After all, in this world, the strong suppressed the weak!

Bai Ruoqi held the potential to become a first-class powerhouse, while Bai Ruoli was born a wastrel. To be bullied by her older sister, was due all due to her bad luck!

A trace of a smile hung on Bai Ruoqi's face. She slowly looked at the audience, watching each and every person's expression.

All these young ladies who were point fingers earlier in the event, now did not dare to even look at her. They feared she would come to them for revenge.

Bai Ruoqi raised her chin slightly, feeling very happy inside!

Today at the Peach Blossom Banquet, the stifling breath she had been holding in her chest, could be finally released!

The Emperor was very happy. His appreciation of Bai Ruoqi raised greatly. He rewarded her with numerous cultivational pills and profound armaments. Even the Imperial Tutor viewed her in a positive light. He called her to the front and carefully asked about her cultivation.

Finally, the Imperial Tutor's face showed a satisfied smile, "Oh, this disciple, this old man will take it!"

When Bai Ruoqi heard this, she quickly knelt down and immediately commenced the ritual master-disciple. She kowtowed three times and solidified their relationship.

Disciples who held the potential to reach the fourth realm were very rare. So the Imperial Tutor and Bai Ruoqi were all contented.

The Imperial Tutor smiled and looked at his newly acknowledged disciple. He then looked at the Crown Prince and said to the Emperor: "Your Highness, since...since.....this old one has selected a disciple, then your affair, should not be decided already?"

The affair was naturally the issue of the Crown Prince's spouse.

The Emperor heard this. He pondered for a long time but did not respond.

Chapter 249: Ai Jia has something to say

Bai Liufeng's past friendship with the Emperor was still remembered.

He did not wish for others to say that he was someone to burn past bridges after crossing. So even with the many years of disappearance, the Emperor continued to abide by his promise of engaging his daughter to the Crown Prince.

Even after so many years of the Imperial Empress's constant ear blowing in regards to Bai Ruoli's appealing reputation, the Emperor refused to show the slightest hint of wavering. He never could make the final decision.

Furthermore, when he saw that Bai Liufeng's daughter grew to be quite attractive, graceful and elegance, and so skilled in the qin. Apart from her inability to cultivate, she did not have any shortcomings causing the Emperor to be unable to say any words of refusal.

But, Bai Ruoqi was far too outstanding!

At age fifteen, she had reached the ninth level of the Qi Profound Realm!

If she were to grow without a hitch, then there would be a high possibility of her becoming a fourth realm expert!

These kind of experts, were very sparse in South Yue. If he did not solidify a relationship through marriage now between the Crown Prince and Bai Ruoqi, then it would be very hard for them to establish one in the future.

As the reigning monarch, he must make decisions for the good of his country.....

Sinking into a dilemma, there were several instance where the words were at the tip of his mouth but he still hesitated in the end.

Even the Empress Dowager was wavering.

Although she was up in her years, that case that happened earlier in the morning in the Peach Blossom Orchard, she still remembered it clearly!

Bai Ruoqi's strength was immense, the Empress Dowager was well aware of this fact. If they allowed her to become the Crown Prince's Imperial Consort, it would be most appropriate choice. But, she still felt unsettled and indignant about this choice.

Bai Ruoqi this girl, possessed a malicious heart, not even sparing her own cousin. Even falling to such rotten tricks. Girls who use such questionable methods, if allowed to enter the Royal Palace, who knows how chaotic things will become!

Furthermore with such character, how could she take the role as the country's mother? Role model to the girls under the sky?

Thinking over this repeatedly, the Empress Dowager felt stifled inside and huffed out: "Emperor, deciding the Crown Prince's Imperial Consort just like this, isn't this too rash?"

"This.....what intentions does Royal Mother mean?"

Sweeping a look over Bai Ruoqi, the Empress Dowager said: "Ai jia has some words she wishes to say to the Emperor. Selecting the Crown Prince's consort, must first be discussed before announcing the final verdict!"

“But, Royal Mother, the Bai’s Family’s Second Young Miss has such outstanding talent. And has always held a reputation of a virtuous and kind lady. Such, she is the most suitable candidate. Is there a need to consider it...”

Hearing those words, the Imperial Empress turned anxious.

By the Empress Dowager’s words, she was opposed to Bai Ruoqi’s marriage with the Crown Prince?

How would this do?

Bai Ruoqi is born with fame. Along with her own immense cultivation, even if she did not wed the Crown Prince, the Emperor will use all methods for her to marry another Prince.

While the Imperial Empress only had the Crown Prince as her own blood child. If Bai Ruoqi were to wed another to give him such a strong backing, wouldn’t her own son’s position become precarious?

As a result, the Imperial Empress came out to intervene and finalise this marriage.

But the Emperor himself was still wavering. After much hesitation, he still declared: “Royal Mother, what do you wish to say?”

The Empress Dowager responded: “There are too many eyes and mouths here, how about we first leave and discuss this in another palace. Then we return.”

The Emperor nodded in response: “It is still Royal Mother who considers everything.”

Right after the Empress Dowager and Emperor left, the Imperial Tutor followed suite.

As the Imperial Empress intended to follow as well, she heard the calling of the Crown Prince: “Royal Mother.....”

Receiving the hopeful calling of her son, the Imperial Empress nodded her head slightly: “Relax, with your Royal Mother here, I will definitely allow you to wed Bai Ruoqi!”

Chapter 250: Concubine Shu losing favour

Study of the Palace of Peace and Tranquility.

The Emperor, the Empress Dowager, the Imperial Tutor and the Imperial Empress were seated and discussing in hushed tones.

The Empress Dowager’s Face turned bad in an instant: “Emperor, there are some words that Ai Jia cannot say. This Bai Ruoqi...has bad character and is not suitable to become our Royal Family’s daughter-in-law!”

Not expecting such words, the Emperor was at a loss, “Royal Mother, what do you mean by these words?”

Immediately the Empress Dowager recounted the events that occurred earlier in the day clearly for the Emperor to judge.

No one expected that such events would pass at such a time. In an instant, everyone became dumbfounded.

Flabbergasted, the Emperor said: "Royal Mother, you.....you are certain of this? How could this be? Qi'er is someone we watched grow up from young, always kind and virtuous. How could she possibly do such things?"

The Empress Dowager replied: "How is this not possible? One can know a person for a long time without understanding their true nature! Doctor Liu has already admitted to this, today's affairs were something she brought upon herself. Who else could collude with Imperial Physician Liu? And who else could possibly advance to the ninth level of the Qi Profound Realm so quietly!"

Hearing this, the Emperor also felt this was quite unusual. A resounding slap ringing on his face.

"Preposterous! Zhen had especially reminded Bai Liujing to carefully look after the daughter Bai Liujing left behind! He agreed readily and willingly. But indulged in the mistreatment of his niece!"

"How is this just mere indulging? Bai Liujing is the current master of the house, without his approval how could Bai Ruoqi and the others dare to act so atrociously?"

Reaching this point, the Empress Dowager recalled something else and appeared for indignant.

"That's right, there's that Concubine Shu! Previously I always regarded her a magnanimous lady, but to save her niece from those crimes, she dared to say anything. In front of Ai jia, she dared to spout killing all for silence! Humph, treating Ai jia as a retarded senior unable to see through anything?"

Furiously the Emperor exploded: "This ignorant and stupid woman, unable to distinguish between right and wrong, wasting the dotingly Zhen usually gives her! Zhen immediately orders her to enter the Cold Palace!"

When the Imperial Empress heard this, she turned blank. She felt both delight and worry.

Delight because Concubine Shu was currently the most doted on woman in the harem and had long been unable to bear this fox. Unfortunately, Concubine Shu always treaded very carefully, never making a mistake. Thus, she never could capture a weakness of hers!

But this time, Concubine took the initiative to offend the Empress Dowager. She had personally paved the path to her doom!

She estimated that she would lose all favour this time!

What made her worry, was the definitive tone of the Empress Dowager's. Did that hint that she is insistent on Bai Ruoqi's crime? Saying that she held no right to marry into the Royal Family?

The Imperial Empress did not think this way.

Only someone powerful would be worthy of matching her Crown Prince. So what if her character is somewhat poorer? This conclusion is much better than being married to another Prince right?

When she thought of this point, the Imperial Empress quickly opened her mouth.

“Royal Mother, you are certain it is Qi'er who acted from behind the scenes? Did you not just say that the criminal is only Imperial Physician Liu this one person? And it is only because he was captured that he confessed. As for the evidence, it has yet to be found. To solidify Bai Ruoqi's crimes now, isn't this a bit too hasty?”

“What? You mean to say....Ai jia's analysis is incorrect?” The Empress Dowager asked somewhat displeased.

Hurriedly the Imperial Empress responded: “No no, this concubine did not mean that! It is only, Bai Ruoqi's current identity is somewhat special. Reaching the ninth level of the Qi Profound Realm at fifteen years old, an extraordinary talent! If not even one trustworthy piece of evidence has been produced, but her crimes already pinned.....if this were to spread out, would this not become the Emperor's fault!”