

Affinity 1001

Chapter 1001 Chased Around

The secret realm.

It has been a week since Grey and those from the Burchard Family stepped into the place, and other than Grey, only a few people had seen those from the Gnome race.

Grey had been chased from the moment he stepped foot in this place, making his life a little miserable. While Grey was going through hell, those from the Burchard Family were having a great time since they didn't have to worry too much about being attacked by the Gnome race, they focused heavily on searching for treasures. There had been a few people who had even broken through.

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In a cave near a waterfall.

'How can I be so unlucky?' Grey questioned as he looked around.

He had seen over twenty buildings in the space of a week now, but none of them had the space he was searching for. What was worse was that he had been engaged in combat multiple times since the chase started, and he hadn't been able to get the advantage since whenever he was on the verge of being victorious, someone else would step into the fray and make things hard for him.

'You've always been a little unlucky. I bet Klaus would've accidentally stumbled on one by one.' Void commented.

Grey looked at him but didn't refute it, in terms of luck, Klaus seemed to be highly favored by the world.

'I hate this. Who would've thought that I'd have to run for my life the entire time I'm here? I haven't even had the time to train. Isn't it best I just go back to the Aurora Continent?' He was getting a little frustrated.

'Not really, the constant battle is good for you.' Void replied.

'I know, I just hate that I have to be the one running. Why don't we reverse the situation and I become the one hunting them?' Grey said as he was getting ready to head out once again.

He could already sense the aura of people nearby. Without any doubt, he knew it was the people from the Gnome race.

Void went out to check on it and confirmed it. The duo had no choice but to leave once again.

While they were running, Grey caught sight of a large figure. This figure was larger than even those Barbarians he saw in the Aurora Continent when he first went there. He could sense the frightening strength hidden in their muscular body.

'The third race in this place?' He was a little confused.

Due to being chased around, he forgot there was actually a third race that entered this place as well.

'I think Sylvia called them giants. Well, they're not much of a giant if you ask me.' Void remarked, studying the figure in front of him.

'They can regulate their body size. Walking around with such a large body would make them an easy target for people.' Grey said.

Even though he was being chased, he still took his time to study the figure ahead of him.

Not just him, but the figure ahead was staring at him vigilantly. This giant was already in the Ninth stage of the Sage Plane, and it was clear that he wasn't far from the Peak.

Grey, unfortunately, didn't have the luxury of time to stare at the giant for too long.

After running for a few minutes, another building soon appeared before him.

'This place better have it!'

Five minutes later.

Boom!

Grey's figure bounced off the ground as he shot out of the building.

"Damn it! You cowards! Why don't you come at me one on one and see if you can last ten moves." He cursed out loud before running away once again.

He was unfortunate as the building had no secret space, instead, there was someone from the Gnome race there. This person was actually very close to breaking through to the Elemental Sovereign Plane.

Cursing his bad luck, Grey continued his escape.

He dashed through the woods and as he was running, Void sensed something.

'There.'

Grey looked in the direction Void was pointing and there was a cave entrance there.

'Treasure? You know I don't have time for that.'

'I can sense strong spatial fluctuations there.'

'Oh, why didn't you say so from the start?'

Grey changed his direction and headed straight for the cave.

'If this place is what I'm searching for, I'll need to lure one of those bastards in as well.'

Coming up with a plan, Grey stepped into the cave.

The first thing that he saw was a dried-up skeleton.

'Well that's not encouraging.' He thought internally.

However, the fear of being captured didn't allow him to stay outside.

The cave had an eerie aura, and he could sense that there was something deadly lurking within the cave.

He followed Void's directions and soon came to the place where the spatial fluctuation was coming from.

When he confirmed that the place could indeed send him to another secret space, he calmed himself and sat down cross-legged in front of it. He was waiting for the first person from the Gnome race that would get to him.

It didn't take long before the first person arrived.

It was a young lady in the Ninth stage of the Sage Plane.

"You're pretty good at running, human." The young lady mocked.

"And you're pretty bad at chasing. I'm weaker than you are, yet you haven't been able to capture me. If I were in your position, I'd have already killed you by now." Grey didn't feel bothered by her words.

The young lady felt irritated by Grey's words, and just as she was about to attack, Grey entered the spatial rift and disappeared.

She gritted her teeth, looked around, and charged in as well.

These spatial rifts that transport them to a secret place tend to be quite dangerous, hence her hesitation. However, due to the strong mark on Grey's body, they could tell that he was most likely a threat to them. Just the fact that he managed to escape all this while had already proven that he was not ordinary.

Chapter 1002 Secret Space

Grey appeared in a red world.

The sky was dyed red, giving off an eerie aura. He could almost perceive the stench of blood in the air.

'Be on guard, we don't know what's in this place.' He said to Void.

Void nodded, he was not careless and was already trying to sense what dangers lay ahead of their path.

While they were looking around, a figure covered in light appeared. The light died down almost immediately and the young lady from the Gnome race appeared.

"Tell me, where do you intend to run to now?" She asked with a playful smile. To her, Grey jumping into this place was the same as cutting his escape route.

She felt maybe he was desperate and wanted to get the help of whatever creature was hiding in this place.

"Who says I'm running?" Grey raised a brow playfully.

The young lady looked at Grey before bursting out laughing. She already knew what he had in mind, but she was amused by the fact that Grey genuinely felt he could win against her.

"You want to fight against me?" She asked, just to clarify her assumption.

Grey took a step forward, his intention was clear.

The young lady looked at him with a mocking smile before moving forward with frightening speed.

Grey didn't stand idle, seeing the young lady coming his way, he created an earth dome that protected him from any attacks.

The young lady appeared in front of the earth dome and started attacking it.

Grey, who was well protected on the inside sensed the location of the young lady before unleashing an unusual attack. It was something he hadn't used in a long time.

"Uh?"

The young lady's shocked exclamation rang out in the place. Grey soon came out of the earth dome and attacked with the fire element, sending the young lady flying.

He turned the ground the young lady was standing on as she attacked into mud, giving himself the opportunity to attack while the young lady was shocked by the sudden change in the environment.

The young lady flipped mid-air and tried to land on her feet. However, the second her feet touched the ground, she sank once again.

Grey appeared on her side and attacked with the lightning element.

A sharp shrill left the young lady's mouth as she screamed, clearly in pain.

Grey noticed her reaction towards the lightning element was different compared to the fire element.

'There's a chance that the lightning element is quite effective against them...' He contemplated before attacking with the fire element once again.

The young lady was able to block the attack this time, making sure Grey didn't get the advantage.

Blocking the attack left her back open and Grey had already prepared a lightning inscription behind her. It attacked her from a hidden angle and before she noticed it, it struck her back and sent her flying.

She screamed in pain once again as she looked at Grey with hatred. Although the attack power was not enough to kill her, the pain she was getting from the burns was sending her hysterical.

"I'll kill you!" She shouted out in anger.

"You'll have to be alive to do that." Grey said coolly.

The young lady gnawed her teeth as she looked at the injury inflicted on her by the lightning element.

After calming herself down, she attacked once again, this time, careful not to fall for any of Grey's tricks.

Unfortunately for her, Grey was just getting started. Against an opponent in the Ninth stage, Grey would definitely need the Fusion State to at least boost his stage to the Seventh or Eighth stage to be able to comfortably defeat his opponent. But without the Fusion State, he could easily use his space element and other elements to make life a living hell for whoever he's fighting against.

There's still Void who hasn't gotten into the mix, so she basically has no chance against the duo. Of course, she knew nothing of this.

Grey dodged her attack with the help of the space element, before attacking.

The young lady blocked the attack with ease before attacking once again.

Grey tried to block the attack but was pushed back. The attack power of the young lady was more than what Grey could take, so it opened an opportunity for the young lady who took it without blinking.

Seeing that Grey was forced back, she unleashed another attack with the darkness element and compared to how humans used it, there was a difference in how the people from the Gnome race used it.

Grey was once again forced back by the attack of the young lady, as he blocked the attack, he was pushed back. Before he could position himself, the young lady was already close to him. She refused to give him the chance he wanted to attack. And for someone who was always attack minded, it was best to keep him restricted.

The young lady attacked with a sword made out of darkness.

The sword sliced through the defensive wall Grey created and tried to cut Grey's flesh, but Grey sensibly retreated in time, making sure he was not hit by the sword.

The young lady continued attacking relentlessly, while Grey dodged calmly. He tried blocking it, but whatever defense he sets up, the sword cuts through it like a hot knife through butter.

'Void.' Grey called out to Void as he saw how things were going.

Void finally made a move, disappearing from where he was watching the battle.

The young lady who was invested in attacking Grey never expected another attack to come from behind her, worse of all, it was a lightning element attack.

Void got within five meters of her before attacking, giving her little to no time to react to the attack.

Just like Grey's attack, the lightning bolt struck her back and sent her flying. She crashed into the ground, bouncing off repeatedly.

'Easy.' Void said with a smirk.

Grey rolled his eyes before boosting his strength to the Ninth stage, the same stage as the young lady. Now, he was taking the battle seriously.

Chapter 1003 Lure Them In

With a step, Grey vanished.

The young lady who was just recovering from Void's sneak attack rushed to her feet as she tried to get a good view of what attacked her. Looking around, she saw no one, not even Grey.

"Where's he?" She panicked as she went on guard.

From the last attack, she already knew Grey was not alone. Only a fool would think he was the one who did that attack. Unfortunately for her, even if she felt Grey was not alone, she couldn't confirm her assumptions since there was no one in sight.

She was still looking around when she sensed the space by her right ripple, and without even blinking, she attacked that spot.

Her attack missed since it didn't hit anyone.

"If you waited for a little longer you would've been able to hit it." Grey's voice came from behind her.

Her entire body tensed up because she didn't know when Grey appeared behind her.

She turned around with flailing arms as she attacked, trying to catch Grey unaware.

Her hands, which were covered with a black mist, were caught by a strong hand. She smiled since she knew the effect the black mist had on others, especially humans.

"You're dead." She said hatefully.

"That may or may not be correct." Grey replied nonchalantly as he threw a punch her way, sending her flying.

His fist was covered with the lightning element, so the attack caused greater harm to the young lady.

The young lady screamed in horror as she landed on the ground.

The young lady coughed out black blood as she looked at Grey, she wiped the little bit of blood that was left on her lips.

'I just have to delay a little while, the effect will start soon.' She thought to herself as she stared at Grey's hands which were still covered with the black mist.

He shook his hand casually, and to the shock of the young lady, the black mist died down.

"Impo..."

"Nothing's impossible if you have the right methods." Grey interrupted her as he walked closer to where she was standing.

The young lady paused for some time, unsure of what to do. Grey's simple act seemed to have dampened her spirit, she almost lost all will to fight.

But she soon snapped out of it as she roared angrily, and two figures soon appeared beside her. They were obviously dead, and Grey needed no information on what they were human puppets.

The two figures were both young ladies, and each was in the Eighth stage of the Sage Plane.

Grey studied the duo with a shake of his head. They were part of the unfortunate few who would not make it out of this place.

The duo attacked the moment they appeared. One of them was a Lightning Elementalist, while the other was a Water Elementalist.

Grey didn't shy away from the fight as he entangled himself with the duo. He dodged a lightning bolt by a hair's breadth before facing a stream of water that pushed him back.

The young lady from the Gnome race didn't sit by idly as Grey was being overpowered, she rushed in to join in on the fight as well. She could already tell that Grey would be a good puppet for her, so she wanted to claim him.

If Grey knew what was going through her mind, he would laugh his head off at the thought of being a puppet to someone else.

Just as the young lady joined in on the battle and went within a certain range, Grey, who had been defending, suddenly changed his strategy. He unleashed his gravitational force field which not only pushed the puppets to the ground but their owner as well.

The ground on which they were standing lit up as a large array appeared.

The red-colored sky above shook vigorously as a thunderstorm appeared from nowhere.

The young lady was about to move when a large and powerful lightning bolt fell from the sky at an insane speed, crashing into her and her puppets.

Her shrill screams echoed as she was harmed by the lightning attack.

Void appeared on Grey's shoulder as he looked at their opponent.

"You should have at least given her some hope." He commented.

"She doesn't need it. I wonder what state she'll be in after this attack." Grey replied playfully.

The lightning storm died down, and the seemingly never-ending lightning strike disappeared without a trace.

Three figures came into the duo's view, two of them were burnt to crisp, while the last one was charred from the burns, still shaking from the electrocution, and was clearly gasping for air. The young lady survived, but it was easy to see that she would not be alive for long. She was struggling for breath as she lay on the ground.

Grey watched her for some time, and just as he was about to end her suffering, an idea popped up in his head.

'There's no harm in trying.' He thought to himself.

Walking closer, he used an array to seal the young lady's elemental powers before bending down almost to her level. His hand was covered with the light element as he tried to heal her, but to his shock, the moment his hands got close, the reaction of the young lady intensified, and before he could react, she died.

"What the hell?! I didn't even get a chance to try it." Grey looked at the dead body in dejection.

He wanted to try to see if he could use the life force of this young lady, or anyone from the Gnome race to erase the mark. Since the Gnome race was basically the ones who created this vile method, it was only right that they would be able to remove it.

Grey stayed in the space for a while longer before heading out, he needed to drag another person from the Gnome race here so he could try out his theory.

Chapter 1004 In Search Of Victims

Grey soon located the way out of the secret space, although it was a little harder than he thought, it wasn't beyond his capabilities. His only concern was that he could sense that there was something inside the place, but even after searching around, he still hadn't found anything yet.

He left the place and walked around, hoping to attract the attention of any member of the Gnome race. After staying for over one hour, he decided to head out and search for someone on his own. He felt maybe after not sensing the mark, some might have felt that he died.

He didn't journey far before the first member of the Gnome race appeared. The person was a young man who was at the Peak of the Sage Plane.

Grey had no issues with dealing with people at the peak, hence he quickly turned around and made a break for it. His plan was still the same, take this person into the secret space and kill him.

The young man was elated when he realized Grey was still alive and immediately gave chase, in hopes of being the one to kill him.

Getting to the cave, Grey jumped straight into the secret space. When the young man from the Gnome race got there, instead of rushing in carelessly, he paused and looked at the place carefully before turning around.

For some reason, he didn't head into the place.

Grey stayed in the secret space for around ten minutes or so, when he didn't see the young man entering, he was forced to step out once again.

As soon as he appeared outside, he was attacked by the young man who had been waiting for him.

Grey already expected something like this, so before stepping out, he had four defensive layers around him, even three Peak Sage Plane Elementalists would not be able to break through it with just one attack. But it wouldn't last more than that.

Grey didn't need it to since all he wanted was to make sure he was protected from the initial attack of the young man outside.

When the young man noticed that Grey was still standing after his attack, he looked at him with a mocking smile.

"What tricks could you possibly have up your sleeve that would make you risk your life by coming out again?"

Grey looked at the young man, noticing his calmness, he didn't panic. Whoever this is, he was a smart person, so he would naturally not be careless with him.

"I never thought I would see the day when a Peak Sage Plane expert would be scared of a Sixth stage weakling." Grey remarked.

"Only a fool would look down on his opponent." The young man replied casually, not embarrassed by Grey's words.

He wasn't the type that would fall for such cheap trickery. If Grey felt that his words would make him chase after him relentlessly, then he was a fool. With his mind made up, to the utmost surprise of Grey, the young man from the Gnome race turned around and left, he didn't even try to fight against Grey.

His exchange with Grey already showed that Grey was a hard nut to crack, and in the process of cracking him, he might end up harming himself, so he gave up even before trying.

Grey was stunned when he saw the young man leave.

"He left?" He couldn't help but ask with a dumbfounded expression.

"So it seems." Void replied after sensing the area for a while.

"He's smart, not everyone is as decisive as he is." Grey couldn't help but commend the young man.

The only reason he didn't try to engage him in a fight was the fear of destroying the cave, and maybe someone else managed to get here before he killed the young man and joined hands with his opponent. As much as he wanted to try out his theory, it wasn't worth the risk of getting himself caught or even worse... killed.

With the young man gone, Grey had to go in search of another potential victim for his experiment.

It took him close to two hours before he finally found another member of the Gnome race, a young man who was in the Eighth stage of the Sage Plane. This guy didn't even think twice and immediately went after Grey the moment they made contact.

Grey rushed off, running in the direction of the cave.

Just as he was a kilometer or so away from the cave, he saw a familiar figure. It was the young man at the Peak who refused to follow him into the cave the last time, he was waiting for him, blocking his path back to be exact.

Grey's expression changed slightly since he never expected this young man to appear again.

'Really smart.' He cursed as he looked at the young man.

The move made by the young man was ingenious, he didn't follow Grey into the secret space, rather, he waited on the side and started to track him, when he sensed the guy from his race heading in Grey's direction, he rushed back so Grey wouldn't notice him.

"Where are you going to go now?" The young man asked as he spread his hands apart.

Grey was about to reply when the other young man in the Eighth stage showed up. He looked at Grey, then at the young man standing after Grey.

"He's mine." He declared coldly.

"You can't beat him without my help, you can't even catch him. Pipe down and maybe I'll give you some credit." The young man at the Peak of the Sage Plane said.

His expression and voice were still the same, but his aura was completely different. It was clear that if the young man in the Eighth stage said anything else, he would kill him even before fighting Grey.

The young man swallowed his saliva as he nodded his head. He didn't retreat though, he knew he couldn't since that would mean opening an escape route for Grey.

Chapter 1005 Shameless Grey

Grey stared at the duo, his greatest problem was the young man at the Peak. Not just because he was the strongest, but because he was blocking his escape path. If he were to use the Great Void technique to escape, then he would only be giving up on his chances with either of these young men.

"Unlike you, I don't run from a battle." Grey stated confidently as he looked at the young man at the Peak.

The other young man looked at the duo, only after Grey spoke did he realize the duo had crossed paths, and from Grey's statement, the young man at the Peak actually retreated. The view he had of the young man changed, but he still didn't dare to attack him.

"Heh." The young man scoffed but didn't respond any longer, without waiting for Grey to make a move, he attacked.

Grey, seeing the incoming attack from the young man steadied himself, dodged the attack, and before anyone could realize what was happening, he bolted for it.

Why would he waste his strength to fight against the duo here, when he could easily be attacked by more of the people from the Gnome race if he stayed for too long?

Both young men from the Gnome race paused in confusion. Originally, they felt after Grey dodged the attack, he would counter, but Grey did not even spare them a glance as he ran off. It was clear that his objective from the start was to escape.

"Shameless." The young man at the Peak cursed under his breath.

The other young man looked at him.

"What are you looking at? After him." The young man at the Peak gave the order as he rushed after Grey.

As they chased, he soon noticed something strange about Grey's movement. Just when he was about to give them a clear distance, he would slow down, seemingly waiting for them to catch up.

The young man at the Peak had so many questions in his head, but he couldn't ask them. Unlike him, the other young man didn't care about all these, all that mattered was defeating Grey.

The young man at the Peak took a glance at the other young man before smiling to himself. He would taste the waters with this guy, if he doesn't come out after five minutes, then he would leave Grey and focus on his training and breaking through.

If Grey could kill someone in the Eighth stage, even if it was with the help of an external helper, it wouldn't change the fact that he was a formidable foe.

Time went by and the familiar cave came into view once again, the young man at the Peak paused outside the cave, while the other young man didn't waste any time waiting. He headed right into the cave and jumped into the secret space with Grey already waiting for him to appear.

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In the secret space.

After Grey entered, he didn't head far from the place he appeared, he hid somewhere as he waited for his victim.

Seeing only the young man in the Eighth stage entering, he heaved a sigh of relief. Although he might be able to kill both of them had they come in together with Void's assistance, this was still a good option since they would be able to take out the young man faster.

The young man looked in the direction Grey was hiding, since he still had the mark, it was very easy for the young man to locate him.

"Come out and face your owner." The young man said coldly.

Grey stepped out with an expressionless face. He studied the young man from every angle before nodding his head.

"You'll do."

The young man was taken aback by Grey's statement, unsure of what he meant by that.

Grey didn't say anything else as he charged forward, his body covered with red lightning as he boosted his strength to the Ninth stage of the Sage Plane. The reason for this was that he wanted to end things as soon as he could.

The young man from the Gnome race was flabbergasted when he sensed the sudden spike in Grey's level. He couldn't even say a word as he hurriedly set up a defensive shield to block Grey's incoming attack.

Boom!

The attack hit the shield and it broke apart, the young man on the other hand was sent flying, crashing into the ground with an open wound on his chest.

He stood up and looked at the injury on his chest. He grimaced in pain before he quickly tried to counter.

Grey was already standing close to him, so his attack missed by a lot. Unfortunately for him, his back was clawed by Grey's hand which had lightning claws on it. Each claw dug deep into his flesh, letting the lightning roam freely in his body, causing havoc and unimaginable pain to the young man's body.

The young man screamed in terror, he could see his life flashing through his eyes. With blood dripping from his mouth, he made a last-ditch effort to try to reverse everything. Rushing to his feet, he threw different attacks at Grey, even bringing out his puppets.

The puppets didn't move before they were both destroyed by a powerful attack. It was Void's spatial distortion.

"Give up, you can't win."

At the moment, Grey's voice was like a God's voice, and the young man almost gave up fighting, but he soon snapped out of it as he attacked once again.

Grey had little problem with dealing with the attacks before slowly incapacitating his opponent. Before long, the young man could barely move his body, although he was still alive, it was safe to say that he was wishing for death at the moment. Both hands and legs were missing, and he was bleeding profusely from almost every single part of his body. His face was unrecognizable.

Thinking that everything happened in the span of just over three minutes was shocking.

The young man soon started to regret his decision in chasing after Grey. He chased after him only to end up being tortured to death by him.

Chapter 1006 Switching Roles

Grey smiled and looked at the young man in front of him who was close to death.

"Don't worry, I don't play on killing you..."

A smile of relief formed on the young man's face as he heard Grey's words, until the last word.

"...yet." Grey finished his statement and shook his head at the loom of despair in the eyes of the young man.

Of course he wasn't bothered by him since he didn't really care, he had killed humans while trying to remove the mark, and there was no way he was going to hold back now.

Time slowly went by and Grey started to try out his experiment. It was tedious work that required his focus since a slight mistake would mean that his attempt would fail. Extracting life force from a living thing was by no means easy.

Settling down, he placed his entire attention on his work.

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Outside the cave.

Another figure was standing by the young man at the Peak of the Sage Plane, this figure was a young lady that was almost at the Peak of the Sage Plane.

"You came here tracking the mark as well?" The young lady asked.

"I've found the person, he's hiding in there." The young man pointed at the cave.

"Why did the mark suddenly disappear? This is the third time it's disappearing." The young lady asked curiously.

"He's hiding in a separate space in that cave."

The young lady soon understood what was going on. She took a glance at the young man standing beside her.

"How strong is he?" She asked curiously.

The fact that this young man knew where he was hiding yet he did nothing to fight him showed that he was a bit apprehensive of this marked person.

"He's only in the Sixth stage of the Sage Plane." The young man replied casually.

The expression of the young lady changed a little and she looked at the young man, "Are you sure?"

The young man nodded while staying in the same position. He didn't show any signs of making a move.

His actions confused the young lady since she felt he would've at least killed Grey by now, yet, he was just standing there, with no signs of making a move.

'There must be something he's hiding.' The girl thought to herself, and instead of heading into the cave, she stayed outside.

She was not stupid, as long as this young man didn't go in, there was no way she was going to take the risk of entering the place. It must hold some dangers, dangers that would make a Peak Sage Plane Elementalist think twice is not something she was certain she could face.

The duo continued their stay in silence.

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In a separate space.

Grey was laughing maniacally.

"Finally, it's done!" He was ecstatic.

The mark that had been bothering him for a long time was gone in a flash. Surprisingly, using the life force of people from the Gnome race was the perfect antidote for it. The young man wasn't even dead yet, but Grey was already cured of the mark.

He took a glance at the astonished look on the face of the young man who was still alive, but barely breathing.

"Ho...how?" The young man's voice was very faint at the moment, but he was vetoing stunned as to how Grey was able to remove the mark from his body. This was something unheard of.

"Hehe, it's none of your business. Since you've become useless, there's no need to keep you alive anymore." Grey grinned as he was about to kill him.

"W... wait, I have something to tell you." The young man panicked, although he was already close to death, he could still survive this if treated.

"Oh, what's that?" Grey paused.

"The son of the Emperor is here, and I can take you to him." The young man gathered himself before saying.

"The son of the Emperor?" Grey raised a brow.

"Yes, he's the Emperor's favorite son." The young man nodded slowly.

Grey fell deep in thought, and with a flick of his hand, a lightning bolt hit the forehead of the young man.

"I don't need your help with this. Anyway, thanks for the information." He chuckled before burning the body to a crisp.

'I wonder what stays here.' He looked around curiously.

After some time he shook his head, declining the idea of searching for anything.

Hiding his aura, he left the separate space.

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Inside the cave.

When Grey appeared, he noticed something shocking.

'Oh... nice.' He smiled all of a sudden.

He could track people, not just anyone, but those from the Gnome race. Apparently, using the life force of someone from the Gnome race gave him this ability.

'The hunted has become the hunter.'

He noticed that two people were standing outside the cave, and since he hid his aura before stepping out, there was no way they were going to know that he was out already.

'They should continue standing outside, I'll just go hunt others.'

Grey vanished as he headed for the side he sensed the least number of people from the Gnome race.

He could peacefully travel now, while occasionally taking out those from the Gnome race.

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Two weeks went by in the blink of an eye.

In the space of two weeks, the entire secret realm fell into pandemonium. The reason for this was simple, someone was waging war against those from the Gnome race.

Of the over one hundred people that entered this place, more than half of them were dead in the space of two weeks. What was worse was that the person killing them seemed to always know where they were. They had set traps for him on multiple occasions, but sometimes, he would not even show. Whenever he did show up, he would kill all those who were supposedly hiding in wait for the ambush, leaving the bait alone.

He would then beat the bait up and tell him that his friends had run away. He usually leaves the bait, possibly to spread the news and put fear in the hearts of those from the Gnome race.

Chapter 1007 Five Elements

In a building, a young man could be seen sitting on a throne while the others stood before him.

This was a prince from the Gnome race, the son of the Emperor of the Gnome race.

"Does anyone know his location?" He asked the crowd standing in front of him.

Those from the Gnome race didn't dare to venture out alone any longer, they all grouped up and rushed over to this place since they knew the Prince would always be there.

"No, he has an ability that can perfectly hide his aura from others. Only a few have seen him." Someone from the crowd replied.

They didn't know what to do about Grey anymore. They wanted him dead, but they were all afraid to go out. Grey was like the perfect assassin, especially given how he always knows where they were always hiding. He was also very efficient, killing people with as little noise as possible so others wouldn't be spooked.

They were all speaking when a rift opened up and a figure was thrown on the ground. It was a figure of a member of the Gnome race that had been killed.

They all stared at the rift, but no one else came out.

The son of the Emperor smashed his fist on the throne he was sitting on as he stood up with an angered expression.

"He's somewhere close, search for him." He ordered angrily.

Giving them orders, they all left the building, leaving only the son of the Emperor and three others.

"You three should head out as well. Kill any human you find around this place." He said to the three people standing beside him.

They were all at the Peak of the Sage Plane, so they could easily move in this place unhindered. Well, unless they were ambushed.

The trio bowed to the son of the Emperor and vanished from their location.

Grey was hiding somewhere in the building as he watched them all leave. He saw the young man at the Peak who chased him to the cave but didn't enter was among the crowd.

'What would they say if they returned and their leader was dead?' He thought to himself with a chuckle.

His plan was simple: kill the Prince before they returned. However, he wanted to wait a little longer so that he would have the chance to kill his opponent before the others could return.

Ten minutes later.

Grey finally stepped out of his hiding spot and swaggered to where the Prince was seated.

"Hi." He waved at the Prince.

The Prince looked at him, but there was nothing like surprise on his face, it was like he predicted something like this would happen.

"You took long enough, I guess you were waiting for them to be far away before you stepped out." The Prince said.

"I had to be sure, at least with this range, I can kill you before any of them returns." Grey replied.

He could already tell the Prince had a plan of fighting him alone with the way he chased the others away. With how Grey had been operating, it was safe to say being alone almost meant that he would be attacked.

"You're proud, for someone still in the Sixth stage of the Sage Plane." The Prince commented.

"I've killed a few of your people at the Peak, I shouldn't have any problems dealing with you." Grey said as his aura spiked, and before the Prince knew it, Grey's aura was at the Peak of the Sage Plane, even stronger than his aura.

"I see, no wonder you're this confident." The Prince still wore a calm expression, it was as if he didn't see what Grey just did.

"If you think you can defeat with such petty tricks, then you're a fool."

Grey moved out, appearing beside the Prince as he attacked with the lightning element. He noticed the light element had more effect, but his elemental grade for his light element wasn't as high as the lightning element, so he used the lightning element more.

Grey's attack was about to hit the Prince when he finally made a move, the attack which was already at his face passed through him, literally.

Grey was shocked when he saw this, he knew which element had this ability. It was the space element, but most people couldn't do this particular technique until they got to at least the Elemental Venerable Plane.

"Surprised?" The Prince asked with a smirk.

Grey didn't reply as he attacked again, this time, he was preparing an inscription.

The Prince moved to the left with shocking speed as he dodged the attack before attacking Grey.

When the Prince moved to dodge the attack, Grey noticed he used the wind element, the attack he did just now contained the fire element. Adding that to their natural darkness element meant that the Prince had four elements.

Grey was a little shocked since this was the first time he was seeing someone from the Gnome race who had more than two elements.

The young man looked at Grey, it was obvious he found joy in his expression. Without any further delay, he attacked Grey once again, even before his last attack had connected.

Grey dodged the first attack by teleporting to another location.

The Prince controlled the other attack to head in Grey's direction.

Grey on the other hand used the inscription he was preparing to attack the Prince from behind.

The Prince sensed the attack coming from his back and vanished from his location, appearing close to Grey as he attacked with a wind blade that shot at Grey.

Seeing the attack coming, Grey created an earth wall to block the attack.

The wall cracked when the attack hit it but didn't fall apart. The Prince appeared above Grey and attacked with a fifth element.

Large boulders appeared above Grey and instantly came crashing down.

Grey was shocked beyond belief, but he still dodged the attack first since he knew taking such an attack would hurt... a lot.

Chapter 1008 An Opponent Unlike The Rest

Grey hurriedly dodged the Prince's attack as he drilled into the ground with the earth element, completely escaping from the attack range before popping out once again. This time, he had a look of shock on his face, he never expected to encounter someone from the Gnome race who had five elements.

The Prince looked at Grey's face with a smile on his face, he could tell that Grey was shocked by his strength.

"I'm not done yet."

Hearing the Prince's words, Grey's eyes widened.

'Don't tell me he has another element...'

Grey stared at the Prince before hurriedly rushing back, preparing to both defend and attack. His initial shock was gone now, he was prepared to fight against the Prince now, without holding back.

The Prince attacked once again with the earth element, and just as it was about to hit Grey, it was boosted by the wind element, then a powerful fire attack appeared in front of it all of a sudden.

Grey was already prepared for an attack, so seeing the attacks coming his way, he blocked with the earth and water elements.

With both enforcing each other, especially with the heavy water, he was able to block the Prince's attacks with some ease as he countered with an inscription that was prepared beforehand.

The Prince, as if expecting the attack, was able to dodge it and destroy the inscription as well.

Grey moved forward, and without hesitation, he used the gravitational force field. The Prince hadn't experienced it before, so he was dragged down by the attack.

He hastily tried to get control over his body as he made sure he was not caught unaware by Grey's next attack.

Grey unleashed a lightning bolt that struck where the Prince was standing. Since the Prince found it hard to move due to the gravitational force field, he was forced to take the attack head-on.

He created an earth wall in front of him, but the wall was shattered by an attack that came even before the lightning bolt.

Grey used both his dimensional slash as well as the lightning attack at almost the same time, expecting the Prince to do something like this.

The dimensional slash destroyed the wall, leaving the Prince wide open for the lightning attack.

Just as the attack was about to hit the Prince, he released a dark mist all around him.

The lightning bolt slowed down significantly the moment it entered the dark mist.

Grey's eyes opened wide, a little surprised.

'A domain.'

This was the first time he was seeing a member of the Gnome race using a domain.

With the help of the dark mist, the Prince used the fire element to attack the lightning bolt, barely managing to block it. Both attacks collided and the impact pushed the Prince back a few steps.

'How's his attack power so strong?'

Grey was astounded. With the exception of when he fought that old monster from the Gnome race who reduced his level, this was the first time he was fighting against someone in the Sage Plane that was actually not being oppressed by his usually strong attack power. In fact, the Prince's attack power seemed to not only equal his, but even seemed slightly stronger than his own.

Seeing the shock on Grey's face, the Prince chuckled.

"You think you can beat a true genius with such strength? Dream on. What's not yours, will forever not be yours. You might be able to defeat those fools from your realm, but against me, you don't stand a chance." He commented, it was like he could see through Grey.

He couldn't deny the fact that Grey was powerful, however, this wasn't Grey's real strength, it was more like borrowed strength, so against someone like him who was already at the pinnacle of the Sage Plane and had multiple elements, he didn't have that much of an advantage. The Prince was also extraordinarily stronger compared to others in the Sage Plane.

"We'll see about it." Grey replied, he was still quite confident in his abilities, so he didn't really feel he would lose against the Prince.

The Prince chuckled but didn't reply, he already knew he had the higher attack power, the only issue was that Grey had a variety of elements, and he seemed to know how to use them quite well.

The Prince moved out, not wanting to give Grey the chance to attack.

Grey also moved out almost at the same time. Both fighters attacked each other with the fire element, dodging with the space element.

Grey used the lightning element to send out an attack that forced the Prince to retreat.

The Prince would occasionally send out attacks which would force Grey to move back.

Boom! Bam!

Grey focused on using the lightning element, while the Prince used all his elements.

The Prince was the first to bring out his domain, Grey decided it was time for the Prince to see his domain as well.

Without hesitation, lightning started to dance across the hall of the building. Grey made sure it covered a large area, making it difficult for the Prince to defend against it. Although the attack power was reduced considerably, it was still enough to cause the Prince some issues.

The Prince released his darkness domain as well to counter Grey's lightning domain. But it was clear that Grey's domain was gaining the advantage over the Prince's domain.

Grey was about to smirk when he saw something else, a spark of flame rose up in the middle of the darkness domain.

The flame soon started to spread out everywhere.

'Another domain.'

Grey was once again shocked by the Prince.

Most of the time, he was the one who shocked his enemies, but this time, he was the one shocked by his opponent.

With the help of the fire domain, he was able to defend himself against the lightning domain.

Seeing that it was useless, Grey reduced the size of the domain and also attacked with multiple inscriptions.

The Prince was blocking each of his attacks with some ease.

Grey raised a finger and an orb started to form on it.

It had been a while since he used the Fusion Orb.

Chapter 1009 Frustrated Prince

The orb forming on Grey's finger was small, but it contained powers that frightened the Prince.

For the first time since their battle started, the Prince showed an expression of shock and apprehension. His facial expression was more serious when compared to how carefree it had been all this while.

'This guy is a threat to our race. How come he hasn't been marked yet?' He thought to himself.

The thought of Grey being marked and removing the mark himself never crossed his mind. Most of the people even felt Grey was dead since he hadn't appeared again. Although the young man who followed him there felt that there was something strange about Grey's disappearance, he didn't dare to enter the secret space to confirm it.

The Prince didn't think too much since he felt he would be able to kill him in their battle.

He rushed forward, not wanting Grey to unleash the attack. He felt an attack of this caliber would need time to complete, so it hadn't been completely prepared yet. As long as he could interrupt Grey, then he wouldn't need to fear the attack.

Just as he got within a few meters of Grey and attacked, his eyes enlarged by the sight before him. The orb in Grey's finger was quite small compared to the ones that appeared around Grey. Each orb was at least triple the size of the orb on his finger, and they each contained almost the same attack power.

The Prince paused as he rushed to retreat, hoping Grey would not attack him before he gets to safety.

Grey smirked as he unleashed the orbs at him. Each orb had enough power to take out an Eighth stage Sage Plane Elementalist.

The Prince was threatened by the attack that was coming his way, so he scrambled to safety as he tried to dodge it.

Grey didn't use all of them to attack simultaneously since he knew it would be useless that way. He sent them out after each other, whenever the Prince managed to escape from one of them, he would attack with the other one.

The Prince was placed in a tough spot for the first time since the start of the battle.

While he was dodging the orbs, a lightning bolt appeared behind him and struck him cleanly on his back.

However, contrary to Grey's expectation, the Prince didn't yell in pain or anything, instead, he noticed a bright light around the body of the Prince as it protected him from it. However, the light dimmed down considerably after taking the attack.

'Damn it.' Grey couldn't help but complain. He thought he had finally gotten the chance to sneak attack him, unfortunately, the Prince was able to block it since he had a protective vest.

The Prince got on high alert after Grey's failed sneak attack. Well, it couldn't really be called a failed attempt since it hit his target, he just didn't think the Prince would have a protective vest on.

The Prince dodged the orbs as he also dodged the lightning attacks that were coming his way from the inscriptions.

The Prince calmed himself down as he dodged Grey's attacks. Being the one with the initiative, Grey flew into the air as he unleashed his 'Meteor Descent'.

The Prince was still dodging the orbs which seemed endless, seeing the large fire-covered boulders dropping from the air, he couldn't help but feel a tinge of hate for Grey.

'How's he able to attack with so many powerful attacks? Isn't he afraid his essence will dry up?'

Although this was something that rarely happened since most Elementalists don't dare to fight till that stage, it was something that could still happen. Once an Elementalist starts using extraordinarily powerful attacks, they tend to lose essence quicker than others which would mean that they risked running out of essence if the battle lasted for a long time.

The Prince yelled out before exploding with frightening powers. This time, even the boulders coming from the sky were blown to smithereens by the surge of power from the Prince.

Grey was forced to take a step back, but he started his attack once again.

With a single step, the ground lit up with a symbol as multiple lightning shot into the air. It was as if there was a rain of lightning, but it was coming from the ground. The Prince was within the range, and his protective vest lit up once again, this time it stayed longer than usual. The light around the vest quickly started to lose its brightness.

'Fuck!' The Prince's facial expression turned extremely ugly.

Grey was a terrifying opponent. He had way too many ways to get what he wanted in a battle. If this method fails to work, he would switch to another method. What was worse was that these were things that even if the Prince was aware of, he wouldn't be able to defend himself against it.

'I'll kill him.' The Prince concluded in his heart.

The protective vest soon lost its light, but it managed to do what it was brought in for since it managed to get the Prince out of the range of the array that Grey used in attacking.

The Prince didn't leave the place unscathed though, his flesh was burned by the attack of the lightning. Luckily, he left the place quite early.

Grey turned around as he looked in a particular direction.

'Hmm, my time here is limited. I don't think I will be able to kill this guy before they return.'

The burst of attack that the Prince used some time ago had finally alerted those who left the place not so long ago, so they were rushing back to this place.

Grey had been trying to avoid using attacks that would be that explosive since it would bring others over.

'Since it's already like this, then no need.' He thought to himself.

Grey burst out with fearsome elemental powers.

When the Prince saw this version of Grey, he started to hate him to the core. Even when he felt he already knew Grey's power, he came out with yet another one.

It was quite clear that if Grey were to face another person from the Gnome race, he would kill them without too much of a hassle.

Chapter 1010 Snatching The Prince's Puppets

Like Grey, the Prince could also sense that his subordinates who left some time ago were rushing back.

He took a glance at Grey, and two coffins appeared behind him. Two humans stepped out of the coffins, both were already at the Peak of Sage Plane. The two people were young ladies who were both naked. From how they looked, Grey could tell that they didn't die a good death.

The Prince looked at Grey, hoping that his puppets would influence his mind, but to his greatest surprise, he didn't even have a reaction, not even one of disgust. It was as if he was a calm sea, nothing could shake him.

Both of these young ladies were stunning beauties with amazingly great bodies. One of the reasons he made them his puppets was because whenever he was fighting a tough opponent from the human race who was a young man, he could bring them out to rattle their states of mind. Grey was one of the few people who hadn't shown any visible reactions to seeing the naked ladies.

Most of the people who didn't have the reaction he was expecting tend to show disgust towards him, but Grey didn't do any of this. It was like he couldn't see the young ladies.

The state of the young ladies, although they were dead, seemed to be very much alive. Other than their sad eyes, and the few scars on the side of their necks, they looked like living people.

Grey continued his attack, this time, his fire element came to life as it exploded out, destroying the building they were fighting in.

The two puppets, along with the Prince, moved out as they attacked. The two puppets were both Water Elementalists. Ice shards appeared in the sky as they shot towards Grey with lightning speed like arrows.

Grey covered himself with a water dome that easily stopped the ice shards from getting to him. While he was still blocking the attack, the Prince used the darkness element to corrode the water dome and mist started to form inside the dome. If Grey didn't step out of it, he would be affected by it.

The water dome exploded under Grey's control before turning to tentacles that grabbed the legs of both the Prince and his puppets.

The puppets struggled to free themselves, but the Prince cut the tentacle with the fire element.

Grey already got what he wanted since he wanted to delay them for some time. He prepared multiple orbs that struck both the puppets and the Prince.

The Prince dodged the attack, while the puppets both created an ice shield around them to block the attack that was coming their way.

When the fusion orb hit the ice shield, an explosion rang out. The shield managed to last for some time before it shattered. The impact of the attack still hit the puppets with quite some force left as it sent them crashing to the ground.

The Prince looked at his priceless puppets before looking at Grey angrily. He rushed forward and attacked.

Grey knew he couldn't take the Prince's attack head-on, so he dodged to the left before taking to the sky.

The Prince rushed after him, his puppets were already engaged with Grey in the air.

Grey didn't have too much of a problem with fighting against the two puppets since they were not as strong as when they were alive.

The Prince joining the battle made it tougher for Grey to fight. He focused mainly on blocking and evading since he knew that he was no match for all of them. The Prince managed to hit Grey on his back with the fire element, sending him flying to the ground.

When Grey's back hit the ground, the Prince and the puppets rushed after him as they attacked him while he was down.

Grey unleashed his fire domain when they got close to him. He didn't use his normal fire, rather, he used the icy flames since he knew it was stronger than the usual one.

The Prince, as well as his puppets, were caught unaware, and with Grey's increasing strength, the power of the domain grew stronger. Now the icing ability of the domain was on another level.

The Prince quickly used the fire element to free himself and escaped from the range of the domain. The two puppets were not as lucky as he was.

'Time to leave.'

Grey could sense that those returning were not far away any longer. If even one more person were to join the Prince, he didn't know if he would be able to escape unscathed.

He rushed to where the puppets were and tapped them on the back. Black tendrils left his hand and entered their bodies. The Prince felt a sharp ache in his head, but before he could react properly, Grey vanished, along with his puppets.

He looked at the spot Grey was previously standing on. His eyes still showed shock. The reason for this was that before Grey left, he cut off the Prince's control and connection over his puppets.

This was something that only masters of their arts could do, yet Grey did it with only a tap. Unknown to him, Grey had studied human puppets and with the increase in his darkness elemental grade, he had an easier time breaking their links. One of the advantages of this was that breaking the link would affect the owner of the puppets.

This scenario for instance showed the importance of that. The Prince would never have allowed him to leave so easily, but because the link was forcefully broken, he was affected by it and Grey was able to escape with such ease. All this also lay with Grey's impeccable planning. He was able to outsmart his opponent on multiple occasions during the battle, unfortunately, he wasn't able to defeat him since the Prince was clearly on another level.

However, the Prince knew if Grey were to truly be at the Peak of the Sage Plane, then the result of the battle would not be the same.