

## Affinity: Chaos #Chapter 11 - Pressure - Read Affinity: Chaos Chapter 11 - Pressure

### *Chapter 11:Pressure*

It's been a week since Grey started trying to comprehend the Lightning element, and so far, well, he hasn't made any progress yet. But he didn't feel down though. Every day, he tries harder than the previous day.

He really wants to comprehend it badly, if he could make a little progress, it will definitely increase his talent. Although he didn't know what grade it will get to, but he knew it wouldn't stay at the Pink grade.

Also, having a little bit of understanding, will pave the way for him for his future comprehension. It's like building a house, once you get the foundation done, it becomes easier. Well, so he thought.

Grey didn't rush things and took it slowly, he knew since it was with him, he will definitely succeed someday.

Since he hadn't made any progress, he decided to head out and train since it has been quite some time he did.

The next day, Grey prepared and went over to the forest to train as usual.

Midday while he was still training, it suddenly started raining. Grey immediately went over to a cave close to where he usually trains. He found this one day when it was about to rain, he couldn't head home, so he found somewhere to wait it out.

It quickly started raining heavily.

**\*RUMBLE\***

The sound of thunder immediately reverberated in the sky.

**\*BOOM\***

Grey suddenly couldn't hear anything, his ear was ringing continuously. He immediately ran out of the cave and stood outside in the rain. When he looked at his left, he saw some part of the ground was scorched black.

That was what entered his mind when he saw it.

\*RUMBLE\*

Grey once again heard the sound of thunder and looked up, he saw lightning flashing in the sky like it was doing a dance.

\*CRASH\*

The lightning struck a place far from Grey, but he saw everything clearly.

Grey stood completely still, not moving even after 10 minutes. He was in a trance, when he saw the display of the lightning and how it struck, he suddenly had an epiphany. magic

The scene kept on playing in his head, from the fast movement to its destructive power. Everything kept repeating itself. After some time, it stopped.

"What a pity, if I can have this feeling once more, I will definitely be able to improve my talent to Purple grade" Grey said sadly.

This wasn't a total waste though, he learned some things from witnessing it himself. Although the chaos space is amazing, it wasn't the real deal. So there is a major difference with how you feel both.

But with this as reference, he can finally start making progress in his understanding of the Lightning element.

After it stopped raining, Grey decided to stop training. Besides, he had trained for some time already.

He was also eager to see if this little progress of his will make any changes to his talent.

On his way back to the city, he noticed the gate was crowded. He curiously walked over to see what was going on. When he got there, he couldn't see anything as the crowd was just too much.

"Good day mister, please can you tell me what is going on?" Grey asked a man on the scene.

The man looked at Grey before shifting his gaze away, not even bothering to answer him. The man didn't know Grey, but he just didn't care.

'Well, what a scum' Grey cursed angrily before walking to search for someone else to tell him what was going on.

After asking around, he found out Jonas returned from the Academy. This was the first time he had come back to the city since joining the Starlight Academy.

Grey still had an impression of Jonas. I mean, who wouldn't have an impression of someone with a Purple talent.

Grey remembered the envious look he gave Jonas when he saw how all the Academies were fighting over him.

He also found out Jonas would be staying until the test, 'Why did he come at this time, couldn't he come after the test' Grey suddenly felt pressured.

If it were before, even if he had an Orange talent, he wouldn't care since he can improve it with time. But now, Jonas came. The only person who has ever had a Purple talent in the history of the city.

(Just to be clear, Martha isn't from the city)

He currently lorded over all in this little city, even in the big cities, he was still someone with a high status.

No one likes being in the shadow of anyone. Had Jonas not appeared, Grey would have been satisfied with an Orange talent. But now, he wanted more. He had to get his talent up to Purple, no matter what.

Grey went home with new conviction and the fire in his heart was burning fervently. He immediately wanted to see how far his bit of comprehension took him.

After getting home, he went straight to his room and sat in a meditative position, after calming his racing heart filled with expectation, he entered the chaos space.

He went over to check if his grade improved. After placing his hand on the stone, he waited for it to do what it usually does. The energy circled his body before returning to the stone.

When Grey looked at the result, his face fell. He still had Pink grade talent. Although he came with expectations, he also knew it wouldn't be that easy after trying to comprehend it for so long. One moment of epiphany couldn't do the trick. Well, unless he stayed in the state for long.

While this was happening to Grey at home, the city was abuzz with discussions. And the name mentioned the most was Jonas. Jonas was not the only name mentioned, Grey's name was also in the mouth of many because he was going to retake the test.

With the arrival of Jonas, everyone remembered they both took the test on the same day. With one being fought over by the Academies, and the other most likely not remembering how he even left the arena.

Jonas got word of the fact that Grey was going to retake the test. He clearly remembered that lonely figure who stood at the platform stunned.

"Interesting"

Initially, Jonas had no plans of attending the test even if he was around. He had better things to do, if not for wanting to meet his parents, he wouldn't have come to this low classes city. He also enjoyed the feeling of being adored by the people here, and idolized by the kids.

*Chapter 12: Talent - Orange*

The city quieten down after some time. Everyone went back to what they were doing. Although there was still some places where the issue of Grey retaking the test was still talked about, it wasn't really much.

Grey didn't think of any other thing and focused fully on comprehending the Lightning element, since he already made a breakthrough, it would be easier, wait, saying easier will give people the wrong idea, it would be less hard. Now that's better.

It got less hard for him, and he saw some improvements as he studied the element more. In this fashion, one month quickly went in a flash.

The pressure on Grey increased as it got closer to the time of the test. Now he had only two months left, he had to make significant improvements within these two months to ensure he makes his mother proud.

Grey didn't know if he can make it in time, but he knew he was going to try his best no matter what.

It took him so long just to have any improvements in the element he was more attuned with, "Just how long will it take to comprehend other elements turn"

Grey was tired but not frustrated, he knew by increasing his talent and also having another element, it would increase his cultivation speed. This way, he would be able to catch up and quickly surpass his peers who started cultivating before him.

All he needed is time. Only, time waits for no man. Fortunately, Elementalist gets to live long the higher their level. So he still has a lot of time on his hands.

Grey noticed he had made good progress during this month, so he decided it was time to check if his talent increased. magic

After entering the chaos space, he walked towards the stone slowly. He stood there feeling apprehensive for some time.

He slowly breathed out, before placing his hands on the stone. Once again, the unknown energy went into his body from the stone. After going a circle in his body, it went back to the stone.

Grey nervously looked on waiting for the result, his heart pounding with anticipation. After some time, the stone lit up.

Grey looked at the stone in front of him without having any reactions for some time. Finally, a huge grin broke out of his face.

After trying for so long, he finally made some progress. His talent has increased from Pink grade to Orange grade. Grey felt like he was in a dream, if it wasn't happening to him, he would never have believed it even if he was beaten close to death, okay not really, he wouldn't allow himself to get beaten up that badly just because he didn't believe it, at least if he said he believed he would be free to go right!.

Grey was initially already beginning to have some doubts. Although he could see it all happening, nothing seemed to change. If not for the fact that he awakened an element, he would have thought this was just a sham.

Grey left the chaos space. He wanted to share his new progress with his mother. Unfortunately, when he went downstairs, she wasn't around.

"Hmm, where did she go to?, oh well, I will tell her the good news once she returns"

Martha returned late, looking exhausted. When Grey saw her, "Mom, are you okay?" He walked up to her.

When she saw him, she tried to hide her weariness but just couldn't, "I'm fine dear, give me a sec. I'll go prepare dinner" She smiled to him

Grey looked at her and didn't say anything more, he knew it hasn't been easy for her and didn't want to make her feel sad. "Don't worry mom, I've made dinner already" Grey told her gently.

Martha was slightly taken aback when she heard this, a sweet smile bloomed on her face. "How thoughtful of you young man" She said in a praising tone.

"Taking care of you is my duty. Now, go freshen up before you come back down for dinner" Grey said gentlemanly.

Martha laughed when she saw how Grey was acting. No matter how tired she feels, whenever she sees Grey, it just feels like all the fatigue fades away.

"What a great son you have"

When Martha was on her way upstairs, she heard Grey make this statement and nearly fell down. 'Can't he just be normal for once'. Although she thought of this, she didn't really want that.

Grey was her light, and she likes the cheerful him, if he suddenly starts behaving like people usually do, he wouldn't be fun to be with. Grey always makes her laugh, so she enjoys his company a lot.

Martha returned after taking a bath. By the time she got down, Grey had already prepared the table. They sat together and started eating.

Martha couldn't deny it, Grey was a great cook. But she restrained herself from praising him.

"I'm such a great cook" Grey exclaimed after doing the dishes.

Martha rolled her eyes when she heard this, 'At least let someone praise you first' Grey really is one of a kind. But he is always a great company.

"Mom, I have good news for you" Grey said with a mysterious smile.

"Oh, what is it?" Martha raised her brow when she heard Grey.

"Well, I managed to advance to an Orange talent today" Grey said with a proud face.

"Really" Martha was stunned when she heard this. But quickly, it turned to joy. Grey being able to increase his talent is something unbelievable, but she knew Grey would never lie to her. He probably wouldn't even think of it, he really is scared of her.

"Congratulations, that's great news" Martha congratulated him happily.

"Mom, I'm aiming for a Purple talent before the test" Grey told her his aim.

Martha looked at Grey, "Don't put too much pressure on yourself, having an Orange talent is already considered good. Especially with that element of yours" Not that she wanted to discourage him, but she knew some times, it was best to take it easy.

"Don't worry mom, I'm confident about this. If I can't make it before the test, I'll just make it after it. It's no big deal" Grey assured her. 'I'm definitely going to make it before the test' Grey declared in his heart.

"Okay baby, remember to your health comes first. Don't overwork yourself" Martha said with care. Grey has always been her pride and joy. She still remembered how happy she was the day of his birth. 'What a rascal' She said in her heart when she remembered just how troublesome he was as a child.

#### *Chapter 13: Time's Almost Up*

The time for the test was getting closer with each passing day. The test will take place in another 2 weeks.

The kids who have reached the age for the test were all excited, as after the test, they will start their own journey. They were all filled with anticipation towards the test and couldn't wait for it.

This usually happens every year. The new kids will be filled with expectation towards their new journey. Not all the kids get into the Academies though, since some have low talents, they are picked up by some lower powers in the empire. Only a few of the kids with Pink talent actually get admitted into the Academies.

However, the majority of the kids with Orange talent gets into the Academies. A lot of lives would change after this test just like how it happens every other year.

The Academies are the meeting ground for the young people all over the empire. Apart from the Emperor's faction, the Academies are the next in terms of strength. But they are always below the empire. They have groomed a lot of powerhouses for the empire.

The Academies can virtually be said to be an important part of the empire, the Emperors' faction can't reach out to every part of the empire. This is where the Academies come in, although they can't be said to have reached every single part of the empire, they have a larger network compared to the empire.

Grey's full attention has been placed on his training lately that he even forgets about eating sometimes. As the time edged closer, the voice in his head got louder. The voice was telling him to make sure he gets to Purple talent before the test starts.

He still has hope though, there's still 2 weeks left. Grey was very determined and didn't want anything to stop him from doing it. He really wanted this, so he has to work extra hard.

Martha didn't disturb him as she knew with the time of the test getting closer, he needs to be fully focused. If he can make an improvement, it will certainly do him more good.

Having a Purple talent and an affinity with the Lightning element, it would attract a lot of attention from the Academies and also the empire. Although the Fire element is just as destructive, due to the fast nature of lightning and also its ability to electrocute people, it has a very high view for the people.

Lightning can shock, burn and also has the ability to paralyze people. So it can be said to have a higher firepower than the Fire element all round.



Martha always tries her best to support Grey. 'He has been working really hard lately, he can do it'.

Grey didn't forget to hone his body also, he was very diligent in his training. He always heads out to train every 5 days.

He had crossed paths with Jonas during one of the times he went out to train, but nothing was said between them. Grey didn't even recognize Jonas. He had only seen him once, so he really can't be blamed for it.

He hadn't made any improvements since the previous time, he knew it would be hard, but he wasn't giving up. Grey has been hoping to see lightning once again, he had a feeling that if he could see it, he would be able to get a deeper understanding of the element. magic

Lightning is something that can only be seen when it is storming. It doesn't always appear when it rains also. Also, the few times it has rained, even when there's lightning, he isn't as lucky as that day.

Besides, no one would wish for lightning to strike their house.

It was already 3 days left before the day of the test. Grey still hadn't made any progress. He didn't want to give up like this, he would continue until the day of the test. He must try harder.

At dinner, Grey asked if Martha knew of a way to attract lightning towards a particular spot, or she knew of a place that attracts lightning to it.

"Why are you asking this" Martha inquired

"I want to see a lightning strike, I feel if I can see it, I will help me in deepening my comprehension towards it" Grey said.

"Don't you have the chaos space, you can comprehend it there right" Martha asked.

"Yes, but due to the uniqueness of the element, it's hard. And I can't feel it in the chaos space" Grey explained.

Martha mused for some time, "I know of a place, but before I tell you, you must promise me you won't even think of getting close if I find a place for you."

Martha knew her son too well, given how daring Grey was, she is over eighty percent confident he truly might go close to it.

"Relax mom, I won't put my life at risk. I will only take a look from a distance away" Grey reassured. He knew she would definitely know of a place which attracts lightning. If he knows of this place, it would be helpful, well, as long as it storms.

"Okay, I know how wise you are" Martha said with a sneer. Grey knew she still hasn't believed him, so he continued convincing her.

Luckily, Martha loved him a lot and quickly gave in. She told him the place where lightning strikes a lot.

Grey was happy after finding out the location. It was said lightning always strike that particular mountain top whenever it storms. No one knows the reason or cause of it, but it had been happening for long. They have investigated it, but they came back empty-handed.

Grey immediately made up his mind, he will go check out the place tomorrow. That way he would know what to do next when it storms.

"Hopefully, it storms before the test. This is my only hope now. I should be able to make it in time, I think" Grey wasn't too optimistic about his chances of progressing though, but he knew he could get a sudden realization and progress immediately, so he hasn't given up hope.

Grey went to his room, he entered the chaos space to comprehend more. Although he would be heading out tomorrow, it didn't mean he shouldn't continue his training schedule.

Grey has already gotten used to always training before bed. In fact, he can be said to be a maniac with how he trains.

#### *Chapter 14: Lightning Mountain*

Grey headed into the forest he usually trains in. Surprisingly, the location was in this forest. His mom told him very few people knew of lightning striking the mountain top. Only the higher ups of the City knew of it.

The mountain was in a deeper region of the forest. Although he had been to the forest for a long time, he never tried to head deeper into the forest. There

were magical beasts in the forest. The magical beasts were also attuned with elements and some of them are even better at using it than humans.

The mountain wasn't too deep into the forest, that was why Martha was able to tell him freely. If it was too deep in, she won't be comfortable telling him about the place as he might be in danger if he encounters a magical beast.

Grey cautiously headed deeper into the forest, he had to be careful as some times, magical beasts do come out from deep in the forest.

After 30 minutes, Grey has already gone deep into the forest. The trees were really high and looked old. "They must have been here for a long time" Grey muttered while placing his hands on the old tree.

Grey looked at the trees, he couldn't take his hands off it when he placed them on it. It was like he could hear the heartbeat of the tree from the earth. He traced his hands down the tree towards the earth, he felt the solidity and support of the earth. It was able to support everything and all the trees could depend on it. The earth was regarded as the sturdiest element.

Grey had a little beat of understanding with the element and for some time, his heart was breathing in the same rhythm as the earth.

"What a wonderful feeling"

He felt strong at that moment. His eyes glowed with a dark brown color for some time before returning to normal. The earth element truly was resilient and was also the best element in terms of defense.

"How great would it be if I can awaken the earth element. That would make me almost perfect for now. With great attack and great defense" Grey said with a smile. He was completely aware of the brown glow that flashed through his eyes for some time.

Grey really didn't think this short realization would help him awaken the earth element for him. He continued his journey into the deeper parts of the forest. This is the deepest he had gone into the forest since he started coming here.

Shortly, a huge mountain appeared in front of him. The mountain was over 1,200 meters high, and it extended over a range of 300 miles. Grey stood at the foot of the mountain looking towards the top of the mountain.

He began climbing the mountain, the mountain was rough, so he couldn't hurry while climbing it.

The top of the mountain had an empty space. It looked very smooth, probably because of after being struck by lightning for too long. Grey reached the top of the mountain after some time. He felt a stinging wind hitting him hard, he looked into the distance from the top of the mountain.

The forest extended as far as his eyes could see. This really was a huge mountain, he wouldn't dare to go into the deepest part of it. He was curious about it though.

The mountain had a high concentration of the lightning element. Although Grey hadn't started cultivating yet, he can still feel how high the lightning concentration in the mountain is.

Due to the high concentration of the lightning element in the mountain, Grey was able to feel some sort of closeness to it. "This is really a great place, even without any lightning descending, I can clearly feel the lightning element"

This mountain could be regarded as a paradise for all lightning Elementalists. The element could even be felt in the air, it was amazing. Grey felt great. If he could stay here frequently, he can increase his comprehension on the element.

Grey sat in a meditative state and tried feeling the lightning element in the air. He focused intensely on the element.

While Grey was in a meditative state, the lightning element in the air immediately got attracted to him. His body was like a magnet towards the element, even the mountain had a reaction.

The lightning element gathered in the mountain started moving towards Grey. Grey couldn't feel anything as he was fully immersed in meditation. Some earth element also moved towards him, although a little, it still moved towards him.

Grey stayed in a meditative state for 3 hours without making any movements. He got out of the meditative state and decided to head home.

"What a wondrous feeling" Grey felt greatly surprised by the feeling he got. He even felt somewhat intoxicated by it. He almost couldn't draw himself out of meditation.

Grey headed home, this was a fruitful experience for him. He couldn't wait to come back tomorrow. Grey decided he won't check if he made any improvements, he will wait till the test and see what he got.

He needed someone to protect him if he wanted to stay longer. He had to always remain vigilant when he was meditating, although he forgot himself sometimes. It was his first time, so the feeling took him by surprise.

Grey went to bed early, he wanted to go quicker tomorrow, so he can comprehend for a longer time. He truly enjoyed the feeling and wanted to feel it again. magic

Grey got up the next morning and headed towards the mountain in high enthusiasm. This was the last day before the test, he had to make good use of the day. He meditated for a long time before heading home.

Soon, the next day reached. The day for the test have finally reached after waiting for so long, Grey got up early like usual.

"This is the day it all changes"

*Chapter 15: Grey Appeared*

The city was filled with activity since today was the day of the test. All the kids that are 12 years old, were all excited. A lot of people attended the test this time.

'Could it be the number of children participating in this test is greater than the number we usually get for the previous tests' This was the thought going through the mind of each representative.

Even the Elder in charge of testing was also surprised by the number of people present today. He couldn't hold himself back and asked someone if something else was going on.

"Excuse me, is something going on?" He asked someone by the side.

"Do you remember the boy who didn't have an affinity with any element 4 years ago at the test?" The stranger asked.

"Yes I do" He answered, it was quite easy to remember Grey. Since what happened to Grey was something rarely seen, so a lot of people present that day still remembered him clearly.

"What does that have to do with what is happening?" He asked again, he couldn't see why they would be this much people just because of something that happened 4 years ago.

"Well, I heard he will be coming to take the test today. A lot of people didn't come back then and heard about what happened from others. So this time, they all wanted to see what will happen" The stranger replied.

'So it's like that huh' He still remembered how shocked he was when he saw the result of Grey's test. He even had to tell him to retake it just to confirm if the first result was true or if he was just seeing things. Only after the same thing showed up did he confirm the result was real.

After he heard this, he went over to the representatives of the Academies and told them why the arena was filled up today.

"Humph, I see no reason why they're all making a fuss over nothing. The result will be the same, why would he want to humiliate himself once again" One of the representatives spoke coldly.

The other representatives thought the same as well. Someone who couldn't awaken his elemental affinity at the age of 12 years old will most likely be unable to do so for the rest of his life.

This happens to very few people, and out of every two thousand people it happens to, only one of them might be able to awaken his elemental affinity later on in his life. This was the reason they didn't have any hopes of Grey being able to awaken his element again.

"You might be wrong, what if he is a late bloomer. It's not like someone has never done it before, so you shouldn't just count him out just yet" One of the representatives said calmly. Even he knew how hard it is, but that doesn't mean this boy can't create a miracle. magic

"Humph, we shall see then. But this boy better not waste our time" Another one of the representatives said. Most of the representatives felt allowing Grey to take the test was a waste of time, but they also knew there was a small possibility that he might truly be able to awaken his element.

Who doesn't want to be a witness to something that amazing?. People who awaken their elements later than usual are always strong willed. Not everyone will have the courage to come and retake the test after not being able to awaken their elements the time they were supposed to.

"Look!, it's Jonas" Someone suddenly exclaimed with a high pitched voice.

The noisy arena quickly quietened down. They all looked at the same location simultaneously.

"It truly is Jonas"

"Wow!, look how cool he is"

"I hope I can also have a Purple talent once I take the test."

The arena immediately got noisy once again, a lot of kids look up to Jonas, they felt since he can have a Purple talent, they too can have it. Jonas was like a god in the eyes of the kids.

Jonas walked calmly without any changes in his face. He looked calm and confident. He walked towards where the representatives of the Academies were seated close to the platform. Even the mayor of the city wouldn't dare to walk towards the representatives so leisurely. These were people from the Academies, they were people at a place the mayor can only dream of reaching.

Whenever he sees them, he always has to be polite towards them.

Jonas walked towards the representative from the Starlight Academy and sat close to him without saying anything.

The man didn't utter a word when he saw Jonas and even smiled calmly. Although he felt he lost face when Jonas didn't even bother to acknowledge him, there was nothing he could do. Jonas' status in the Academy is higher than his, Jonas can even order him around without any issues.

He still remembered when Jonas called him senior respectfully when he came here, but only 4 years later, the difference in both status and attitude was huge.

The other representatives looked at Jonas without saying anything. Even though he was a junior, his status was better than theirs.

"What do you think about what's going on, will that boy be able to truly awaken his element?" Jonas asked while looking around.

"It is almost impossible, but there has been times when it happened. But his chances aren't high" The man said. Currently, there wasn't any sign of his previous overbearing attitude when he spoke. He was as meek as a sheep.

Jonas looked at him, "Well, we will see how he fares. Hopefully he won't waste any of our times". Jonas currently spoke with dignified bearing.

He had always been with people of high status when he was at the Academy or other big cities. His world view has changed completely, he has learned a lot and can't be said to be the little boy he used to be.

"I'm not really sure he can awaken it, but there's no harm in allowing him to retake the test" The man said.

Soon it was time for the kids to register their names. Grey still haven't arrived yet. The Elder started the test without any delay, they couldn't put the test on hold just because of someone. If Grey can come before he is given the second list, then he can also be tested.

By the time it was the eight person, a commotion took place at the side of the arena. It immediately drew the attention of everyone there.

"He has finally showed up"

Grey had appeared!..

*Chapter 16: I Was Only Trying To Look Mysterious!*

Grey walked into the arena calmly. His eyes were like still waters, calm yet enchanting. He walked towards the place where registrations take place.

"Okay, what's your name and age?" The man in charge of registration was quite surprised that someone who had clearly passed the age came to register. Then he quickly remembered what he heard before the test began, about a boy who failed to awaken his element 4 years ago.

"Grey, I'm 16 years old" Grey replied politely.



"Okay, you will be the 21st person called up. They're already at the 8th person. If you don't get to the platform within one minute after your name is called up. You won't have a chance to take the test this year and will have to wait till next year" He told Grey the rules.

"I know sir. Thank you anyway" Grey thanked the man before heading towards the stands in search of Martha.

Martha came early, unlike the last time they came together. The last time, she had to register Grey before getting a seat. But this time, it was different as Grey is already old enough to do it properly.

She knew the arena will be filled today, so she came early and saved a seat for Grey. There was no way she was going to miss this, not for anything in the world. Today, her son was going to be in the limelight and today will be one of the happiest day of her life.

She knew how much this means to her son, he had suffered for so long just for this day. She had been with him all through, so she knew his pain. Whenever he's happy, she's happy. When he's sad, she's also sad. If he gets bullied by anyone, she beats up the person, this was one of the reasons few people troubled him.

Grey quickly found her and sat beside her. Everyone were shocked by his calm look, it was like he wasn't even nervous. They thought he would have a serious look on his face, if it were to be them, they would be scared silly. Like, what if I still haven't awakened my element?.

The representatives fixed their eyes on the youth. magic

"His bearing is amazing" The representative from the Lunar Academy said with surprise.

The other representatives nodded in approval. This was a big day for Grey and the pressure on him must be intense, if he couldn't awaken his element then he will be totally finished. For him to still look so calm even in the presence of this huge crowd who he knew came just to watch him most probably fail, they couldn't help but admire his bearing.

Jonas looked at Grey for some time. It was like Grey felt his stare in particular and looked at his direction, they stared at each other for a while before moving their gazes from each other.

"How come I suddenly felt inferior when I met his eyes just now. That should be impossible, it's definitely a mistake" Jonas was alarmed in his heart. When Grey looked at him a moment ago, he felt something he only felt from his seniors in the Academy. It was a feeling of inferiority, he rarely feels this among his age group.

The only people he looks up to in his age group are those rare monsters with either a Blue grade talent or are Dual Elementalist. He had only heard of 3 people his age who has Blue talent. And only one who was a Dual Elementalist.

Dual Elementalist were even rarer than people with Blue talents. They rarely appear and are stronger than people in their stages. They can easily fight across multiple stages without any issues, because they were fortified by two elements.

Grey didn't feel anything when he looked at Jonas. He knew although Jonas was currently better than him, it wouldn't take long for him to catch up and surpass him. As long as he remains hardworking, he will rise to be the strongest.

As time went on, the people got more tense. They all wanted to know what the result of Grey's test will be. Some were hoping to witness something which they didn't think was possible, while others, just wanted to see how Grey failed again.

Martha looked around with confidence, she knew her son was going to shock them all. She couldn't wait to see their reactions.

The Elder went for the usual break and got the new list before he continued the test. Grey calmly looked at the kids who were having their tests. Some of them were happy with their results while others were sad. That was life though, everyone can't be successful. But there were some kids who didn't care what grade their talents were though. Some were met to rise while others fail, but there are also a few who doesn't care about anything though(Those are the legendary group). They just came to take the test because they had to and nothing else.

The time moved slowly, it was like the time was moving at a snails pace. Usually they would have already called up to the 20th name, but they are still stuck in the 15th name.

Everyone waited patiently for the main event of the day. Grey could feel the unease in the air, it was like they all wanted him to take the test immediately.

'Morons!, I'll scare your hearts out with my result' Grey sneered in his heart.

After a long wait, the audience finally heard the name they were waiting for.

"Next up Grey" The Elder called the next name on the list, even he had some expectations for what would happen with this particular test. 'Will he be able to change his destiny, or will he fall deeper into the darkness' The Elder thought in his heart.

Grey calmly stood up and gently walked towards the platform. He slowly got there under the watchful gazes of everyone.

'This kid, he's doing this on purpose' Martha complained when she saw how slowly Grey was walking. She knew he was doing it on purpose to create more tension in the hearts of everyone. 'Humph!, how shameless. I'll teach him a lesson when we get home'.

Grey was having a good time with the gazes of everyone focused on him, unaware of his mother's plan. If he knew, he would surely scream in his heart 'What did I do mom, I was only trying to act mysterious'.

When he got to the platform, everyone's gazes were still tightly glued to him. He nodded in his mind for how cool he was.

"Place your hand on the stone" The Elder spoke to him calmly.

Grey looked at the man, smiled before walking towards the stone confidently. When he placed his hand on the stone, everyone held their breaths and waited for the result.

A.N: We're out of the top 10 guys. We need more power stones

*Chapter 17: Surprise Suckers*

The entire arena was quite, they all had their eyes fixed on the figure whose hand was on the stone. They wanted to know the result badly.

Time slowly moved as the seconds crept at a sluggish pace. Their hearts were racing in anticipation. What would be the result?, this was the question in their minds.

Jonas and the representatives also had the same thoughts. They were closer to the platform, so they saw how calm Grey looked.

"He really is different from the rest" One of the representatives said. They all looked at the lazy looking Grey whose hand was on the stone.

Grey had a lazy look when his hand was on the stone, he didn't have the disposition of someone who had failed to awaken his element previously. It was like it was his first time doing the test, and he didn't even care about the result.

After some time, the strange energy left his body and returned into the stone. The Elder walked over to confirm the results, when he saw the results, he looked at Grey shocked.

"Please place your hand on the stone again" The tone of the Elder changed slightly when he asked this.

Grey looked at him for some time before placing his hand on it again. When the crowd saw this, they immediately started to murmur among themselves.

"This was how he was also told to place his hand on the stone the last time"

"Seems like we came in vain. Clearly he's failed to awaken his element again"

Different opinions came in when they saw this. Those who were present the last time Grey did his test, also didn't think Grey will be able to awaken. To them, seeing this was like seeing Grey in the platform years ago. What happened in both cases was exactly the same.

The energy circled all over his body before returning to the stone. The Elder once again came over to check. He was left stunned by what he saw, he couldn't even speak the results of the test.

The people were surprised by his behavior.

"Could it be that he was able to awaken his element?" magic

They immediately started speculating about the result of the test. They knew something must have definitely happened for the Elder to have this sort of reaction.

"Elder, what is the result?. We don't have much time, so tell us the results"  
The representative of the Starlight Academy spoke coldly toward his for not calling the result sooner.

The Elder immediately got out of his shocked state and immediately announced the result.

"Grey, Lightning element Purple grade talent and Earth element Pink grade talent" He announced loudly.

When everyone heard the result, they all looked dumbstruck. Even Grey had a surprised look in his face.

Jonas had a look of disbelief. "Dual Elementalist"

Grey was surprisingly a rare Dual Elementalist, and what was more shocking was the fact that he had the Lightning element as well. Although the grade of the talent for the Earth element, it doesn't change the fact that he is a Dual Elementalist.

Martha looked at her son surprised, 'Did he know about this. We will talk when we get home' She didn't want to distract herself from what was happening. Today, Grey has shamed them all. And also, he had surprised even her who stayed with him.

Martha looked at Grey's face which also had a look of surprise. 'Seems like he wasn't aware of this as well' She calmed down when she felt it okay already.

The crowd immediately burst into an uproar.

"Did the Elder just call two different elements?"

"Yes, Lightning and Earth elements"

"He is a Dual Elementalist"

The crowd couldn't calm down. Not only were the crowd agitated, the representatives felt more agitated. This is an unseen talent. Each of his element balances him completely. One is for attacking, while the other is used mostly for defense.

Jonas just looked on without being able to say anything. The representatives from each Academy even forgot to fight over which Academy he will be admitted to.

Grey looked at the reactions of everyone and also how they looked. 'I'll always remember this day'. Grey was proud of himself.

He searched for Martha with his eyes and saw her smiling towards him. He walked out of the platform towards his mother.

The stunned crowd still haven't been able to get over what they heard. The representatives quickly regained their wits and quickly shouted for Grey to wait.

"Wait!, which Academy will you like to join" The Elder of the Lunar Academy said.

Grey looked at them and chuckled to himself. "I will be joining the Lunar Academy". Grey didn't bother to wait before replying. He had a good impression of the representative from the Lunar Academy. He still remembered how he cheered him up when he came for the test previously.

Grey left the platform and headed towards where his mother sat. The crowd still haven't been able to get out of the shock, from what they witnessed.

Derek's face paled when he heard the result. He knew there was a bad blood between the both of them, so when he thought about Grey's current status, he couldn't help but be scared.

Grey felt very happy deep down when he saw the reactions of everyone.

'Hehehe, surprise suckers' Grey snickered in his heart. The feeling of victory truly was a good feeling. After being mocked for so long, now he had climbed up from the abyss and stood straight before them. Yet, none could speak before him.

"Well done Grey, you've truly silenced them. And also, you made me proud" Martha spoke with a huge smile on her face.

"Of course, I'm the best. You didn't expect anything less from me right?" Grey shrugged and said with a little laugh.

"Will you die if you don't praise yourself for once?" Martha asked with a look that scared the shit out of Grey.

Grey immediately dropped his head, clearly not having any plans of replying.

Martha looked at him and shook her head, she could tell no matter what happened, Grey will always be Grey.

A.N : We made it back into the top 10 guys. Now new target, top 5. We can do it!!

*Chapter 18: Wait! Can She Read Minds?*

The entire arena stayed quiet for a long time. The representatives forgot to even remind the Elder to continue the test. The representative from the Starlight Academy was obviously stunned, not expecting Grey to pick the Lunar Academy instead.

He already had the thought of sucking up to Grey while they were still here. He clearly remembered how he acted towards Jonas, he felt he didn't do enough. That was why Jonas didn't bother with him all this while, he planned to make it up with Grey.

If he could have a good relationship with someone like Grey, it would make life easier for him. The best Elders were sent to better and bigger cities, but he was sent here, this little place called Red City.

But what he can't deny was the fact that he had witnessed things the other Elders haven't. To be able to first witness Grey failing to awaken his element, to seeing him awakening dual elements. It was an unforgettable experience.

The Elder from the Lunar Academy was struck with joy when he heard Grey's reply and burst into laughter. The other representatives looked at him with envy. They knew he would surely be rewarded by the Academy for bringing such a talent back. Even if this would be the only achievement he had in the sect, it was something worth being proud about.

What annoyed the representatives from the other Academies was the fact that Grey didn't even think and just chose them outright. He should have at least gave them all a chance before deciding which he wanted to join.

Although most of the talents head to the Starlight Academy, at least there had been some who picked them.

Jonas looked at everything going on with a complicated look. He remembered how much of a stir he caused when he took his test. But comparing it to Grey's, it wasn't worth talking about.

When he chose to join the Starlight Academy, the other representatives only felt sad about losing such a talent. But the reactions they are currently showing towards losing Grey was clearly more than just being sad.

He looked at Grey's smiling face and suddenly felt irritated, 'Humph, what is there to be proud about. I'm already ahead of you in Planes, there is no way for you to catch up even if you're a Dual Elementalist'.

Jonas has always liked being the center of attention, he enjoyed the looks everyone gave him. But with the emergence of Grey, everything changed. All the kids who used to look at him with worshiping eyes, were now staring at Grey like he was more than a God.

"Humph, why are you holding up the test. We don't have all day" Jonas immediately snorted and coldly said towards the Elder in charge of the test.

The Elder immediately regained his calm and quickly called out the next name on the list. The kid whose name was called, stood still, it was like he totally forgot his name. The crowd still hadn't gotten over what happened, so he couldn't be blamed.

The Elder shouted the name for the second time before the kid hurried over for his test. The entire arena didn't have any enthusiasm towards the rest of the test, they knew they had already seen the highlight of the test. magic

The test ended with the crowd still stunned. The boy who failed to awaken his element 4 years ago was actually a Dual Elementalist. It was shocking, no one expected something like this to happen.

Everyone who had previously mocked him started feeling scared, they felt like they were standing on fire. 'What if he wants to get revenge on me' This was what they were all thinking.

Some even went over to Grey's house to congratulate him.



When Martha saw them, she frowned immediately. She didn't like any of them because they insulted Grey when he hadn't awoken his element. If not for the fact that they were all scared of her, they might have done more than just insulting him.

Grey didn't even bother with any of them. Currently, the representative from the Lunar Academy came over to talk to him.

"It's surprising you were able to awaken your element after not being able to awaken it while you were 12 years old. This truly is a rare sight" The representative said with a sigh.

"It was all thanks to Seniors word that I was able to hang on and not lose faith" Grey said calmly. When he saw him, he suddenly remembered what he said. Truth be told, he didn't even remember how he got out of the arena, talk less of what he was told. But he had to put up a good demeanor in front of the representative.

'Like I remembered what you said' Grey thought. That truly was the worst day of his life.

"I only said it to encourage you. Truth be told, I have never seen anyone who was able to awaken his element after failing once. I've only read about it in books" The representative said with a smile.

"Oh by the way, my name's Chris. You can call me Elder Brother Chris" Chris told Grey his name.

"I think I'll stick with Senior" Grey said with a smile. Although Grey was troublesome, he was respectful. His mother taught him this, so no matter if he will one day grow stronger than them or stand at his peak, his elders will always remain his elders. But there have been a few times he was disrespectful towards some older people, not everyone deserves the respect an elder should be given.

Martha almost got to the point where she wanted to chase all their visitors away. Luckily they left on their own. If Grey were to be present, he would have clearly seen the fear in the eyes of the leaving visitors.

When Grey saw her coming inside, "Mom are they all gone?" He asked.

"Yes, they said they had things to do, hence they left early" Martha replied.

Grey looked at her for some time, he clearly didn't believe it. 'She must have scared them away' Grey thought.

'Why is she giving me that look, did she know what I was thinking?. No!, impossible' Grey felt genuinely scared.

A.N: Come on guys, we're now at the 7th place in the ranking. 5th place not far away.. We can do it!!

*Chapter 19:Wish You Were Here*

Chris looked at the mother and son duo, clearly surprised by the sudden silence after Martha replied to Grey's question.

"Grey, how come you didn't even get tea for our guest?" Martha decided to break the silence. Due to receiving guests, she was unable to personally receive Chris. When she saw Grey didn't even prepare tea for him, she immediately chided him.

"It's okay, I didn't plan on staying long. I only came over to confirm with Grey when he will be able to leave for the Academy with me" Chris said with a smile.

Martha looked at Grey when she heard this, clearly indicating the decision was up to him. When Grey saw her look, he knew what she meant.

When he wanted to reply, he immediately froze. He was excited about starting cultivation, so he wanted to say they could leave the next day. But when he thought of it, he felt lucky.

'That was a close call, she would have definitely flipped out if I said I wanted to leave tomorrow' Grey thought while heaving a sigh. Although he said this in his heart, he knew he couldn't leave her so soon. He wanted to spend time with her.

When he still hadn't awoken his element, he was totally occupied with training. Now, he would be leaving soon. It will be wrong of him if he didn't spend some time with his lovely mother.

When Martha heard this, she felt happy inside. She knew how eager Grey was about cultivating, but he decided to stay a week just for her sake.

"Okay, I'll come back a week from now. I'll be in the city until then" Chris nodded and prepared to leave. magic

"Okay" Grey walked Chris to the door.

"Take care of yourself, goodbye for now" Chris advised before heading out.

"I will, goodbye" Grey waved at him before heading back into the house.

When he stepped in, he looked at Martha who was standing and looking at him lovingly.

"Why did you decide to wait a week before leaving?" Martha asked, although she knew the reason, she still wanted to hear what Grey would say.

"What's the difference if I start cultivating now or in a weeks time. I only took a week off, so I can rest after so many days of constant training" Grey said.

When Martha heard his reply, her smiling face immediately changed. On seeing the change in her facial expression, Grey burst into laughter.

"I'm only joking mom. I wanted to spend time with the best mother in the world before leaving. If I had left immediately, wouldn't that make me a bad child" Grey continued laughing while stating his real reason to Martha.

When Martha heard this, a sweet smile immediately surfaced on her face.

"Humph, luckily you still think of your mother"

"Of course, I'll miss you a lot when I'm not here. Besides, I won't be able to see a beautiful lady who lights up my life every day" Grey said cheekily.

"Save your teasing for the young girls of the Academy" Martha rolled her eyes when she heard Grey's teasing. She also felt sweet inside.

"By the way, how come you're a Dual Elementalist. You didn't tell me you comprehended a new element" Martha asked the question she had wanted to know when she heard the result.

"Even I didn't know about it until today, I had a little understanding of the Earth element when I went over to the lightning mountain, but I didn't expect it to actually awaken the element so quickly" Grey said in a tone that clearly showed his surprise.

"Truly unexpected. Well, it's a good thing for you. Only, I don't think it will be easy for you to comprehend new elements. You were fortunate this time, let's hope your luck continues" Martha said seriously.

"Yeah, now I'll have to focus on cultivating and comprehending the elements. It wouldn't be as it used to, since I wouldn't be to put all my focus on one of them" Grey shared his thoughts with Martha.

Grey spoke with Martha for the rest of the day before deciding it was time to get some rest.

"Mom, I miss dad" Grey suddenly said when he was about to leave. It had already been so long yet his father still haven't returned.

"Yes, I miss him too" Martha said with a faint voice.

"When will he return?" Grey asked. Grey had been asking this question for a long time now.

"I don't know dear, but he promised me he'll return safely. He also told me he might stay for a long time before returning, I initially begged him not to go, but he said it was very important and had to leave. And besides, he's never lied to me. So I know he'll come back to me" Martha said firmly.

She knew just how many times she had used this statement to not lose hope. After being gone for so long, she had never once lost hope. Her husband will never lie to her. He will definitely return.

"Yeah, he will definitely return. It's just, I wish he were here to celebrate with us" Grey said with a smile. He knew bringing up this topic will ruin their celebratory mood, but he just had to bring it up.

Martha looked at Grey with a smile, she really does love him a lot. She decided to let him off for his performance during the time he was called up.

She suddenly felt lonely when she thought about Grey's upcoming departure, her husband still hasn't returned, now her son would be leaving soon also.

She looked out the window with tears flowing down her cheek like rain. She's always been strong because of Grey. But when she's alone, she clearly feels the pain of her husband not being here. Doing so much has not been easy for her, but she had to stay strong not just for herself but also for her son.

"Wish you were here"

*Chapter 20:Departure*

Grey spent time with Martha, but he had already gotten used to always training. So after 3 days, he had to go train. Martha shook her head when she saw this.

She knew he wouldn't be comfortable staying this long without doing anything. Fortunately, he didn't spend all day training like he usually does. He would only spend approximately 4 hours training before heading back home.

He encountered the representative from the Starlight Academy when he was returning from his training.

"You can still change your mind, you know," He said to Grey

"I've already made my decision. Thanks for the invitation though" Grey declined politely. Grey wanted to continue his journey but was blocked again by the representative.

"The Lunar Academy isn't even in the top 3 in terms of strength. We've dominated the empire for years now" He said proudly.

Grey knew what he said was right, but he didn't care about it. He liked how Senior Chris presented himself, this, in turn, made him have a good impression of the Lunar Academy.

Grey had never been the haughty type, and he had learned a lot during these 4 years he was not able to awaken his element. He knew more about human nature also.

"You will regret this decision of yours," The representative said coldly before leaving.

Grey looked at him with cold eyes, he didn't like him. Good thing he wouldn't see him once he joins the Lunar Academy.

Grey went home and continued his normal routine. He spent most of his time with Martha then went over to the forest to train. He also visited the lightning mountain once more, he savored the feeling he got from it.

"This is a nice place, hopefully, I can find a place like this in the Academy"  
Grey loved the feeling he got whenever he came here to meditate.

Elementalists cultivate by meditating, they try to attract the elemental particles of their said elements into their bodies. It would then be refined by the Elementalist. The Collection Plane is all about collecting the elemental particles into the body of an Elementalist.

After collecting the particles to a certain level, then the fusion stage would begin. Grey heard Jonas had already broken through to the Arcane Plane. This was the same Plane the mayor of Red City was currently in.

Grey couldn't wait to start his cultivation journey, just the thought of it got him excited. Grey prepared himself for his journey and soon it was only a day before he left. Senior Chris was staying at an Inn in the city, so getting to him wouldn't be an issue. Grey was sure he wouldn't even need to search for him.  
magic

Normally, the representative wouldn't have asked when he wanted to leave. He would have just told him they will be leaving soon.

Each representative rarely stays more than 4 days in the city. They didn't like coming here in the first place, so they were always grumpy if they had to stay longer. But due to Grey's talent, he had to stay for a week just so he could fulfill Grey's demands. Although he wasn't sucking up to him, he wasn't trying to offend him either.

This was one of the reasons Grey respected him even more. Grey knew if it were to be other representatives, they would have tried to suck up to him. This also made him more curious about the Lunar Academy.

If the Academy isn't as the representative presented, then he would be very disappointed. Although he wouldn't have a problem since he was a Dual Elementalist, he would have a high status anywhere he went. Power was everything, and talented individuals were respected a lot, since they would turn into powerhouses in the future, so long as they do not die early.

Finally, the day of his departure finally came. Martha was feeling both sad and happy, she was happy Grey's dream of cultivating was about to be realized but was sad since she would be left all alone. She suddenly thought of something and quickly made a decision.

"Grey, I'll be heading to meet your father" Martha suddenly spoke.

"You know where dad is?" Grey asked in a surprised tone.

"Actually, I would have gone with him if not for you. You were the only reason keeping me here. Now since you're about to go to the Academy, I'll be able to go freely without worrying about you" Martha said while caressing Grey's cheek.

Grey thought about it and felt it was the right decision. Staying here wouldn't bring her anything.

"So, how will I find you," Grey asked. He wanted to know where they were so in case he wanted to go find them, it would be easy.

"Don't worry about us for now. I'll send you a message when I get there. Just focus on your cultivation for now" Martha reassured Grey. She wanted him to focus fully on his cultivation. He has already fallen behind, so he needs to fully focus on his cultivation.

"Okay mom, but don't forget to send me the message, so I won't get worried about you" It has already been so long since he heard from his father, if his mother was added, it would be devastating for him.

Chris came after some time, "Grey, are you ready" he asked.

"Yes," Grey replied.

"Okay, come with me" Chris replied before going out of the house, heading in the direction of the city gate.

Grey hugged Martha before walking out. He stood outside and looked at the house for some time before following in the footsteps of Chris. When they passed through the city gates, Grey suddenly felt nostalgic. He couldn't help but taking another look at the city he had stayed in all his life. When he looked back, he saw Martha standing not too far from him with tear filled eyes.

A new phase of his life was about to begin.