

## Affinity: Chaos #Chapter 1 - Test - Read Affinity: Chaos Chapter 1 - Test

### *Chapter 1:Test*

"I'm coming mom" A boy's voice filled with excitement could be heard from upstairs.

Before long, Martha heard the sound of running on the stairs, "Take it easy dear, you might hurt yourself" Martha said in a soft tone when she heard the rushed footsteps

A young boy about the age of 12 could be seen running down the steps with a flushed look, "I'm ready mom, let's get going before it starts. I want to get a good position on the list" Grey said with enthusiasm.

Martha looked at him with a smile and helped arrange his hair before they left for the Arena where the test will be held. Martha was a lady in her early thirties, she had fair skin and beautiful brown eyes. An oval-shaped face and shoulder-length blonde hair (In short, she was a breathtakingly beautiful woman :)...).

Today was the day when the Academy union did a test for the youngsters in this city to know their aptitude and which elements they were inclined to.

This is a world of Elementalists. Everyone has an element they are in tune with and the Academies help the people check what elements they are inclined with.

Elementalists cultivate by absorbing their said elemental particles from the world to increase their realms. With each increase in realm, there is also an increase in lifespan. Everyone wants a long life, so they always work hard on cultivating.

One can only check which elements they are compatible with after reaching the age of 12, but anything older isn't advised as the body is at its best state to start cultivating at that given age.

You can get a cultivation technique after you get admitted into any of the Academies or if you are from a big clan, getting one wouldn't be hard.

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The entire town was abuzz with activity and people could be seen coming out from almost every home, heading in the direction of Arena at the eastern part of the city.

The test is held every year, as a lot of kids reach the age of 12 every year. There are different places where the test could be taken. And big cities have multiple centers for taking the test since they have more people. This city though, well, it's not that big and only has about 20 participants taking the test each year.

On getting to the arena, the stands were already filled to the brim with people, and they were all chatting about the possible result of today's test. A kid could be seen on the Arena's stage, this indicated that the test had started.

"Mom look, they've already started. Now I'm going to be among the last people tested" Grey complained when he saw the test had already commenced.

Martha looked at her son speechless, 'You were the one who took heavens know how long dressing up, yet I'm the one to blame because we came late'. She was too lazy to reply to her son's statement. She looked around for the registration stand.

"Come on, let's go and get you registered little man," Martha said as she walked towards the place for registration. A table and a chair were set up there and also a man could be seen sitting on the chair taking down names.

"Hello sir, I'm here to register my son for the test," Martha said towards the man sitting on the chair. magic

"Okay, what's his name, and exact age," the man said politely.

"His name's Grey, and he is 12 years 2 months old" Martha replied

"Okay, he will be the 16th person called up," The man said after taking down the details of Grey

"Okay sir" Martha turned and was about to leave with Grey

"Currently, 3 people have already gone up to take the test, just be prepared. If his name is called, and he doesn't come up the stage within 1 minute he would be skipped and will have to wait till next year to have his test done"

"Okay, thank you sir" Martha thanked him sincerely before taking Grey with her as they looked for a place to sit.

"Now sit down and behave. Wait for your turn patiently and don't get nervous okay" Martha advised her son calmly, she knew how mischievous he can get. Although he causes a lot of trouble, she knew he was a sensible kid.

While the mother and son duo were still talking, a loud voice could be heard from the platform.

"Jonas, elemental affinity fire. Grade, purple" The Elder who took the test declared the result of the test loudly.

The entire arena immediately went into an uproar when this result was announced.

"Did he just say purple grade?"

"Oh my God, a purple grade appeared"

"The last time a purple grade appeared, all the big academies fought for who would admit her into their school"

Talents are graded with colors and there are 4 colors known to the people of the Qilin empire, which are, Pink, Orange, Purple, and Blue. With Blue being the highest and Pink the lowest. Pink and Orange talent takes up the majority of the population, while the talented have Purple and Blue.

There are rare cases of people who have multiple elements. It was said the Emperor of the empire is a Dual Elementalist and also had a Blue and Purple grade respectively on each element. The Emperor is the strongest Elementalist known to the public.

The representatives of each Academy immediately got into a heated argument on who would take Jonas as a student. Usually, after the result of a test is announced, the representatives discuss among themselves before one of the Academies gets the kid.

But in this case, none of the Academies wanted to miss out on such a talented individual. Although the Academies had a good relationship outside, they were still competing against each other.

"Cough, cough, Why don't you allow him to choose which Academy he would like to enter as a student" The Elder announcing the results couldn't allow the Academies to lose face in front of the crowd, so he quickly tried to stop their dispute.

The representatives quickly calmed themselves and looked at Jonas with eager looks.

Jonas felt glad for attracting such attention from the representatives. "Seniors, can I go talk with my parents before deciding on which Academy I will join?" Jonas asked respectfully.

"Yes of course, besides, the test is still ongoing," The representatives said with a smile. Usually, they wouldn't have been so courteous towards anybody from such a small city, but, the case was different for Jonas. Jonas was someone who will grow to become a powerhouse later in the future with his talent, so, having a good relationship with him isn't bad even if he will only be able to join one of the Academies.

Everyone looked at Jonas with envy, he was currently the center of attention in the entire arena. His current status has already risen to a new high as even in the Academy, he will be someone the Academy will nurture greatly.

"Wow, a Purple grade" Grey said with a tinge of envy while looking at Jonas who was walking towards his parents with a smile on his face.

Martha looked at Jonas also, surprised that someone with a purple grade appeared in this little city of theirs.

"Okay now, let's continue with the test" the Elder shouted as he tried to restore order to the arena

The people in the arena quickly toned down the noise. The Elder continued calling the names of the children on the list given to him. After getting to the 10th name, the Elder called for a break. He used the opportunity to take the new list which had been made since some people came late, they decided to hold the test in this manner.

After the 10 minutes break, the test continued. Quickly, it got to the 15th name on the list. Grey tensed up as it was soon going to be his turn. His palm became sweaty and his nervousness could visibly be seen.

"Calm down sweetie, no matter the outcome of the result, promise me you'll remain the same," Martha immediately held onto Grey's sweaty hands.

"Un." Grey nodded.

"Next up, Grey" The Elder shouted the next name on the list, everyone in the arena looked on with interest awaiting the boy whose name was called up.

*Chapter 2: Affinity - Zero*

Grey nervously stood up from where he was seated and slowly walked towards the platform. When he got there, he couldn't help but look at everyone staring at him intently.

"Huuu" Grey breathed heavily trying to calm himself down.

"Step forward and place your hand on the stone" the Elder in charge looked at Grey with a smile.

Grey carefully observed the stone. It was quite an amazing thing as it was what was used to check the elements people are compatible with and also it checks their talents. Grey calmed his mind and stepped forward, he looked at the stone before gently walking closer to it and placing his hand on it. The stone felt cold when he placed his hand on it.

The moment he placed his hand on the stone, he felt something moving out of the stone and passing through his hand into his body. Grey was slightly surprised by the feeling and instinctively wanted to take his hand off the stone.

"Don't move, it will be over soon" It was like the Elder could read his thoughts and quickly whispered to him before he could take his hand off the stone.

Grey stilled himself and let the strange energy run freely in his body. The energy moved from his hand, before making a circle around every single part of his body. After circling 3 times, he felt the energy leaving his body the same way it came.

When the energy left his body, he finally loosened up. The Elder looked at Grey for some time before walking closer towards the stone. He stared at it profoundly before taking a look at Grey again.

"Place your hand on it one more time," He said to Grey

Grey was surprised by what the Elder was doing. All the kids who had taken the test before him only did it once and the Elder would announce the result, how come his case was different.

He couldn't refuse the order, so he placed his hand on it again. The audience was quite surprised on seeing Grey placing his hands on the stone again.

"What is going on, why is that kid doing it again"

"Is there a problem with the stone"

Martha just watched on without any emotions, like she knew this would happen already. Although deep down she felt sad, there was nothing she can do about it. He told her to make sure she took Grey to the test, and she couldn't refuse him, so she did.

The process repeated itself, the Elder got close to the stone again to look at it and was stunned again. He looked at the stone, then at Grey again before sighing.

Sympathy could currently be seen in his eyes when he looked at Grey. Grey was taken aback by the way the Elder was looking at him, he suddenly had a bad premonition.

"Senior, what is the result?" Grey asked with a slightly shaky voice.

"Grey, affinity, zero" The Elder announced the result loudly

\*BOOM\*

It was like a bolt of lightning struck Grey, he stood there dumbfounded and just stared at the Elder.

"What, zero affinity"

"How can he not have an affinity"

"This is my first time seeing someone without an affinity, I've only heard of them, but never seen one before."

"So, there truly are people with no affinities"

"What a pitiful kid, how can he live without having any affinities"

"Scoff, he made us wait for nothing. I even thought he was something special as the Senior told him to take the test again, who knew he didn't even have an affinity".

Shocked voices could be heard from the audience and there was also some with scorn. Some people are just prone to kicking a man when he is down.

"Sigh, hopefully he doesn't break down," Martha said with a sad voice

Grey stood still amidst all the noise without any reactions. One word was reverberating in his head currently, 'How?'.

The representatives looked at the boy on the platform and felt sad for him. But since he was someone without any elemental affinity, he was not of much use to them. They looked at the Elder in charge of the test and signaled him to continue with the test. They were eager for the test to end as they were waiting for the decision Jonas will make.

"Get on with the test Elder, we don't have all day" the representative of the Starlight Academy urged the Elder to go ahead with the test.

Since Grey didn't have any affinity, he was no different from a cripple.

"Young boy, don't feel down. You might be a late bloomer, as some people don't awaken their elements on time" the representative of the Lunar Academy tried to console Grey. Although it was rarely seen, there have been times it had happened. But usually, it rarely happens.

Grey looked at the representatives, he couldn't reply to any of them as he couldn't even process what was going on. He walked down from the platform like a lifeless zombie. He just walked straight and even forgot to head back to his seat.

"This kid" Martha worriedly went after him. She knew Grey was very cheerful and this will definitely affect him, but she knew he will be able to walk out of the darkness with time.

"Next..." The Elder continued with the test and everyone's enthusiasm was instantly reignited. Since the tragedy didn't happen to any of them, they couldn't really wallow in sorrow.

Jonas looked at Grey's fading shadow without any emotion. He didn't feel anything towards him as even if he had any talent it didn't matter much to him who had purple talent. As a child, he has always set his sights very high, and now things have already started to click as he envisioned.

The test went on normally and soon ended. After the test was completed, Jonas went over to the representatives to tell them his decision. He joined the Starlight Academy as it was publicly regarded as the leaders of the Academy union. In public opinion, the Starlight Academy was known as the strongest, and Jonas wanted the best for himself.

A lot of events took place in the test today, first, a purple talent appeared, and then, a person with no elemental affinity also appeared. The news of what happened in the test quickly spread around the city. When the people staying in the city heard of Jonas, they were awed by the fact that he had a purple talent.

But Jonas wasn't the only one who became famous after the test, Grey's name also became widespread since he was someone without any elemental affinity.

It was later announced that Jonas joined the Starlight Academy and immediately left with the representative of the Academy.

\*Knock, Knock\*

"Grey, can I come in?" Martha knocked on the door that led to Grey's room. She waited for some time and didn't get any response. She opened the door and walked in, she saw Grey lying on his bed, staring at the ceiling.

"Grey" Martha called out softly

"Why, why did this happen to me," Grey asked with a croaked voice.

Martha felt pained on seeing her son like this. This wasn't anything she would wish anyone to go through, in a world where Elementalists reign supreme, having no affinity is the same as being a cripple.

"I don't know dear, but you have to be strong. You remember what your dad said to you before leaving right?" Martha said while caressing Grey's cheek.



"Yes, he said I should never give up on myself. Even when the world does, he said I should always stand tall and stay strong" Grey replied but without much firmness in his voice.

"I know my son is the greatest, " Martha looked at Grey lovingly

Grey knew his mother was trying to cheer him up but still, whenever he thought of how he was going to live without any elements, he felt sadder.

"Grey, remember this. What makes you different, makes you special. You are unique from the rest of the world, I'm not saying this just to cheer you up, I'm saying this because I know the child I gave birth to was not meant to live an ordinary life. You will reign above all, only you shall be at the top, and no one shall be your equal" Martha looked at her son in his eyes and said with all seriousness.

'What makes you different, makes you special' That statement kept repeating itself in Grey's head, and he started seeing the light in the darkness which he had fallen into. Although a little, it was something that will help him leave his current state.

Martha was happy when she noticed he had some reactions to her words.

She went over to her room and dropped on the bed crying, she was only being strong in front of her son as she wanted him to pull himself together soon.

"I know you said it was for his future, but why must you make him through this," She said angrily while looking out the window. No mother wanted to see her child downcast, she felt bad on seeing his reaction when the result was announced. magic

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Somewhere far away

On an open field, a man could be seen standing gallantly in the air, ahead of him, there were over eight thousand soldiers, yet, they were filled with fear when looking at the man who was standing before them.

The man had striking white hair, yet he only looked to be in his early thirties, with a handsome face which had a somewhat sad smile on it.

He looked at the army cold, before stretching out his hand.

"Retreat!" One of the leading figures in the army yelled in fright.

Even though he was scared of the man before him, he had to make sure his soldiers escaped first before he left as well.

The white-haired man standing in the air smiled wryly before flying away to stand at the top of the city walls not too far from the field, looking at the army retreating back to their camps some kilometers away.

"Why didn't you kill them?" A slightly older man came over to question the white-haired man.

The white-haired man looked at him without replying. After confirming that the army had returned to their base, he turned around and left the city walls.

He walked to a building not too far away from the city walls, and was greeted along the way by everyone he passed on the way. He soon got to a small bland looking building which looked worn out, before disappearing inside.

Inside the building, there were no chairs, only a bed and a small shelf that was beside it, on top of the shelf, a painting could be seen.

In the painting, the white-haired man could be seen smiling, accompanied by a beautiful lady who held a little cute boy in her arms. The boy had a somewhat naughty expression on his face.

The white-haired man picked up the painting and traced his hand over it.

"\*Sigh\* He must have reached 12 by now. Time sure does fly fast, I wonder how he would react after finding out. I hope Martha can talk him out of his bad mood." The man said with a sad smile.

"I really miss them." He said with a voice filled with longing.

### *Chapter 3:Awakening*

On a rocky patch in the forest Northwest of Red City, a young boy could be seen, with his hands on his knees while in a standing position panting heavily. Sweat dripped from his chin as he bent exhausted.

When he raised his face, a stunningly handsome face could be seen. He had short black hair and an inverted triangular-shaped face, he had bow-shaped lips with beautiful black eyes. His skin was toned, from being in the sun for too long each day. He measured 5 '7' in height and has a slender body, adding his chiseled-like muscles, further made physique just amazing. Any girl will fall heads over heels for him.

Grey stood up and looked at his hands which looked rough for someone his age. It has been 3 years since the day of the test. After wallowing in sadness for some time, he was able to pick himself up. One day during dinner, Martha suggested he should start training his body since there was no way he could hone it using the element which would in turn keep him healthy. At first, he rejected the idea, but after multiple convincing from Martha, he finally decided to try it out.

Grey took up the idea and started training ever since, it has been 3 years already. He had forgotten just how many times he had trained himself so hard he couldn't stand up. He has always been a determined person, so he decided, if he couldn't cultivate, he will pour all his energy into honing his body. Besides, spending his time here helps him escape from the reality of what happened to him.

"Well, that should be it for today. I better get back before it gets dark" Grey immediately rushed home before his body would give up on him after the rigorous training. He always tries to surpass himself every day he heads out to train.

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## Red City

"Mom I'm home" Grey shouted as he opened the door and walked into the house. Grey immediately smelled a great aroma coming from the kitchen as he walked in.

"Okay dear, go freshen up. Dinner will be done shortly" Martha's voice came from the kitchen.

"Okay mom" Grey replied as he went to take a warm bath. He always baths warm water after training as it helps wear down the fatigue. But nothing beats a good night's sleep.

Ten minutes later, Grey came downstairs and saw a wonderful sight on the table. Martha prepared his favorite food.

"How was your training today?" Martha asked while inviting Grey over to have his meal.

"It was okay, I was able to go 30 minutes more than my usual time" Grey stated proudly

"Did anything strange happen today?" Martha asked Grey curiously.

"No mom, you always ask me this question every time I tell you I surpassed my previous records in training" Grey couldn't help but ask. Martha has asked him this question frequently lately, and it was sort of making him worried. 'Will something happen to me if I hone my body too hard?' Grey was starting to get scared.

Elementalists don't hone their body, the elements do it for them. But the result is different from honing the body. His body is stronger than most Elementalists of his age, because of how much he had honed it.

"Nothing dear" Martha replied. 'Why isn't it happening yet, could it be that he hasn't met the requirements. He said it should awaken after he clocks 15 years old, it has already been 5 months now' Martha couldn't help but begin to worry about her son's future. She hid it to herself though and didn't show any visible reactions.

Grey looked at her suspiciously, before focusing back on his meal. After dinner, he spoke with Martha for some time before he went to his room to rest.

Grey grew as time went on and was able to put everything behind him. His situation made him find comfort in reading when he's alone.

Grey continued his daily routine and quickly another month went by without any major thing happening.

On a particular day, Grey was in the forest doing his usual training routine. He suddenly started feeling hot and sweating more than usual. He felt maybe it was because of his training and decided to take a short rest to calm his temperature.

He got hotter as time went on and also sweated more. magic

"What's happening to me" Grey started panicking because of what was taking place. He immediately packed his things and ran home as fast as he could. Grey is faster than most people because of his training, only some Wind and Lightning Elementalists will have an edge over him in terms of speed. And his stamina was also high, so he had no problem sprinting a long distance.

When he got home, he immediately pulled all his clothes and jumped into cold water.

The hotness in his body continued getting hotter, and it got to the point he couldn't bear it anymore, he screamed in pain for some time before passing out.

Huge changes were currently going on in his body, and his body began automatically absorbing the elemental particles in the surrounding. His body was like a black hole as it absorbed the elements greedily.

His toned skin started reverting to his usual fairness and his rough palm also turned as smooth as a baby's palm.

By the time he woke up, it was already late in the evening, and he noticed he was fully dressed in his bed. 'Who dressed me up' That was the first question that entered his mind on seeing his condition.

He looked around confused by everything that happened, he managed to sit up. He walked downstairs after some time and saw Martha sitting quietly on a chair, she raised her head and looked at Grey with a big smile when she noticed him coming down.

"Mom were you the one who dressed me up," Grey asked the most important question on his mind after seeing her. Grey felt embarrassed because he remembered being fully naked when he passed out.

Martha was taken aback by the question, she couldn't believe the first thing Grey said after waking up was who dressed him up.

"I have no idea" Martha replied as she looked at Grey with eyes saying 'Do you live in this house with someone else, try asking that question again, and I'll beat you up'.

'He is actually embarrassed because I dressed him up, I'm his mother. This kid' Martha thought wryly.

When Grey heard her reply, he wanted to talk more but when he saw the look in Martha's eyes, he quickly swallowed his words. He knew just how scary she could be if she got angry.

"Grey, why were you unconscious when I came back?" Martha asked worriedly.

"I don't know mom, I suddenly started feeling hot during training. I rushed home and took a cold bath, but the hot feeling didn't stop, instead, it increased. I passed out shortly after" Grey recounted everything that happened before he passed out, omitting the part where he screamed like a baby. He still wanted to keep his pride in front of his mother.

Martha immediately fell into deep thoughts when she heard this, she glanced at Grey before getting up and walking towards the kitchen to get dinner for him. As she walked past him, she froze in the spot and looked at him again from head to toe.

Grey was surprised by his mother's abrupt behavior and started feeling scared thinking his mother was angry.

"Grey, did you notice the changes in your skin?" Martha asked.

She clearly remembered how he looked in the morning.

Grey didn't really take notice of the change in his skin and looked at it. He was dumbstruck by what he saw, 'How is this possible' He looked at his skin and his eyes drifted to his palm.

#### *Chapter 4: Cultivation*

Martha kept staring at Grey, happiness clearly seen on her face. "Mom, what's going on" Grey inquired.

"He was right, he's lucky he didn't lie to me" Martha was ecstatic

"Who was right mom, what's going on?"

Grey was nervous because of his mother's current strange behavior.

"Your Father" Martha said happily.

"Dad?" Grey raised his brow clearly still confused about everything that was going on.

"Yes Grey, your father. He told me when you turned 12 years old, if you go for the test, there was a possibility you wouldn't awaken your element" Martha slowly explained to her son.

"Wait, he knew I wouldn't have any affinity with any of the elements?" The confused Grey asked.

"Well, it can't really be said knew. But, yes, he did. According to the scroll, it would have to stay inside of you for fifteen years"

Martha continued

"Inside me, I don't get it, did he put something inside me?" Grey still wasn't comprehending what was going on.

"Yes baby, as a newborn, you had a lot of health issues and no matter what I tried, you didn't get any better. Your father came back from one of his adventures and seeing how unhealthy you were, he also tried his everything he could and even took you to the best healers he knew, but unfortunately, nothing worked" Martha slowly started explaining.

"So, how was I cured?"

Grey asked curiously.

He never knew he had health problems as a newborn.

"A pearl"

Martha said.

"A pearl? How does a pearl cure someone?"

Grey asked still confused.

"I'm getting to it"

Martha smiled and recounted what happened to her son.

During one of his father's adventures, he accidentally stumbled upon a ruined ancient temple. He saw a pearl with myriad colors rotating slowly in the middle of a hidden room of the temple. Beneath the rotating pearl was a scripture, after reading it, he was astounded by the information it contained. He quickly kept the pearl and the cultivation technique. Yes, cultivation technique, what he thought to be a scripture was a cultivation technique.

He remembered the feeling he got from the pearl and was certain it wasn't fake. The description of the cultivation technique was unique, it stated that once one assimilates with the pearl after fifteen years, they would be able to wield all elements.

Seeing this, he wanted to cultivate it, but alas, there was a catch to it. First, the pearl can only assimilate with a body that hasn't awakened any element yet. And it would need fifteen years before completing assimilating with the body.

He sadly kept the pearl and cultivation technique when he realized there was no way he could use it. He got home a week after Grey's birth and realized the situation his son was. After trying everything he could but there was still no way to save him, he placed all his hope on the pearl.

If the pearl has such a monstrous ability to give someone the ability to train all elements, then saving someone wouldn't be impossible.

Martha refused the idea when he brought it up, which mother would allow an unknown pearl to be placed in her baby?

But after her husband persuaded her and seeing there was nothing they could do to save Grey, she gritted her teeth and accepted it. Two days later, her baby was as healthy as he rightly should be.

Although she still took Grey to take part in the test, she didn't know if he would awaken his element then. She also hoped there was a possibility he would awaken an element, but unfortunately, he didn't.

The notion of telling Grey about came to her when she saw how depressed he was after the test, but then again, what if after he reached fifteen years of age he didn't awaken any elements? What would she tell him then? He would be even more traumatized than when he didn't awaken it at the age of twelve.

Even she was starting to lose hope when there wasn't any difference in him after he passed fifteen, the scroll stated Grey should use physical exercises to



hone his body which he had been doing for almost three years now. So, it was understandable she started feeling fearful about it.

Grey sat down stunned by what he was hearing.

"But, why didn't you tell me earlier?"

He asked.

"When you passed fifteen did you awaken your element then?"

Martha asked.

Grey shook his head.

"I know it seems like a flimsy excuse, but if I told you something was placed inside of you and you wouldn't awaken your element by twelve rather by the time you turned fifteen, you wouldn't believe me since it was known everywhere that one can only awaken their elements by twelve although there are a few late bloomers, it can't be predicted from birth. Maybe after the test, you'll start feeling what I said was true, but what about after you turned fifteen? Then what? Even I was starting to lose hope"

Martha said calmly.

Hearing Martha's explanation, Grey knew she was right. There was no way he would have believed it if she told him he wouldn't awaken his element by twelve.

When he thought of all the possible heartaches his parents must have gone through due to his sickly nature as a newborn, he felt grateful to them. At least they didn't give up hope, even when it meant placing their last hope on a pearl with unknown origins, at least they just wanted to save their child.

Although the thought of it being fake and probably killing him passed through his mind, he remembered what his mother said at that time, he was dying anyway.

After some time, he immediately thought back to what he heard.

"Yes, not just any ordinary Elemental, but one who controls all elements," Martha said while holding Grey's hand in joy.

'Control over all elements' It kept ringing in his ear.

"How can someone have control over all the elements," Grey asked with shock.

"I don't know baby, but what I do know is that your dad will never lie to me, and will not do anything to harm you too," Martha said.

"Wait here," Martha ran into her room and brought an ancient scroll out. She looked at Grey before handing it over to him.

"Study it closely," She said after Grey collected the scroll.

Grey took the scroll from her still not knowing what to do. He studied the scroll closely before opening it. Then he looked at it with great curiosity.

The scroll showed him the exact way of cultivating the technique. Without the pearl, anyone can have the technique but will never be able to cultivate the technique.

Grey finally calmed his thoughts. 'No wonder mom was so confident. It truly is worth it' Grey thought happily. magic

Grey felt like he had regained something. It was a desire, the desire to grow strong. Ever since he was little, he had always wanted to be the strongest, but that desire died at the time of the test. But now, the fire is suddenly reignited, and the fire was burning stronger than ever.

"I can finally cultivate, I will definitely work hard" Grey clenched his fists tightly

Grey rushed to his room as he couldn't wait anymore to start cultivating. He had waited for so long and now, finally, he can start cultivating.

Martha looked at Grey hurrying inside and did nothing to stop him. She knew just how badly he wanted to be an Elementalist. She felt happy for him, now he can start his rise to the top. She knew it won't be easy as he will face a lot of obstacles, but she believed he will definitely be able to overcome them. He already overcame one of such obstacles in his journey, and it was also one of the hardest.

Grey went inside and immediately tried entering a meditative state, so he can clearly follow the pattern of the technique.

He sat in a lotus position and stayed motionless to try to calm his mind. After 10 minutes, he finally got into a meditative state. He followed the instructions said in the scroll. He tried searching for the energy in his body, it took him close to an hour before finding it, of course after failing several times.

"Found it, now for the second step" Grey was thrilled on managing to find the energy.

Now the next step was to move the energy in a particular pattern in his body, he has to repeat the cycle 10 times to get his body accustomed to it.

Grey tried the first time and failed to even move the energy from its current location. He didn't give up though, he didn't give up when he found out he didn't have any elemental affinity, talk less of now that he can cultivate with having an affinity with all elements.

He tried again, which also failed. He kept on attempting it for the rest of the night with no progress. By the time he got totally exhausted, it was almost dawn. He collapsed on the floor and fell asleep there and then. His body was totally worn out from all the attempts.

By the time he woke up, it was already midday. He felt pain all over his body and was still exhausted. If a normal Elementalist tried what he did, they wouldn't be able to get out of bed for a week. The cultivation technique took a great toll on the human body.

"No wonder it required such strict physical training before one can start cultivating it, if it were my previous physique before I started training, I would not have been able to get out of bed for a month" Grey exclaimed when he felt the aches all over his body.

The process continued for another 2 days before Grey started making small progress. He was finally able to move it, albeit a little, it was still something. He was so happy but also felt sore all over his body for his little progress. Due to his strong training, he was able to withstand pain more than others because he wrecks his body almost every day in the training session.

After another week, he was already able to complete one cycle, he felt excited when he imagined himself using the different elements and couldn't help but laugh in his bed. He couldn't laugh properly because of all the pain his body was going through.

During the process of the second cycle, Grey felt the pain increased a bit. He was already starting to get used to the pain then it increased.

"Hiss" Grey hissed in pain while midway of the circulation.

"I can't continue like this, this pain will probably kill before I complete the circulation. I need to come up with a way to reduce it" The pain was already getting almost unbearable for him. He had to quickly think of a way, else he would go on pause then continue some other time. But, he didn't want that.

"I will head out to train tomorrow, it's been a while I trained," Grey said. He had already gotten used to training his body, and these days he had focused fully on cultivation, he had somewhat missed it.

Grey stopped the circulation and went to sleep. He will wake up early tomorrow to go for a long training session.

*Chapter 5: Shock*

The next morning, Grey got up filled with energy as he ran out of his room. He saw Martha in the living room and told her he was going out to train.

Martha noticed how cheerful Grey became since he started cultivating, although he hadn't made a breakthrough yet, it was good he can cultivate now. Martha was surprised Grey was going to train, she remembered that since Grey started cultivating the technique, he had immersed himself fully on it.

"Eat something before you go, also, remember to take some food with you" Martha immediately shouted when she saw Grey was about to leave without eating.

Grey hurried back and ate some food. He took a little along and went on his way. "I will return late today" Grey yelled from outside.

Martha smiled wryly.

Grey came out of their house, and headed straight for the entrance of their little city. On his way to the city entrance, he noticed that even though it had been some time since the test, people still recognized him, not only that, but they mostly look at him like an anomaly, and some could even be seen whispering to little kids while pointing at him.

"Trash!"

Grey saw a young boy his age shouting at him. If it were before, he would have felt bad when he was called a trash. But now, he doesn't give a shit about what they're saying about him.

He ignored them and continued his journey towards to forest.

The youth who was with two others looked at Grey with a small smile, "Oh, looks like he's starting to grow wings, good thing I noticed it early. Guess it's time to teach him another lesson."

The two others chuckled slightly, but didn't plan on joining him when he's teaching Grey a lesson, they only planned to watch, after all, they've heard about Grey's mother's violent nature.

Most of the people in the city knew that Grey usually goes to the woods to train, the city wasn't big anyway, so the occupants are familiar with each other. Some of the people usually mocks him, saying he had gone mad because he was trash. But he stopped paying attention to them when Martha told him those were just people who had sad lives, so they were looking for an outlet to pour out their frustration.

This youth was called Derek, and surprisingly, he was recently kicked out of the Academy. He was a Wind Elementalist, only his elemental grade was the lowest there is, pink. Not just that, but he was bad at cultivating, so when he didn't meet up with the target set by the Academy which admitted him, he was sent back home.

After joining any of the Academies, there are tests carried occasionally to see the growth of the students, if they notice a student isn't making any improvements, the student will be dropped. The pressure and competition at the Academies are really high. Derek and his friends were part of the students dropped. Although he was dropped, he was already in the Seventh stage of the Collection Plane. His age should usually have broken through to the Fusion Plane by now.

The Collection Plane is the first Plane in an Elementalist's journey, this is the Plane where the Elementalists collect the elemental essences from the world into their bodies for the first time, thereby strengthening it.

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Grey got to where he trained and immediately began with his usual training session. Before he knew it, it had already started to get dark, and he still didn't get as tired as he used to.

"Wow, seems like my physique improved . I can train for longer periods without quickly tiring out now." Grey said with astonishment.

"Could it be because of the technique I'm currently cultivating" He pondered for some time. Since he couldn't figure out what caused it, he decided to forget about it for now.

He prepared his things and headed home.

On the path leading to Red City from the forest, a group of youths could be seen standing by the side of the road. Their leader was a boy around fifteen years old, there were four boys in total gathered by the side talking.

When Grey walked closer to where they were gathered, he paused and looked at them. This was not his first time encountering something like this, since the leader of this group in particular came to the city some months ago, he had been targeting him. But due to the fact he didn't want to make any trouble for himself, he always tried his best to avoid him.

Although, there had been one time, or two times, or three times, okay, it's been a lot of times that he had been unfortunate to not have been able to avoid him, and they spoke amicably, with him having a black eye at the end of the conversation.

"Here comes the trash, boys." Derek looked at Grey with disdain.

The boys started laughing when they heard this, they've always accompanied Derek whenever he bullied Grey, or any other youth.

Grey looked at them with emotionless eyes, before asking, "Derek, what do you want now?"

He asked while thinking of a plan to get out of his current predicament. He knew what Derek wanted to do to him, and he didn't plan on having a black eye this time, he was a little tired of telling Martha lies although he knew she was aware he was lying.

"I never knew you were this stupid, you obviously offended me this morning. I called you and you snubbed me" Derek replied with a mischievous smile.

Derek's group snickered when they heard this.

Grey's expression changed to one of surprise, "What? When? Derek, isn't this a little too much? I don't recall you called my name, I remember hearing your voice, but you were clearly talking to someone else."

"Did you call my name?" Grey asked to clarify things.

"Yes, I did." Derek affirmed

"Trash," Grey said.

"Yes," Derek responded to what Grey said. After responding, he paused for a moment and realized Grey was calling him trash, and he even answered.

"You see, you said your name is trash. I clearly heard when someone asked you your name, and you replied 'trash'. So I thought you were speaking to someone else" Grey said playfully.

"You!" Derek almost exploded in anger, he didn't think Grey would dare to trick him.

"Apolo... You know what, forget about apologizing, cause even if you did, I wouldn't forgive you." Derek said.

He knew he couldn't beat Grey in a war of words, so he decided to beat him up.

'Crap! I messed up, I shouldn't have toyed with him.' Grey immediately regretted his decision.

Before he could even say another word, he saw a change in Derek's appearance.

'Shit!' He cursed inside and prepared himself.

Derek mobilized the wind elements in his body and charged towards Grey, stretching out his hands to grab hold of Grey's shoulder.

When an Elementalist is still in the Collection Plane, they aren't able to wield the elements outside their bodies, because they've only not collected enough elements, but they've also not fused with their said elements yet. It's only when an Elementalist goes above the Fusion Plane, can they wield it. But while in the Collection and Fusion Plane, they can only use it to improve their strength and speed.

Being a Wind Elementalist, Derek was faster than others in the same stage as himself.

Grey sidestepped quickly, and he unexpectedly managed to dodge Derek's grab.

"Huh!"

Grey, Derek, as well as the youths watching from the side all exclaimed in surprise. magic

'What just happened?' Grey asked himself.

Although his motive was to dodge Derek's attack, he knew he couldn't, but he still attempted it since there was no harm in trying. Due to his frequent physical training, he could be said to be fast, even amongst some Collection Plane Elementalist, but in front of a Wind Elementalist, it wasn't much. He never expected he would be able to dodge the attack, he also noticed his senses were heightened.

The youths watching were amazed, Derek couldn't even believe Grey dodged it. He only planned on hitting Grey once or twice, but now, he changed his mind and prepared to beat him up properly.

Grey on the other hand was excited when he thought of what just happened.

'Don't get cocky, maybe it was a mistake.' He told himself.

"Hmph! Don't get full of yourself because you were able to dodge my attack," Derek said before attacking once again.

He mobilized the wind element in his body and pounced on Grey, throwing a fist at his face.



Grey panicked a little when he saw this, but he quickly tried shifting his head to the side, and to his surprise, he was faster than Derek once again. This time, he dodged the attack almost effortlessly, had it been before, then there was no way he would have been able to dodge the strike due to its speed.

Derek didn't stop with this attack, after his fist missed, he immediately tried to hit Grey on the stomach with his knee, but just like before, Grey dodged the attack, only, this time, he retreated back.

Derek kept on attacking, and Grey was like an experienced fighter, easily dodging the strikes.

"How can he be so fast" One of the youths exclaimed. They knew just how fast Derek was, yet Grey was still able to dodge his attacks.

"Stop..." Grey wanted to try to convince Derek to stop attacking, but he was interrupted by his roar.

"Ahh!" Derek roared in anger.

He had been attacking for almost one minute now, yet he hadn't been able to touch Grey even once, it was infuriating.

On seeing that Derek didn't plan on stopping, Grey knew he shouldn't stay on the defensive anymore, he finally decided to attack if an opportunity presented itself.

It didn't take long before the said opportunity showed itself, but being someone who was inexperienced in fighting, he was unable to capitalize on it. Luckily, he was faster than Derek, so it didn't come back to haunt him.

Another opportunity presented itself when Derek threw a reckless punch towards him which was enforced with the wind element. Grey dodged the attack by bending down, after dodging it, Derek's body was completely exposed and defenseless due to his stance.

Grey gathered as much energy he could muster and sent a punch towards Derek's chest.

Bam!

His fist connected, and an even more unexpected scene followed right after, Derek's body shot through the air and hit one of the trees that was at the side of the road. He passed out right after.

"Huh!" Grey stood stunned, alternating his gaze between the unconscious Derek, as well as his outstretched fist.

'That shouldn't be possible, right?' He asked himself.

The youths watching were dumbstruck, their mouth opened so wide that an egg could easily fit right into them. They stared at the unconscious Derek and back at the dazed Grey.

After standing for a while, Grey quickly went home. This was his first time he was able to fight back, and he was elated by it. On getting home, he didn't tell his mother of it, not because he wanted to hide it, but since he had refrained from telling her when he was bullied by him, he decided to let the matter go.

He took a warm bath before eating dinner, then the thought struck him to try cultivating.

#### *Chapter 6:Tenth Cycle*

Grey immediately tried circulating the energy, he noticed it became easier than the previous time he tried it, and the pain reduced significantly.

"Wow, guess I shouldn't have stopped my training" Grey was delighted. He immediately started feeling remorseful when he thought about all the days he had to go through pains just to make the energy move.

"Why didn't they make it known in the scroll, I wouldn't have passed through days of pain" Grey complained bitterly. Although he knew it wouldn't change anything, he didn't want to blame himself for not continuing his training, so he just shifted the blame.

Grey was able to complete the second circulation before long. He was exhausted from the hard work and immediately fell asleep.

The Next day, Grey woke up late in the day. Although it wasn't midday yet, it wasn't far from it.

"Ah, what a great night" Grey woke up with a huge smile on his face, after having a breakthrough in the circulation, he felt fantastic with himself. Although it wasn't anything big, Grey felt like it was a major accomplishment.

He freshened up before going downstairs. He saw Martha just coming into the house.

When she saw Grey, she gave him a sweet smile. For some reason, when Grey saw the smile, he felt a chill run down his spine. 'I haven't done anything wrong lately, have I' Grey started thinking about everything he had done lately and couldn't remember upsetting his mother on any occasion.

Grey paused instinctively and slowly retreated to a distance he deemed was safe enough. "I'm fine thanks. How are you doing today?" Grey asked with a smile.

"I must say, you look very beautiful this morning" Before Martha could reply to the question Grey asked, she heard him speak again.

'What a glib tongue he has. Just like his father' Martha sneered coldly in her heart. She knew why he was complementing her. Whenever he does something wrong, he always does this to get on her good side. Although she never falls for it, she does reduce the punishment she has in mind for him unknowingly.

"How was your training yesterday?" Martha asked with a smile. magic

"It was fine, I noticed my stamina has gone up a notch since I started cultivating the technique, although I have not started cultivation fully, I think it wouldn't take long anymore. Oh, and I made some progress in the second circulation, now all that's left to do is to continue till I reach the tenth one" Grey spat out everything he did yesterday. He forgot about what happened with Derek as he was too excited over the success of his cultivation breakthrough the previous night.

Martha looked at him closely, 'Why is he hiding it from me, or did he forget about it? No need, I will just ask about it'.

"I was told you sneak attacked Derek yesterday when you were coming back from the forest" Martha studied Grey's reaction closely.

Grey was shocked when he heard that, then it all clicked, no wonder she was acting strange, so it was because of the small conflict he had with Derek.

"Of course not, he wanted to bully me, so I decided to teach him a lesson." He said proudly while sticking out his chest.

Martha looked at him not knowing if to laugh or cry, 'This kid'.

"Well, that was not what he said. He said he was minding his business at the side of the road when you suddenly sneak attacked him while he was distracted. He said you attacked him possibly because you were mad at him when he jokingly called you a trash." Martha recounted what she was told.

She knew her son all too well, although he was mischievous, he wouldn't sneak attack anyone. Well, not for that particular reason though. 'With his character, he will definitely sneak attack his enemies'. Derek can't be counted as an enemy, he isn't even worth Grey's time.

Not only that, but she knew of Derek bullying Grey lately, but she didn't interfere since Grey didn't tell her about it.

"He's lying" Grey defended himself confidently. He knew his mother knew he was right, she was just trying to scare him. Even if he was wrong, he knew she would definitely protect him.

Martha looked at him for some time, "Oh, tell me what happened."

Grey recounted the whole event, from when he was heading out to when he was blocked by Derek.

Martha was similarly dumbfounded when she heard how Grey was able to defeat Derek effortlessly. Derek is someone at the Eighth stage of the Collection Plane, just a bit away from the Fusion Plane. Yet Grey was faster than him, what was more shocking was the fact that Derek is a Wind Elementalist. She looked at her son, pride filled her heart, but she didn't show it out. If Grey were to know she was proud of him, she didn't know what he might do next.

"Okay, don't worry about this. I will take care of it. I don't want to hear something like this happened again. Focus fully on your cultivation and try to complete the circulations as soon as possible, so you can start the real cultivation" Martha told him seriously. She really didn't want him to waste his

time with all these little things. So long as he can start cultivating for real, I will be happy.

"Yes mom, I will work extra hard!" Grey proclaimed with determination.

Martha looked at him and nodded in approval on seeing how determined he was.

Grey continued his training that day, only now, his routine had changed. He would train in the day, and meditate at night.

Slowly, time passed and a month quickly went by. Grey didn't hear from Derek or anyone later. He was given a rare moment of peace. He was happy as now all his focus was on his training. During this month, he was able to get to the seventh circle. The more the cycles, the harder it was for him. He was determined, so he didn't stop or give up halfway because he felt it was too hard. He kept on pushing himself to the brink and surpassing himself.

Whenever he wants to train, he will set himself as the target to beat. If could do more than what he usually does, then he had successfully surpassed his previous self.

Another month went by without any major event taking place. Grey continued his frenzied training and Martha even began worrying over him.

There was one time Grey came home looking like someone who had a foot on death's door. She had to make him stay at home for a week to take a rest before he was allowed to continue his training. Even when staying at home, Grey focused fully on meditating.

During these two months, Grey had been able to complete 9 cycles. Now it was left with the last circle, once he completes it, he will officially step into the realm of Elementalists. Grey was so excited about it and couldn't wait to start manipulating each element.

Grey took a break, before going for the last circle. He noticed he should always take breaks sometimes, so his body doesn't breakdown. After the break, he immediately started training and he started moving the energy according to the instructions of the tenth cycle.

Each cycle had a different route, so he had to be careful when studying it to avoid making any mistakes. Although they were almost identical, there is always a different route for each cycle.

Grey worked hard and after 2 weeks of rigorous training, one night, he finally completed the last cycle.

*Chapter 7: Chaos Element?*

**\*RUMBLE\***

A rumbling sound could be heard from Grey's body. After completing the tenth cycle, huge changes started taking place in his body.

Grey got in a trance when this happened. He saw a man standing majestically in the air looking down at the world. He had a noble aura spreading in all directions, it was like he was the lord over everything. He stretched out his right hand and all elements could be seen converging at the top of his hands, it was a beautiful sight. magic

The elements formed an orb at the top of his hand, the orb was captivating. But Grey could feel the destructive powers hidden in the beautiful orb. This could be called a beautiful killer.

The man spread out his hands wide and the orb exploded. It was a stunning sight and was also beautiful. Grey was surprised by the number of elements the man had control over. The man looked in the direction of Grey and flashed a smile at him.

Only after the lights died down did Grey realize they were alone. The man leisurely walked towards him, he studied him for some time before nodding his head.

Grey stood nervously and also studied the man in front of him. The man was handsome, with long shoulder length hair.

"What is your name young boy," The man asked calmly.

"Grey" Grey replied cautiously.

The man raised an eyebrow and stared at him closely, "You were the one who inherited my powers, good. You were just barely able to meet the minimum

requirements, you must have a strong body if you want to use the chaos element".

"Chaos elements?" Grey was surprised, although he didn't know everything, he knew there were only seven elements in the world. Which are Fire, Water, Wind, Earth, Lightning, Darkness, and Light elements. He had never heard of this chaos element the mysterious man was talking about.

"Hmm, you don't really need to know much about it for now. Just have it in the back of your mind. You've inherited the power of the strongest God, the Chaos God" the man said to Grey.

"Chaos God?" Grey had read about Gods in some books and knew there was a God for each element. But he had never heard of this Chaos God this man was talking about.

"Yes, the Chaos God. He was the strongest among all the God's and was the one who led the God's" the man said.

"I've never heard of this Chaos God you speak of senior" Grey said to him.

The man looked at him with a bewildered look.

"Is there no record of the Chaos God?" he asked.

"No senior, after the great war of Gods, the Gods haven't been heard about since then. And that war took place over 100,000 years ago" Grey explained.

The man was alarmed, "Seems like another war took place after that one, no wonder they don't know of the Chaos God" he muttered under his breath.

"Hmm, forget about it for now. You will get to know more as time goes on. Now, since you have inherited this power, you should already know some things about it?" The man asked seriously.

"Yes senior, I know I can wield all elements with it" Grey replied.

"Hmm, well, that isn't the strongest aspect of it. You still won't be able to form the chaos element soon" the man said with a smile.

"Okay, so can I start using the elements now?" Grey asked excitedly. He didn't care about the Chaos God or the Chaos element, what was important

for him now was if he could use the elements. Although he was curious about it, it wasn't too important to him.

"No" the man answered.

"What!" Grey exclaimed.

"No," the man said again

"But it stated in the scroll that I will be able to control all elements" Grey quickly spoke. He had already envisioned how he would control all the elements, now, this man was telling him he can't use the elements now.

"I know, but it isn't that easy. The human body wasn't supposed to have an affinity with all elements, so, it will take some time and hard work from you" The man said while looking at Grey.

"Hard work, I've been working so hard just to be able to hone my body, yet you're telling me I will still get to do more hard work" Grey was feeling down. He had already worked so hard from his view, yet, he will still work more just to get what was promised to him. He thought he already had everything in his hands, who knew he was holding onto clouds.

"You don't expect it to be that easy right?" The man said with a chuckle.

Grey felt scammed, "Senior, can I have only one element and just forget about all this?" Grey asked. Although the idea of wielding all elements sounded great if he had to wait for another 15 or even 20 years, it wouldn't be nice. If he can have one element, he will be satisfied. He wasn't greedy, okay, he wasn't too greedy. But he feels like it wouldn't be worth it to have all elements if he had to wait for so long, what if he died because he couldn't control any elements.

The man looked at Grey, speechless. "How can you settle for less?" He couldn't help but ask.

"I'm not settling for less, I'm just doing the more reasonable thing from my view. I'm already behind my peers in terms of cultivation, so if I take much longer, I might as well just give up on the rest and have one" Grey reasoned.

The man looked at Grey for some time before sighing helplessly.



"Oh, so all I have to do is comprehend the elements?" Grey asked with an excited look. 'Why didn't you say this earlier, instead of scaring me' Grey thought.

"Don't think it will be easy, comprehending elements and being born with a given element are two different things. Comprehension is harder, and your talent in the element will tally with your comprehension, if your comprehension is low for the element, your talent and control over it will also be low" He patiently explained to Grey.

"It shouldn't be that hard. How can I get into this space?" Grey said naively before asking the important question. For him, he didn't think it would be hard for him to comprehend the elements. What he was bothered about was how to get here.

The man looked at him and didn't reply. He knew how hard it was to comprehend an element and also, he didn't want to give Grey a scare. So he just let him be.

"Just will it, and you can come here anytime," The man said.

"Okay" Grey replied happily, since he now knew how he can get here, everything was settled.

"Oh!, I haven't told you the strongest aspect of it yet" The man suddenly said.

Grey looked at him with interest.

"Elemental fusion," He said with a smile.

"Elemental fusion?" Grey's interest was piqued when he heard this.

The man knew he would have to explain it to Grey, so he patiently explained to him, "Yes elemental fusion. As the name implies, this power gives you the ability to fuse elements. After being able to fuse all elements, you will then be able to create the chaos element, which is a combination of all elements and also the strongest element".

Grey was shocked when he heard this, so the chaos element is a fusion of all elements. "Was that what I saw you did earlier?" Grey asked. He remembered seeing the man forming an orb at the top of his outstretched hand. It was as beautiful as it was dangerous.

"Yes, what you saw me create was the chaos element" The man didn't hide anything from him and told him more about it.

"How can there be such an overpowered element? Also, elements can be fused together" Grey was astounded by what he was hearing, and also excited. Doesn't that mean he will have such an amazing ability. Not only will he be able to use all elements, but he will also be able to fuse them.

And once again, Grey started envisioning himself when he was using the chaos element and couldn't help but cackle maniacally.

The man looked at him and couldn't help but sigh, "What sort of fellow inherited this power"

He started pitying the world because an overpowered moron will soon be let loose. He held a moment of silence for everyone. He knew Grey was a determined person as he was able to train himself to reach the requirements stated. If he knew Grey didn't do it on purpose, he would be dismayed.

*Chapter 8:F\*\*k!, What Sh\*t Luck*

Grey kept smiling in a silly manner, the man just looked at him, lost of words. He just ascertained Grey was a total nut case.

"Stop smiling and listen up, I will be gone soon, there are things you should be aware of" The man tried to turn the atmosphere serious once again. If he were still alive, he was sure he would probably beat Grey up, no wait, he will definitely beat Grey up.

"Okay senior, I'm all ears" Grey tried to calm down when he noticed how serious the man was. 'He will be gone soon, where is he going?' Grey thought in his heart.

"Comprehending each element isn't as simple as you think it is. For you to have perfect control over it, you have to know everything about it you have to be one with the element. Being one with the element is the highest level of comprehension. Although you're still far away from this level", the man looked at Grey before continuing, "You should also know that the higher you comprehend the elements, the faster your cultivation speed"

Grey listened closely and felt stupefied by what he was hearing. "Senior doesn't that mean, unlike the rest people who have a fixed talent for their said element, mine isn't fixed"

"Yes, that's basically the point. Of course, it can only increase if you can have a high comprehension of the said element" He explained patiently as a teacher would to his student.

Grey had a solemn look and started having a feeling it won't really be that easy to have a high comprehension of the elements.

When the man saw Grey's look, he started having a different opinion of him. 'Seems like he has finally realized how hard things are going to be' He nodded in approval in his heart.

"You can actually start cultivating now, you were originally born with an affinity with an element," The man said.

Grey was overjoyed when he heard this, so he had an element also. This made him calm his mind, at least now he wouldn't start from scratch when he wanted to start comprehending each element.

"The more elements you comprehend, the faster your cultivation speed grows. Meaning if you can comprehend two elements, your cultivation speed will double. And your talent also matters" He said with a slightly calmer tone.

When Grey heard this, he was beside himself with joy. "Doesn't that mean I will improve at a faster pace?" Grey asked just to be sure he heard correctly.

"Yes you will" The man replied

"Hahahaha" Grey laughed crazily. Well, there goes the good impression he had managed to build of himself.

The man stared at Grey and couldn't believe how quickly he changes his demeanor. 'Sigh, forget it. He is already here' He was mentally exhausted from his conversation with this young boy.

After Grey finished his wild imagination, he quickly composed himself. "Senior, you said you would be gone soon" Grey asked.

"Yes, I'm just a spiritual being currently. I have already died long ago" The man replied calmly without any emotions. Death was something, not even the Gods could avoid. Although if they were left alone they could live almost forever, wars were a brutal and bitter part of the world.

"You are dead" Grey view on life was once again shattered.

"You don't have to say anything about it. It is something that happened long ago. Now, I will tell you how to perfectly use this space" The man slowly explained to Grey.

Grey listened keenly as he knew, once this senior disappears, he will never see him again. He felt bad for him, but this wasn't the time to think about it.

Grey was able to find out how to use the chaos space. It wasn't really that hard, all you have to do is think of the element you wish to comprehend, and you will see it. There was also an object used for checking talents. It was just like the one he saw when he went for the test, only this was more sophisticated.

"Well, that is all you need to know. Remember this won't be easy, and always be careful of how many elements you show people. You can show multiple, but not too many okay. You will be surprised how far greed can push people" He warned Grey sincerely.

The man looked at Grey with eyes of encouragement. "Train well. Oh!, and don't forget to train your body as well. Don't allow the elements to hone it for you, that is the wrong path" He said while fading slowly.

"Yes senior, I'm already used to it. So now, I can't really go a day with doing a little training" Grey said.

"Senior, how can I leave?" Grey hurriedly asked, wouldn't it be embarrassing if he couldn't leave this space.

"Just will it, and you can leave," He said while shaking his head with a smile. 'What an interesting young boy'.

"Okay senior, do take care. Oh, sorry my bad" Grey wanted to wish him well before he remembered he was already dead. Grey had an embarrassed smile while waving goodbye to him.

The man laughed when he saw this. Before fading away completely.

Grey looked at the place the man faded with a look of melancholy.

He stayed in the space for some time before leaving and returning to the real world. When he returned, he looked around calmly. He knew his life will change completely from this day.

"Wait, let me take a look at which element I'm attuned with naturally" He suddenly remembered and went back into the space.

Grey stood before the stone nervously. He had waited for 3 years, he had suffered countless insults all for this day. With a heart of expectation, he placed his hand on the stone. Just like what he experienced the last time, he felt an unknown energy entering into his body from the stone.

After it circulated around his body, it went back to the stone.

Grey waited patiently for it to read the results. After a minute, the stone lit up. magic

Grey was slack jawed when he saw the result. His heart couldn't stop racing.

"Fuck, what sort of shit luck is this, how can I have a pink talent" Grey immediately cursed out.

It was depressing, after waiting for so long, this was what he saw. A Pink talent, although he had a great element, it was annoying.

He had a Lightning element but with a Pink talent, if it had been orange, he would have at least managed it. Besides his element was rare, but pink. If people knew about this, he would be a laughingstock. He was already being laughed at for not having an affinity, now that he awakened it after so long, it was a Pink talent.

"\*Sigh\* Well, at least this is better than having no element." Grey sighed, although somewhat dejectedly.

He immediately left the chaos space and went to sleep.

## *Chapter 9: Plans*

The next morning, Grey got up early, although he still felt dejected because of his talent, he couldn't hide his joy of being able to finally cultivate.

Now all he needs is a cultivation technique for his element. He still wanted to join an Academy though, but with his current talent, that's not happening. "I will improve my talent, that way they will accept me even though I awakened late"

Grey already had a plan in his heart, he would first comprehend the Lightning element to improve his talent, then after that, he will join the Academy to have a better cultivation technique.

The cultivation technique which followed the pearl was only for the circulation, now, he needs a technique for each element separately. The higher the grade of the technique the faster he can cultivate.

Grey washed up and went downstairs, he saw his meal was on the table and quickly wolfed it down before heading out. Grey initially wanted to try comprehending the Lightning element, but he decided against it. I will continue my training for now.

Grey left the house for his usual training session and came back earlier than usual.

"Grey, why did you come back this early?" Martha inquired when she saw him coming home early.

"I couldn't concentrate, so I just came back home" Grey replied.

Martha looked at her son for some time, "Did something happen?".

Grey knew he couldn't hide anything from her, so he just told her what happened.

On his way to training, he was blocked by Derek and his squad. Although they didn't fight, he was mocked by them. What annoyed him the most was when he remembered the fact that he had Pink talent, so there was no use talking about it.

Grey wasn't someone who acts out of anger, so he was able to restrain himself from fighting. But due to his youth and hot bloodedness, he told them he would be taking part in the test that was going to take place in 3 months.

He was laughed at by them, Derek laughed so much and said he would tell the entire city about it.

Martha looked at Grey and shook her head. "Will you be able to complete the tenth circulation before then?" She knew how hard it was to complete each circle and Grey also told her the process gets harder with each circle.

Martha wasn't aware Grey had already completed it the previous day. Grey hadn't been able to tell her, he planned on telling her tonight during dinner.

"Mom, I completed it yesterday," Grey said.

Grey recounted everything that happened, including telling her about the man and also the chaos element. Martha was left stunned by this information. She was surprised by the fact that Grey could increase his talent. But what truly surprised her was that Grey's original elemental affinity was the rare Lightning element, although it was only a Pink grade talent, it wasn't really bad since the element was unique.

She felt genuinely happy for her son and teardrops unknowingly left her eyes. She knew just how much Grey had suffered for this. If she was given an option, she would never have allowed her husband to do this.

Now her little boy will be able to show them all, who was the most talented. What got her reeling was the fact that with Grey's ability to be able to improve his talent if he could get a purple talent before the test, he would definitely be fought over by the Academy and might even attract attention from the higher-ups of the empire.

Having a Lightning element is something which rarely happens, adding to the fact that the owner is a purple talent, that will give him more attention. magic

The Lightning element is as destructive as the Fire element, and it also gives the user almost unparalleled speed which is also one of the advantages of the Wind element. It is sometimes regarded as a 2 in 1 element.

She didn't have any techniques for the Lightning element and getting one would be difficult. But, if Grey was able to join any of the Academies, he will be able to get a high grade technique.

"Grey, you have to work hard. If you can push your talent to Purple before the test, that would be great" Martha said.

"Yes mom, I know what to do" Grey already planned this. He will work hard to improve his talent before the test, then shock the entire city with his results.

Grey left Martha before heading to his room. He tried meditating but to no avail. So he just gave up and started reminiscing about how he had been treated by everyone in the city.

He was mocked and abused by everyone. His so-called friends stopped talking to him because he wasn't an Elementalist. He was downcast during that time, but his mother has always been there with him all the time. She was his backbone when he couldn't stand up straight. She made sure she did everything she could to assist him, she was his greatest support.

"Mom, we will show the world how wrong they are soon" Grey clenched his fist tightly. Even if he doesn't want to do this for himself, he has to do it for his mother. He is grateful to his mother, if not for her, he would have still been down, wallowing in self pity.

He promised himself he was going to make his mother proud. Not only that, but he would be her source of joy. The best is the only thing he wishes for her.

After this test, his life would change completely. His social status will also change. He imagined the look of shock that will be written in the faces of everyone when he gets the test done.

"How would they react, I can't wait to find out" Grey smiled to himself, he was going to give it his all.

#### *Chapter 10: Training*

The news of Grey taking the test quickly spread over the entire city. Grey was pretty famous in the city, due to not being an Elementalist. They really didn't expect Grey would still be hopeful in awakening his element.



It's already been so long, yet he still thinks he can awaken it, some were pessimistic about it and felt Grey just wanted to make a fool of himself. Others felt there might be a good chance he might awaken.

They all couldn't wait for the next test to happen, what would happen that day was unknown. But what they knew was that there is certainly going to be a scene that day, and they were all looking forward to it.

People hate being bored, so when they knew something was going to happen, they can't help but be excited. They don't care if it's the misfortune of others, so long as it doesn't affect them, they're good with it.

Nothing major has happened in the city since the time Jonas rose to fame and Grey fell during the test 3 years ago. Although Grey retaking the test wasn't anything major, at least it will give them something to talk about for some time, regardless of the outcome.

Grey started his hard training once again, only this time, all his focus was placed on trying to comprehend the Lightning element. Before he started, he knew it would be hard. Well currently, he is cursing the man for not telling him how hard it was.

Actually, the man clearly told him. But he wasn't really paying attention at that time, so when he heard it, he didn't think it will be hard. He was in an overexcited state, the man didn't expect him to clearly remember everything he was told right.

"Fuck! This is impossible, I've been studying this for so long now but still have no results" Grey was feeling dejected, who knew comprehending would be so hard. What was worse was the fact that this was the element he was aligned with, how hard would the other elements be then. Well, he really didn't want to find out any time soon.

For the past 3 days, Grey had been coming to the chaos space to try to comprehend the Lightning element, but no advances had been made. He had stared at it so much that even when he closes his eyes, all he sees is lightning.

Grey left the chaos space and tried to relax his mind. He slowly started thinking about lightning and how it is. After 1 hour, he got nothing. 'Will I have to disgrace myself in front of everyone again' Even though he had awakened an element, he was already getting past the perfect time of cultivating.

The only thing that might probably be able to help him will be his rare element, but he doesn't want that. He wants to enter the Academy with a good position, good talent, and also with pride. How would the students feel if someone who can be referred to as a late bloomer still has such low talent, he would be a laughingstock again.

Grey calmed himself, he still had time. There is no need to think about all this now. He didn't want anything to discourage him, so this was the best option. Eliminating negative thoughts can be hard, but not impossible.

Martha had been less worried about Grey since she knew he had awakened an element, although poor talent, it doesn't really matter with that ability of his. She knew as long as Grey set his mind to it, he will surely succeed. She knew how stubborn he can get when he wants something, and also, she knew just how badly Grey wanted this.

The few people close to her had brought up the topic of Grey wanting to take the test again, and some even advised her against it. They felt if the result was the same, Grey might really breakdown. It has been tough for him all these years, if the result once again showed the same result of him having no affinity, the consequences would be worse than the first time. magic

She told them all it wasn't her decision, and Grey wasn't a child anymore. He can make some decisions for himself now, since he said he wanted to retake the test, he definitely has his reasons. And he had assured me that regardless of the result, it wouldn't affect him much.

They looked at her and felt she was just as rash as her child. Some even left angrily thinking she didn't want to hear what they wanted to say. Martha didn't try to stop them, she knew they had her best interest at heart, but they will definitely understand when the time came.

She saw how hard Grey was trying to comprehend the element, so he could increase his talent. Regardless of everything, she was really happy seeing how hardworking Grey was.

At dinner, Grey told her how difficult it was for him to comprehend the element.

"You don't expect to be successful right off the bat, do you. Everything takes time and perseverance, no one wakes up an overnight success. You might be talented but lazy, someone who has an average talent will surely surpass you

if he is hardworking. Strive to be the best you can, never compare yourself with others. Behind every successful individual, there are countless days of pure hard work. Remember this, people don't care about the battle, only the result" Martha advised him gently.

She knew what Grey needs now is time, with time, he can achieve it all. So she wants to ensure he doesn't rush when doing things lest he makes a mistake.

Grey looked at his mother for a long time and her words resounded in his head continuously. Sometimes, he feels his mother is too wise for someone her age. He never says this out though, he knew just how fierce she was. There was this one time she froze his father because they were having an argument.

(Martha is a water Elementalist, so she also has the ability to freeze things)

She had never told him her grade or what grade her talent is, but he knew it was definitely not lower than Purple, it might even be higher. But he is definitely scared of her, well, scared really isn't the right word. He prefers using the term 'respect'.

Grey never tries to upset her, because, she just freezes his legs to the ground and according to her, 'trains' him to her heart's content. That way, there is no way for him to run.