

Reading response

[History](#)



The Peony Pavilion The schoolroom scene of The Peony Pavilion written by Tang Hsien-tsu in 1598 is amongst the fifty five scenes of the drama (Mair 223). The scene touches on things that I can relate to in these modern times. It stresses on the importance of passion, dedication, determination and respect. These are some of my most basic ingredients for success.

In this scene, the differences between Bridal and Fragrance are very evident. They represent real life cases where there are rules and regulations to be adhered to and consequences of doing contrary. Bridal tries her best to conform to the rules and regulations and even apologizes when they are late, while Fragrance breaks all the rules. Bridal understands that respect is invaluable and someone who wants to succeed must accept the consequences of disrespect. She tells Fragrance, “ A tutor for a day is a father for a lifetime” (Mair 226). This shows how much she believes and respects Ch'en.

It is not always wrong to question authority or do things differently. Bridal presents to Ch'en a set of stationery that Ch'en had never seen and a portrait with weeping eyes (Mair 225). When Ch'en dismisses them, Bridal accepts it and uses what Ch'en approves. As a result of following her tutor's instructions, she become so good at writing that Ch'en admitted that he had never seen such good writing. I personally believe that taking corrections positively is one way of progressing in life. This scene thus corresponds with my belief.

The schoolroom scene is very entertaining. There is adequate use of stylistic devices such as rhyme that give it a poetic feel (Mair 223). In addition, it emphasizes the need for mutual a working relationship between people in authority and those under them, based on trust and honesty.

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Work Cited

Mair, Victor H. *The Shorter Columbia Anthology of Traditional Chinese Literature*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000. Print.