

## Analysis of the Causes of Emperor Rosefinch's Timid Characters Based on the Perspective of Family Education.

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**Abstract:** If Genji was the light, Emperor Rosefinch would be the shadow behind the light. As the supporting actor with low appearances and existences, Emperor Rosefinch was not popular with many people but shows with the negative images of slouches and losers simultaneously. Hardships were paved on his way to love. Besides, his father's thought for shifting the throne has threatened his status. After succeed to the throne, he is only a puppet living under the power of noble relatives and he has to abdicate due to Event of Xumo eventually. His timid characteristic was caused by his father's ignorance, mother's strict discipline and a menial attitude towards love, and younger brother's glamour, which dooms his life was full of tragedies and broken dreams. It has close connection to the family education that he has got since he was young. Thus, knowing the influence of family education to Emperor Rosefinch has deep effects for seizing his image and special literary value in the Tale of Genji.

### 1. Introduction

*The Tale of Genji* was written by *Murasaki Shikibu*, a female writer in Japanese Heian Period, in the year of 1001-1008, which can be seen as the masterpiece of Japanese classical literature and has long effects for the development of Japanese literature. Mishima Yukio and Tanizaki Junichiro are the representatives of it in modern times. Emperor Rosefinch, the major character in *The tale of Genji*, is the eldest son of Empress Kiritsubo and Kokidennonyogo, and half brother of Genji. Empress Kiritsubo spoils Genji, while only keeps an eye on Rosefinch simply. His mother is the daughter of the minister of the right, bigwig on the royal court. He was controlled by the powerful foreign relatives. Besides, his handsome and talented younger brother was invincible. Under such backgrounds, Emperor Rosefinch who survives in the tough environment becomes a timid person like a mollusc.

### 2. The Image of Emperor Rosefinch in the Tale of Genji.

As the supporting actor with low presence and sense of place, Emperor Rosefinch has always been regarded as the supporting actor for Genji in the *The tale of Genji*. For the timid image of Emperor Rosefinch, *Murasaki Shikibu* builds Emperor Rosefinch from the perspectives of politic, family and female relationships. In political image, he overwhelms Genji and inherits the throne logically due to his grandfather's great power. However, what the throne has brought is not supreme power, but being a puppet. When Emperor Rosefinch is on his throne, he is powerless to oppose the arbitrary act and the way of peremptory law-making of his mother and grandfather, even does not have freedom and majesty that a Mikado should have had. In the image of family, Emperor Rosefinch once was thought as the "undoubtedly crown prince"<sup>[1]p8</sup>. After the birth of Genji, he was being ignored by his father. Empress Kiritsubo, father of Emperor Rosefinch, "pampers"<sup>[1]p15</sup> the outstanding Genji, even plan to set Genji as the crown prince. After the event of Kiritsubo Consort, the whole royal court is full of sorrow. But Kokidennonyogo feasts and enjoy the moon, and play the sonata and orchestra, which get "the indomitable harsh comment"<sup>[1]p26</sup>. His mother is strong while he is week and kind. He treats everyone well but seldom has complained his unfairness. The

combination of candid mother and timid son is the same as Empress Lv and Xiaohuidi or Hojo Masako and Minamoto no Sanetomo. Emperor Rosefinch always waits for his father's attention and tolerates his strong mother. And he is a mediocre, kind and compromised person. In female relationships, Aoinoue received the severe education that an Empress should be taught. But her father marries her to Genji. Emperor Rosefinch, the crown prince, was ignored by his father for the first time. After entering the palace in a moonlit night, Emperor Rosefinch was far gone in love with Aoinoue. However, Aoinoue has already known Genji in the early times. Although she was spoiled by her father, she cannot forget Genji. What makes people surprised is that Emperor Rosefinch said that it would be another thing if it starts now when facing the personal relationship of Genji and Oborozukiyo. It had begun. It cannot be said that it is inappropriately for Oborozukiyo and Genji were in relationship. It would be better to say that Emperor Rosefinch's reaction is ultimately timid than he is gentle and magnanimous. Two of them are uncovered in the Hanatirusatokan in a rainy night due to cheating, which is the blasphemer to the Emperor Rosefinch's power and characteristic. With the upside down of dynasties, former hall of Abstinence was renewed, thus Emperor Rosefinch and his mother went to Ise. Emperor Rosefinch was flipped to beautiful Saigu in the removal ceremony in Katsura, which made him shed his tears. After he abdicated his throne, his request of proposal to marry Saigu was rejected by his mother. After the death of Kokidenonyogo, Emperor Rosefinch put up with this willingly, but Genji hesitated and did not allow him to marry Saigu eventually. Being despised again, Emperor Rosefinch with good temper was still generous. Even if his love was unsatisfied, he was too kind to have resentment.

### 3. Embodiment of Emperor Rosefinch's Timid Characteristic.

*Murasaki Shikibu* formed Emperor Rosefinch, supplementary of Genji, from the perspective of political image, family image and female relationships in *The Tale of Genji*, in which displayed the image of his timidity, submission to insult and weakness. Furthermore, it completed the formation of timid Emperor Rosefinch finally from two dimensions of his love to Aoinoue, Zensaigu and Oborozukiyo, and helpless abdication of throne.

#### 3.1 Love

Emperor Rosefinch's love was mainly reflected through Aoinoue, Zensaigu and Oborozukiyo. Aoinoue, the daughter of Sa da jin and Empress Kiritsubo's sister, is daughter of an eminent family with untold pedigree in many privileges. Emperor Rosefinch, the crown prince, marries Aoinoue is well matched, no matter in identification or age. However, Aoinoue's family has already arranged her marriage earlier. "I will care and guard my daughter, and raise her up to an adult. When crown prince wants to marry her, I delay and decline the request and I want to marry her to Genji in my mind actually."<sup>[2]p37</sup> So, under the arrangement of father and the Mikado, Aoinoue married the young adult Genji. As the crown prince, Emperor Rosefinch was overlooked undoubtedly. However, neither doesn't he complain to this unfairness due to timid characteristics, nor using any inappropriate methods to stand in the way. Such concession and avoidance of him makes him lose his first love. "When in farewell, he feels pitiful and cannot help but crying."<sup>[2]p196</sup> After that, he fell in love with Zensaigu in the first eye. But their first meet became the last farewell ceremony. At that time, once the zhaigong was established, Zensaigu cannot return Kyoto unless Mikado abdicates his throne, and they do not know when they can meet again. Emperor Rosefinch hopes marrying Zensaigu after he abdicates his throne but it was refused by his mother and Genji affirmatively. "Emperor Rosefinch feels regretful when he heard the news that Zensaigu will enter in the palace to be Reizeiteinonyogo. Being afraid of the rumors, he never communicates with her. When she entered the palace, emissaries send many treasury presents to six palace mansions."<sup>[3]p220</sup> Emperor Rosefinch admires Zensaigu for so many years, but he gives up directly with little regret. Considering the happiness of Zensaigu, he even cuts all the connections with her. After all, Rokujomiyasudokoro is the mirror for him. Unfaithful Genji captures Miyasudokoro's heart with his cynical attitude. However, once his interest faded, she was abandoned as if she were just a pair of broken shoes. As a result, she could not resist rumors or vent jealousy and regret. Finally, her

self-consciousness was transformed into a living spirit due to long-term repression and attached to Aoinoue and Yugao, resulting in their death. Miyasudokoro, who found that the living creature killing from the body, could not be relieved for a long time. At last, it was gloomy and ended. This matter was widely spread. Emperor Rosefinch heard about it naturally, and could not stand letting her fall into the same tragic ending as her mother. Emperor Rosefinch treats love gently and maturely, but he is helpless and cowardly. It is also reasonable that he is not favored by beautiful love due to his lack of initiative and effort. As for the Oborozukiyo, she is the sixth daughter of the right minister and the younger sister of Kokidennonyogo. She is a various woman. Although she is expected to become a queen, she fails to meet her expectation because she is seduced and tied up by Genji before entering the palace. To this fact, Emperor Rosefinch said, “why not this matter! If it was started after the minister entered the palace, it would not be orthodox. But they have long had a relationship, so there is nothing wrong with them.”<sup>[2]p227</sup> Therefore, general Genji is not to blame. “His wife and others often meet in private. Ordinary people will be furious when they encounter this kind of thing, but Emperor Rosefinch doesn't hate it at all. At a time when the secret of the Oborozukiyo was exposed and became the laughingstock of the world and was in a state of depression for a long time, the right minister wrote to ask for forgiveness, and the Emperor Rosefinch promptly agreed to her request to enter the palace again. The reason for this is that on the one hand, Emperor Rosefinch thinks about the reputation of Oborozukiyo, and on the other hand, he associates his love for Oborozukiyo with his love for Genji. Emperor Rosefinch is such an emperor. Although he was hurt by others, he chose to forgive and always thought for others.

### **3.2 Forced to Abdicate**

Empress Kiritsubo planned to set Genji as the crown prince, but Emperor Rosefinch becomes the crown prince and inherits the throne adventurously due to the prediction of Choson and power of foreign relatives. “Emperor Rosefinch is so tamed without tough spirit and all affairs are decided by his mother and minister of the right, which cannot be violated. Therefore, he has no right to butt in the imperial politics naturally.”<sup>[2]p206</sup> When Genji's adultery was exposed, although Emperor Rosefinch forgives him, cowardly he cannot stop his mother's strong policy. After Genji was exiled, Emperor Rosefinch was blamed by his father's soul in his dream. He was worried that his life would be endangered by serious eye diseases. In addition, his mother was seriously ill and his grandfather died suddenly. He blamed himself for failing to comply with his father's last words. He was afraid that because of his own sins, more disasters would happen to his family and the people. Therefore, despite his mother's opposition, he recalled Genji and abdicated to Emperor Reizei. Because of the fear of the belief of the Royal spirit and the change of retribution, Emperor Rosefinch abdicated himself to give way to the virtuous, which was indeed cowardly. On the other hand, it was the only choice that the cowardly Emperor Rosefinch could make to protect his family.

### **4. Causes of Emperor Rosefinch's Timid Characteristics.**

The timid image and character of Emperor Rosefinch are closely related to his family education and living environment. First of all, in family education, the role of their parents is crucial. In terms of the role played by his father, Emperor Rosefinch is assisted by powerful relatives, which should be paid more attention than other princes, but Empress Kiritsubo only shows his affection to him ostensibly. Murasaki Shikibu describes Genji's appearance, fondness and grand in details in *Tung Jujube* roll, but he ignored the specific description for Emperor Rosefinch totally. When committing the last testament in *Sakakikan*, Emperor Kiritsubo only makes plan for Genji and Reizeitei. Comforting Genji due to his Crime in *Akashikan*, Emperor Rosefinch would get punished just because of the eye contact. Therefore, in the eyes of Empress Kiritsubo, Emperor Rosefinch is a son without stance and existence. “Lacking of the family education is the cause of the formation of kids' timid or arrogant characteristics.”<sup>[4]p238,</sup> Father's rationality, dignity, and the great images will make kids feel admirable and to become the model for them. Thus, a kid without father's love could be a little timid, sad and depressed due to the shortness of a model.<sup>[5]p71</sup> For Emperor Rosefinch, Empress Kiritsubo is an inviolable emperor of monarchy, not a kind father or imitator. If

he doesn't behave according to his requirements, he will be punished. This potential influence will continue after Empress Kiritsubo's death. Being ignored and treated differently by his father for a long time, Emperor Rosefinch began to doubt his own existence value. Even when he grew up, he never received his father's comfort and recognition. The negative subconscious affected his way of life, resulting in his character becoming weak and incompetent. In the aspect of the role played by the mother, Kokidennonyogo entered the palace as early as in the eastern palace of Empress Kiritsubo, and was domineering for a long time depending on the merit of the birth of the emperor's son and the powerful family. Although there is no direct sign in the original novel shows that she covered the evidence, Kokidennonyogo still said, "how much the Holy One dotes on her. It's not peaceful to die and it's really hateful!"<sup>[2]p15</sup> We can still see that she led the concubines to persecute the humble servant, which made the weak servant die because of the inner pain cannot be told. In Tonghu roll, every time when Empress Kiritsubo visited Koki hall, he would take Genji with him and let him enter behind the curtain. Genji's appearance is extremely handsome and lovely. Even the brave warrior or enemy can't help smiling when they see his handsome appearance. Even Kokidennonyogo can't bear to treat him coldly. This description is ostensibly praising Genji's attractive appearance, but in fact, it implies that the Kokidennonyogo is a woman who is as quiet and impersonal as the samurai and the enemy. In *The tale of Genji*, the Kokidennonyogo not only failed to show the gentleness of the female, but also failed to show the artistic accomplishment and aesthetic taste of the aristocracy. The coldness that matched the strong desire for power can be seen everywhere. After the event of Suma, the Kokidennonyogo suddenly fell seriously ill, and various disasters happened domestically. Emperor Rosefinch decided to recall Genji for fear of being guilty, but she strongly advised, "restore the official now, and the world will say this is rash. Anyone who has been sent to Kyoto to forgive sins within three years will be criticized by the world."<sup>[3]p103</sup> In the period of popular belief in the Royal spirit, the Kokidennonyogo, who was seriously ill and in danger, was not afraid to commit crimes, firmly unswerving, bold and respectful, but the tough Kokidennonyogo raised a cowardly son. The reason is that "if the mother is strong, the child's personality is vulnerable to cowardice."<sup>[6]p23</sup> Takeko Inoue, a professor at the University of culture and education of Japan, surveyed 415 students with an average age of 19.55, who were praised, reprimanded by their parents and teachers in childhood, and found that there was a strong correlation between the scores of self-esteem emotion scale and the frequency of mother's praise. "Authoritarian parents teach their children in a simple, rough and unscientific way. Children who grow up in this way of education have only obedience and obedience in their mind, poor independence and autonomy, low degree of self-reliance, and poor creativity. They usually want their parents to do what they want and don't know how to deal with it. They have no opinions and cowardice."<sup>[7]p55</sup> In *The tale of Genji*, Murasaki Shikibu compares Emperor Rosefinch with Genji for many times, and it can be inferred that the powerful female emperor of Honghui hall is not willing to let her son fall behind the son of the rival. For the sake of her own authority and the prosperity of her mother's family for generations, Kokidennonyogo used the autocratic education method to educate her son, and strictly required him to do his best. Even if Emperor Rosefinch achieved perfection, she would not praise him. When Emperor Rosefinch didn't do his best or didn't follow the instructions, Kokidennonyogo might do it personally. For example, in the event of private communication, she gave orders to exile Genji instead of Emperor Rosefinch. Among the 490 characters in *the Tale of Genji*, only the Kokidennonyogo existed completely as the opposite of Genji. In addition to her own desire for power, all the foresight of Kokidennonyogo is for her son, Emperor Rosefinch, but Emperor Rosefinch can't agree with his practice, and her heart is more cowardly because of estrangement. Secondly, the gap between Emperor Rosefinch and Genji can not be ignored. At the beginning of the *the Tale of Genji*, the two men, as the eldest son and the second son, were tit for tat. However, with the support of powerful foreign relatives, Emperor Rosefinch succeeded in assuming the throne. Genji was forced to be a minister because of his mother's low status. In fact, Emperor Rosefinch, who occupied the political advantage, was a cowardly loser of brother competition. In *the tale of Genji*, although Rosefinch is a handsome and royal prince, he is dwarfed by Genji's comparison with his appearance, which "makes people

forget the world's sorrow and prolong their life. <sup>[1]p205</sup> “Although Empress Kiritsubo has stand in prince's side, he always thinks about the little prince, and from time to time, he sends his trusted female officials and nursing mothers to visit the little prince at his foreign home.”<sup>[1]p15</sup> Empress Kiritsubo regarded Genji as the apple in his eyes, and held a Yuan style of clothing for him, which was beyond the instrument system. No matter where he go, he would accompany Genji, and even planned to change him into a prince. Emperor Rosefinch was ignored by his father. Since the birth of Genji, he had already hit a certain number. Moreover, the women he adored were not obtained because of the intervention of Genji. Genji and Ziji were married, but the relationship between Emperor Rosefinch and his concubines was only a political marriage. Emperor Rosefinch cowardly surrendered to Genji, the one who can be called the king of love. “Instead of hating Genji, Emperor Rosefinch has a good feeling for Genji, and even says that if she is a woman, she also hopes to love Genji.”<sup>[8]p202</sup> The reason why Emperor Rosefinch had such an idea was actually because of the individual's “over compensation psychology” and “the individual's physiological. To overcome the depression caused by the shortness of psychological or social life, some extremely measures would be taken to escape from mechanism of psychological defence.”<sup>[9]p49</sup>

Emperor Rosefinch subconsciously thinks that shining Genji should be a pair with Oborozukiyo due to the over compensation. Instead, he thinks that it is him who step through this romance wrongly. Thus, no matter ho much Oborozukiyo misses Genji, Emperor Rosefinch does not blame her. Surely, it can be seen that there are still other elements that cause the timid characteristic of Emperor Rosefinch. “Some female servant think that they are pretentious and must be the one who are spoiled. Now they see that the servant who helps changing clothes has the good luck, they slender and envy her.” <sup>[1]p6</sup>nyogo here refers to the beautiful Kokidennonyogo, whose father holds the great power on the royal court, and her status is higher than other concubines. However, Empress Kiritsubo only shows his affection to the servant who helps changing clothes, but she never make a proposal. The reason why this could happen because Empress Kiritsubo rears the power from outside world, so she jus treats the servant coldly.”For her whole life, she never gets the love from Empress Kiritsubo but the circle round with politics. As about her son, Emperor Rosefinch, when facing the powerful and serious mother, what he has was only the wall and alienation. In her best ages, she lives in the royal court with sheer cunning and falsehood environment surrounded. She passed away gradually till the last of her life. <sup>[10]p14</sup>When her favorite son was captured by the servant who were late in the palace and from a humble background, the high self-esteem Kokidennonyogo sees it as the supreme disgrace, but she could only bully the servant secretly and suppress Genji politically. There was no other way. Even if she is dissatisfied with the loss of her love, Kokidennonyogo can only be strong and wait for Empress Kiritsubo’s change of mind. Although she has enjoyed her whole life, she has never enjoyed the sweetness of love. As he has been following his mother, who love coward and loser since childhood, Emperor Rosefinch can only wait and endure timid for a long time when facing his love.

## 5. Conclusion

Emperor Rosefinch's cowardice is not simply incompetent, but weak and gentle. Family education is the main reason of his character. From childhood, he was short of father's love, hindered by Genji's failure, and oppressed by his mother's powerful political power. Even as the emperor, no one really thought about his happiness, which led to his lack of harmonious family, his hands without real power, and his inability to love. He struggled through his tragic life in a gorgeous and cold shackle in adversity. Emperor Rosefinch's imperial identity stems from his original family status, and it is the family education he received in the emperor's family that determines the formation of his timid character and creates his tragic life.

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