

Affinity 111

Chapter 111 - Spatial Storage

'Hey! Why did you use the flame to refine your body? I'm almost certain only a al beast will do that', Void asked Grey who was walking to get his last pair of clothes from his bag.

"Oh, that? Well... It's kinda weird, but I like training my body, so on seeing this chance I decided to further improve the strength of my body", Grey hesitated before replying.

He couldn't just tell Void about the pearl and his ability to fuse elements or gain comprehension of other elements. Even though there was a connection between him and Void, he would not trust him recklessly.

What if Void left him after they left this place? Wouldn't that mean his secret would be exposed?

'I can't tell him about it, for now, I didn't even dare to tell Klaus or Teacher yet. There's no way I'll divulge my secret to him so easily', Grey thought seriously.

Only his parents knew about this, well, so he thought for now. And according to what the Senior told him, he should keep it a secret, until he was strong enough to protect himself from the greedy eyes of others.

There were a lot of people that wouldn't hesitate to kill him because of it. This, he is well aware of.

'Well, you're one weird human', Void looked at him weirdly.

Grey shrugged before putting on his clothes, there was no need for him to explain further. After putting on his clothes, he suddenly remembered something.

"Where did you store the lotus?", he asked while staring at Void.

'I have a spatial storage in my body where I keep things', replied Void.

"Spatial storage? What's that?", Grey couldn't help but ask.

He looked at Void in surprise, it hadn't even been up to three hours since he 'hatched', yet he knew so much.

'Don't tell me you don't know that as well?', asked the stunned Void.

'How the hell does he not know even about spatial storage when he has one?!', thought the flabbergasted Void.

Although he didn't know how it was made, he was able to clearly feel the space element in the ring Grey had.

Grey stared at him blankly.

"If I do, do you think I'll waste my time in asking?", Grey asked with a tinge of annoyance.

It wasn't like he knew what Void was talking about. He knew what a storage was, and from the word spatial, he could deduce it was related to the space element, but he couldn't use just that and start assuming things. As long as he isn't a hundred percent sure about it, he would definitely ask. Other than his strength, he also enjoyed improving his knowledge, so these foreign words always pique his interest.

'It's like a separate space where you store things. Watch this', Void decided it was best to demonstrate it to him on seeing that Grey still wore a weird expression on his face.

Grey looked at him seriously like a student taking lectures. One of the few things he enjoyed was actually learning, when it got to new and mysterious things, he wanted to know the why and how it was possible.

Void walked to where Grey's blade was on the ground and touched it.

The next scene made Grey stare wide-eyed. Yes, he had seen Void 'store' the lotus previously, but seeing it again was still intriguing.

After Void touched the blade, it disappeared into thin air.

"Wait! Is this an ability for Space Elementals alone? Or can others use it?", Grey inquired.

This was quite a fascinating ability, storing things in a separate space without others seeing where you stored them. This means, if he were to acquire a treasure, he wouldn't need to be scared of others seeing it, also, if the space was large, then he could even keep the entire body of some of those rare beasts he had killed here.

'Naturally, it should be an ability for only Space Elementals, but it seems like there are storage items which others could use as well', replied Void with some uncertainty.

He was just born, so there is no way he would know about everything, other than things related to him, he knew nothing else.

"There are storage items others can use?", Grey's eyes lit up when he heard this.

How amazing would it be if he had one? He wouldn't need to bother about his bag anymore. It was quite tiresome to carry it sometimes, although it was light, he had to ensure he was always careful with it, especially when fighting. Because of the fear of his items being stolen, he always keeps his bag close to him at all times. But if he had such storage items, he wouldn't be bothered about that anymore.

Void nodded.

'It looks like he has no idea there is one with him', he thought internally.

Grey calmed himself, he was excited about the prospect of obtaining such items, but thinking more about it, he knew the chances of getting one was low. He didn't even know about the space element previously, so how would he know if those items existed?

"How did you know there were spatial storage items others can use?", asked Grey.

From the first reply he got from Void when he asked about it, he was able to sense the slight uncertainty in his voice, so he knew Void wasn't a hundred percent sure about it.

'Because I've seen one', Void answered casually.

"What! Where?", Grey exclaimed in excitement.

From Void's tone and expression, he was sure he wasn't lying to him.

'That ring on your bag', Void pointed his paw at Grey's bag.

"What ring?", asked the stunned Grey.

Because it had been quite a while he collected the ring, and after he studied it and didn't find anything about it, he had forgotten he even had it in the first place.

Void looked at Grey speechless.

'Do I really have to show him everything?', he asked internally.

If a stranger overhears their conversations, they would think Grey was the newborn while he was the one who had been in the world for long.

Seeing the look on Void's face, Grey knew how foolish his question was. The bag is right there with him, all he had to do was search for it.

It didn't take long for him to spot the ring in his bag. The bag wasn't as occupied as it used to be due to Void eating more than half of what was inside.

'It's the ring! I knew it was special. But, what can fit into this small ring?', he asked himself.

He recognized the ring the moment he laid his eyes on it, it was the ring he got from one of those boxes at the palace he entered with his friends.

'That's it', Void said after Grey took out the ring.

"I acquired it by chance, to think it was a spatial storage item. But given its size, can it store a large object?", Grey asked doubtfully.

'I don't really know, it all depends on the space created in it. I also think the quality of the material can affect the size of its space', Void answered truthfully.

Grey nodded before once again studying it. Even after some time passed, he still couldn't figure out how to use it.

"Do you know how to use it?", he decided to ask Void for help.

But Void shook his head, he was just as clueless on how they can access it as he was. Although he had a spatial storage in him, it was something he was born with, he didn't learn how to use it, he just knew how to.

Both man and cat started studying it carefully, and after making multiple deductions, Grey was finally able to access the ring.

And he was stunned by the size of its space. But after the initial shock, a surge of excitement enveloped him.

"Haha, this is great", he laughed gleefully.

Chapter 112 - Cyan?!

On seeing Grey's joyful expression, Void curiously took the ring and checked it out. When he saw the space, he threw it back to him in disdain.

'How can you be happy over such a small space?' he asked disapprovingly.

At first, he thought the space was huge given how excited Grey was, but when he saw it, he found out its size. It wasn't even close to one-tenth of his spatial storage.

The storage ring had a space of ten square meters in total. That was like the space of a room in some places.

"What do you mean how can I be happy? Have you seen the bag I'm carrying?", asked Grey showing Void the bag.

For someone who used to carry a bag that wasn't even close to one-twentieth of the space in the storage ring, he should be happy, in fact, he should celebrate because of the upgrade he just received. It was like moving from a single tiny room apartment to a huge mansion, the difference was just too vast.

Now, all he had to do was wear a ring, and all his items would be stored there, how could he not be happy?

'You do have a point though, but compared to my storage space, it's quite small', replied Void.

"I'm happy with what I have, this thing is going to help me a lot", said Grey.

He wasn't bothered or jealous because compared to Void's space, his own was small. Only ungrateful and greedy people would feel that way, he was grateful for this one he had. After he has awakened his space element, then he would create a bigger space. But for now, this will do!

After calming down, he asked Void how to store things in the spatial storage, which Void quickly taught him. After keeping everything there, he focused his attention on the ancient path ahead of him.

He had stayed here for over five hours now, it's time to leave. And he also remembered the expert said something about a legacy, he couldn't wait to find it. But even if he didn't find it, he wasn't bothered since he already got the greatest treasure according to the expert.

Just as he was about to step into the path, he suddenly recalled something.

"Haha, I got the blue flame", he laughed in exhilaration.

Having a blue flame meant his firepower is higher compared to other Fire Elementalists. But this wasn't what he was more concerned about though, he recalled when he was forming his essence beads, the fire element was the most dominant element in his essence orb, so he was curious what its grade was.

Void was surprised that Grey who was about to enter the ancient path stopped in his tracks and started playing with his fire before he sat down crossed leg all of a sudden and went into a semi-conscious state.

'What's he up to now?', he thought while looking at Grey strangely.

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Inside the Chaos space, Grey slowly walked towards the stone he uses to check the grade of his elements. The last time he used the stone was after he acquired his water element some days ago, now he was about to use it again.

Where the stone was located in the Chaos space was a place built like a temple on top of a mountain top. Being the owner of the Chaos space, although it was vast, he could travel it instantaneously.

Looking at it, he couldn't help but reminisce about when he first came here. At that time, he just fulfilled the requirements needed to stimulate the pearl in his body. Now within just two years, he had gone from having a single element to having five, from an ordinary person to someone who was almost at the peak of power in the Azure continent.

Thinking about all this, he suddenly recalled his mother.

'Why hasn't she contacted me yet?', he thought worriedly.

Calming his mind, he placed his hand on the stone. Just like it usually does, an unknown energy seeped out of the stone and entered his body before circling around it. After going a circle, it returned to the stone.

Five colors first lit up to represent each of his five elements, then in the center of each color, another color was visible. This was the color for the grade of each element.

He already knew the grade for his previous elements, so he didn't focus on them and just stared at the red-colored part of the stone that represented his fire element.

"Cyan", he blurted out in confusion.

At the center of the fire red part of the stone was a vibrant pale greenish-blue color.

He had read about the violet grade from books, so he knew there was a grade higher than blue, only it was hard to come by. But he had never heard or read about a cyan grade before.

Looking at it, he was certain the cyan grade was higher than the violet grade, only, he didn't know by how much. Since there were records of the violet grade but not of the cyan grade, it showed it had not appeared in the Azure continent before, or maybe it was just like the space element, unknown to them.

He left the Chaos space after checking the grade.

Since he didn't know about it, he'll inquire about these new things from his Teacher. Maybe Chris knew about them but didn't say because they were too rare.

"Let's go", Grey gestured before taking a step to enter the path.

'*Tsk* I thought you had fallen in love with this place and wanted to die here. I was already planning on how to conduct a burial ceremony for you after I've left this place', said Void.

"Fallen in love your head! Who would fall in love with this place?", Grey rolled his eyes at Void before stepping into the ancient path and disappearing.

'Hehehe, I'll finally see new things. Be prepared world, for I, master cat, is coming. Hahaha', Void thought in elation while running into the ancient path as well.

This was the only place he had seen since coming into the world, now, he would get to see new things.

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"Hmm, is this where the legacy is located?", a voice asked while staring at the castle ahead of him.

The owner of the voice was none other than Grey, on his shoulder, a black cat sat lazily there.

After stepping into the ancient path, he was transported to the front of a castle. Looking behind him, he realized the path also led somewhere else.

If one looks at the castle clearly, they'll realize it was the same castle Jonas entered some hours ago.

'There's only one way to find out', said Void.

"Un", Grey nodded.

He knew what Void was talking about, and that was entering into the castle. When he enters, he'll know what lies in it.

The path he was currently on led to somewhere else, so if there's nothing in the castle, he'll just head towards the other side of the path.

Taking a step forward, he slowly pushed the door and walked inside it...

Chapter 113 - Touch It!

Grey slowly observed the castle after closing the door. He was currently in a hall that had four pillars that acted as a support, there were some seats placed at the side with a throne at the other side of the hall. The hall was at least one hundred and fifty meters in length, and it was seventy meters wide.

That throne was obviously the seat the owner of the castle previously used. Seeing there was nothing of interest here, he changed his attention to the two doors by the side of the throne situated on the other side of the hall.

"I'll quickly check them out then leave this place, I still have no idea where this place is", Grey muttered while randomly choosing the door on the right and walking in.

Void on the other hand was looking at everything curiously, he had never seen these things before. But he was able to deduce what they were, obviously.

Ten minutes later...

Grey came out of that side of the castle and faced the other door. After passing through the door, he entered a hallway. There were only six rooms there, and other than beds, chairs, and desks, he found nothing else. So he didn't delay and quickly came to the other door, maybe he could acquire something nice here.

Another ten minutes passed, yet he still couldn't find anything.

"Strange, could it be there's nothing here? Oh well, guess I'll have to leave then", Grey muttered under his breath.

He sensed there was something here, but even after searching all the rooms, he still couldn't find anything. He found the feeling quite strange since he was clearly sensing there was something here.

Shaking his head, he headed towards the door.

'Wait! There's something here', said Void.

"You can feel it also?", he stopped in his tracks while observing everywhere once more.

'Yes, but finding the location of it is another story', Void nodded.

Just like Grey, he could also sense there was something here, but couldn't locate where it was.

"Let's search this hall thoroughly", gestured Grey.

Void nodded before jumping off his shoulder and looking around.

Three minutes went by and the duo still hasn't found anything.

Although Grey wasn't impatient, he wouldn't spend his entire time searching for what he didn't even know. There were still things he had to do.

Just as Grey was about to leave, one of the pillars caught his attention. On the pillar, there were weird inscriptions on them.

When he observed them clearly, he knew they were arrays, but due to how complex they were, he had no idea what type of arrays they were.

Following the inscriptions, he noticed the lines ran into the floor before moving in a particular direction. He traced the lines with his eyes and noticed it headed to the throne at the other end of the hall.

He went to the other three pillars to confirm if they had it too, and just like the first one, they also did, and they all connected at the throne.

Seeing how Grey was studying the pillars, Void realized Grey had found some clues about what was here.

'Did you find anything?', he asked.

"Yes, I think. I'm not too sure about it yet though", Grey replied truthfully.

He once again focused on the throne before walking towards it. When he got close to the throne, he studied it properly before trying to figure out what the array was.

Although it took him quite some time, he was able to find out what it was.

'It's just like that stone Teacher placed in front of the valley', he thought in realization.

Now, all he had to do was find the spot he needed to touch before the secret opening appears.

"Come here", he gestures towards Void.

'What?', Void asked while walking in Grey's direction.

"Touch any suspicious part of the throne", Grey instructed.

'Uh!', Void exclaimed unconsciously.

He didn't expect Grey would tell him to do that, but before he could question any further, he realized Grey had already gotten to work.

In two minutes, they had molested the throne so much that there were only a few places left.

Rumble!

The sound of something opening up rang out in the hallway.

"Haha, I knew there was a secret opening", Grey laughed happily.

'Yeah, after molesting the throne, that is', Void mocked while looking at him strangely.

"Molested! All I did was touch some parts", replied Grey angrily.

"And it's a throne for crying out loud!", he added.

'That's how they all start though', Void continued mocking.

"Shit! What the hell are you even saying? Sometimes I feel like you've been in this world for so long now", Grey's body trembled.

'Where does this little guy get such ideas?', he thought while looking at Void suspiciously.

After they finished their small quarrel, Grey focused his attention back on the opening. At the center of the hall, a stairway that led underground could be seen.

"Let's go in", Grey said still slightly annoyed.

They headed into the stairway and disappeared underground.

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In a secret room under the castle, a figure could be seen covered in flames. His eyes were closed, and he was sitting in a crossed leg position.

Unknown to that figure, there was an old-looking man, floating quietly above him.

The man couldn't be seen with the physical eyes.

The old man was still staring at the figure quietly before suddenly raising his head and looking in the direction of the door that leads into the room.

One minute later...

"There's a door here", Grey said while walking closer to it.

He pushed the door and saw a figure bathing in flames, due to acquiring the fire element recently, and how high the grade was, he didn't feel the heat radiating out of the room.

Looking closely, he realized the figure was familiar.

"It's him", he spoke unconsciously.

Chapter 114 - Void's Special Ability

Grey stared at the familiar figure bathing in flames. What the figure was doing was different from what Grey did previously. Although it seemed he was bathing in flames since he was covered entirely in flames, the flame isn't doing him any harm.

'You know him?', Void asked when he heard what Grey said.

"Yeah, his name's Jonas, he's from the same city as I am", said Grey while looking at the figure.

The only reason Grey still knew his name till this day was because, in the entire Red City, Jonas was the only one who he could still remember since they took the test together, and he was even present when he retook the test.

"If I'm correct, this should be the legacy of the expert", Grey said through narrowed eyes.

'So, are you friends?', asked Void.

"We're not even acquaintances, I only know his name, nothing else", explained Grey.

'Okay, then why are you still standing? Stop him before he gets everything. This would give you another boost in strength', advised Void.

He didn't know why Grey was still staring at Jonas. If he were to be in his place, he would have already attacked, so he could acquire the rest of the legacy.

While he and Grey were descending the stairway previously, Grey told him about where this place was. So he knew they all came here to search for treasures that would increase their strengths. This was a golden opportunity for Grey to get another major boost, so why delay when you're not even friends with who was currently inheriting the legacy.

Grey squinted his eyes and stared at Jonas's figure before shaking his head.

"It's not worth the hassle. He's already here and had acquired most of the essence here. Although what is left could still probably allow me to make another breakthrough, I have no thoughts of taking this from him. Had we come at the same time as he did, or came before I acquired that blue flame, then I might have taken a fancy of it,"

"But now, let him just have it", he said before turning away decisively.

He was not a saint, but it didn't mean he was a demon either. If it were to be someone else, he might have still made this same decision, well, unless the person was an enemy, then he'll kill the person straight away without any quibbles.

Having acquired the blue flame, and even boosting the strength of his body to new heights, being too greedy might cause more harm than good. But if he really wanted to kill Jonas, he had no problems with that because from Jonas's aura he could tell he was only in the Second stage of the Origin Plane.

'You're too soft', Void complained while following behind him.

From Void's point of view, Grey letting Jonas grow stronger when he had the opportunity to grow stronger himself was being softhearted. Compared to humans, all beasts are more brutal, most wouldn't even mind killing their entire families to acquire strength. But there are a few humans who wouldn't mind killing not just their entire family, but their entire city just to acquire what they want.

Some minutes after Grey and Void left, Jonas who was cultivating previously opened his eyes. He was able to sense the presence of Grey previously but because he was at a critical point in his cultivation, he didn't dare to be distracted.

Although he couldn't open his eyes, his heart pounded furiously when Grey guessed this was the legacy of the expert, he almost made a wrong circulation during his cultivation because of the fear. He only calmed down after Grey said he didn't have any plans of attacking.

He recognized Grey the moment he said they were from the same city because other than himself and Grey, no one else would be able to cultivate to this stage before the age of twenty given their grades in their elements.

'I'm grateful for this, but, who was he talking to, and what is this blue flame he spoke about that made him not put even this legacy in his eyes?', Jonas asked himself baffled by Grey's decision.

Even though he was curious about all this, he quickly threw them out of his mind. He already counted himself lucky that Grey was the one who came here, had it been someone else, then he would be dead for sure, so why would he bother with what Grey obtained? Even if it's better than this legacy, so what?

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Unknown to Grey, Void, and Jonas, the old man was quietly observing everything that happened. He couldn't help but nod in approval to Grey's disposition. He was able to tell Grey just refined the blue flame not too long ago. Even if Grey had decided to attack, there was nothing he could do since he was dead anyway, but he approved of how Grey didn't let greed get the better of him.

There were only a few people who would have such self-control when an opportunity is presented before them, even after they just acquired a better one. Besides, he knew all too well that no one would want to pass the chance to grow stronger.

"Umm, why do I sense a second soul in the boy", the old man muttered.

When he was still alive, he trained his spiritual energy to a terrifying rate, this was the reason he was able to use a technique to keep this fragment of his soul here till someone inherited his legacy. Even though before someone was finally able to come here most of the legacy's essence was gone, given how low the person's cultivation was, it was still a major boost for him.

And being a soul himself, he was very s.e.n.s.i.t.i.v.e towards other souls. What puzzled him was that he didn't sense the soul quickly, and it was only after Grey was leaving did he sense it.

He peered straight into the departing Grey's body, and just as he was about to confirm his conjecture, he shut his eyes and his body trembled, seemingly on the verge of fading.

"Hmph! It's surprising a mere soul fragment of a Demi-God would be able to sense me. But, even if your body was still here, I would still be able to kill you even though I'm just a soul", A voice said haughtily before a figure appeared in front of the old man's fading soul.

"Oh! It's you!", the figure said while looking at the fading soul clearly.

"You know me?", the old man asked with a confused expression.

"Haha, of course I do, but looks like you died in that war", the figure laughed.

The old man looked at the figure quietly, even though the figure was speaking in a friendly manner, he could tell the figure didn't care about him at all.

"I don't remember seeing you, and from what I still know. No God has appeared in this domain for a long time now, even at the time I was still alive, no one was able to ascend into Godhood", the old man said.

Being adept in spiritual energy, he didn't have any problems with browsing through Jonas's memory without hurting him. He was able to know some things from it, and he realized that people called that war the great war of God's, but the truth was different. In the entirety of this domain, no one had ever ascended into Godhood. They all stopped in the Demi-God Plane, all failing to take that last big step.

So how was the soul of a god present here?

"Who are you?", the old man couldn't help but ask.

"I'm the creator of the Chaos element, the Chaos God", the figure declared proudly.

When the old man heard the word 'chaos', his fading body jolted, and he looked at the figure in shock.

"It can't b..."

Before he could complete his statement, his soul faded away completely.

After seeing the old man fade completely, the figure turned around and looked at the back of Grey who was about to start ascending the stairway before disappearing.

If Grey was able to see this figure, he would be astounded, because, this was the Senior he saw in the Chaos space.

'Where are we headed?', Void asked after they stepped out of the castle.

"We only have one path to take", Grey walked towards the path ahead of them.

Thirty minutes later...

Grey and Void were currently standing at a three-way intersection, they were contemplating on which path to take.

'Follow the one on the left', Void suddenly pointed at the path on the left in an excited manner.

"What? Can you sense anything from there?", Grey asked puzzled.

'Yes, I can sense something giving off a good amount of energy from there. We aren't far from it', said Void.

Grey looked at him speechless.

"How can you sense there's something like that from here?", he asked with a doubtful expression.

When Void noticed the doubt in Grey's voice, he quickly explained.

'Remember I told you that since I was just born I need a lot of energy to sustain myself. Well, it just so happens that I have an ability to sense energy from a long distance away', he announced proudly.

"There's such an ability?", the amazed Grey asked.

'Of course, do you think I'm one of those ordinary beasts?', asked Void who wore an arrogant expression.

Grey was taken aback when he heard this, but he couldn't refute it. Yes, there is no way he should compare Void with other al beasts. Even if he doesn't know Void's abilities yet, just the fact that he hatched out of an egg had already made him special.

After thinking up to this point, Grey didn't doubt him anymore and dashed towards the path on the left.

Chapter 115 - Great Void Technique

"Uh! There's an old-looking palace over there. Is this where the energy you're feeling is coming from?", a voice asked thoughtfully while studying the old-looking palace on the right path on an intersection that was giving off an ancient vibe.

'No, it's still some distance away. But we should check this place out, it might probably have something good', a smaller voice replied, only, the voice sounded in the head of the first speaker.

The duo speaking is none other than Grey and Void.

Grey had his hand on his chin while he was scrutinizing the palace calmly with Void laying on his shoulder as always.

It had been almost thirty minutes since they left the castle Jonas was in, and following the directions Void pointed out, they had gone through two other intersections. Their journey here could be said to be filled with blood since he also had multiple battles on the way here. Some were against beasts, but most of them were against humanoid creatures that Grey had not seen before.

One had to say that those who would pass through the same route Grey passed through could be considered lucky because Grey didn't hesitate to eliminate every creature he found on the path. The creatures were either in the First or Second stage of the Origin Plane and to Grey, they weren't that strong.

The only thing that might have complicated things was their numbers, in some instances, he faced off against ten at a time. But since he's an inscriber, facing off against multiple opponents wasn't an issue for him as long as he got his inscriptions up quickly.

And after his breakthrough, his spiritual energy also saw an improvement. Now, the time he needed for inscribing was almost halved. Previously, he needed just over two minutes at most when creating the symbol, but now, he could create it within one minute and ten seconds.

If he were in the Fusion State, then he could create multiple symbols almost instantly. The only regret he had during the battles was that because he was in a hurry, he didn't test out the strength of his body.

Now, they were currently at another intersection with the path on the right leading to an old-looking palace. It was very small compared to the other ones he had seen since entering the trial land.

"There's an array outside the palace", Grey spoke, after studying the palace a little more.

'Since this palace is covered with arrays, there have to be treasures inside. Grey, can you destroy it?', asked Void.

He did not know arrays, so there was nothing he could do here.

"It shouldn't be a problem. If this array had been recently created, it wouldn't be possible for me to find the flaws or even think of breaking it, but because it has been here for too long, most of the power of the array has already disappeared and a lot of flaws have appeared.", Grey nodded, then strode towards the old looking palace.

Staring at the palace, he couldn't help thinking about his friends.

"I wonder how they're doing", Grey muttered to himself, but he didn't worry about them as much.

Soon, Grey approached the palace. His spiritual energy spread out like a torrent, allowing him to quickly find the flaws of the array very quickly. Then, he formed a seal with both hands, striking out a series of complicated seals that rapidly merged into a miniature array, then struck at the weakest spot of the old array.

Bang!

After a bang, cracks instantly appeared on the array. Once more, Grey struck out another series of seals. Due to the array having existed for a very long period of time, it could no longer withstand the pressure and shattered on the spot.

After breaking the array, Grey came to the front of the palace. The wooden door of the palace seemed shabby. Its surface was full of traces of time. With a slight push, the door collapsed like a decayed wood. The scent of decay that came from the inside made Grey frown slightly.

He wasn't in a hurry to go in. Instead, he scanned the surroundings with his spiritual energy. He wanted to make sure that there was no danger inside before stepping in. Although his strength had improved drastically, he didn't allow it to get to his head.

In a place like this where dangers could be found everywhere, there was no mistake in being careful wherever you went.

Sensing no danger, Grey walked inside. The interior of the palace was very small and empty. There was nothing in it. It was gloomy, looking like a haunted house that gave people an extremely uncomfortable feeling.

But very quickly, Grey saw a box in front. It was a black box. This was probably the only thing in the palace.

'Get that quickly. There must be something good inside the box', Void urged.

Grey walked forward and stopped in front of the box. Despite existing for so long, there wasn't any mark on the box. It only showed how extraordinary the material used in making the box was. He picked up the box and felt its weight wasn't as heavy as he expected.

The box could be opened directly as there wasn't any lock on it. Grey struck out an air wave using the wind element and the box flung open. For an instant, Grey's vision blurred.

Opening the box, he expected something to happen, but not this. Instead of it to give off a brilliant light, all Grey saw was darkness. It was like he was s.u.c.k.e.d inside the boundless space, the feeling was unique. Just as he was starting to feel something about it, everything returned to normal.

A scroll could be seen floating at the top of the box. Grey stretched his hand and grabbed it.

Opening it, the word 'Great Void Technique' was written boldly at the top of it. Below it was the description of how to use the technique.

"It's a space element technique!", Grey exclaimed in delight.

Void read the description of the technique and couldn't help but suck in a cold breath.

'It's just like my movement technique, only, it is more advanced. If only it was made for beasts', Void said with disappointment evident in his tone.

Because of how different the bodies of beasts are compared to humans, they couldn't use the same techniques as humans and had to create their own.

This movement technique was a very sophisticated technique that even Void wanted to acquire it. It was a shame the technique was for humans alone.

"Haha, this is a great treasure", Grey was beside himself with joy.

'Why are you so happy? It's not like you can use the space element', Void asked on seeing the excited Grey.

Hearing Void's question, Grey refrained from answering. He didn't know if he could trust Void yet, so he didn't bother to answer.

'If I could comprehend this technique, then I wouldn't have a problem comprehending the space element', he thought.

Although he tried to keep a poker face on, he couldn't stop himself from smiling. He had been thinking about how he could comprehend the space element for a long time now. But unexpectedly, even after entering the Chaos space, he didn't find anything related to the space element.

This has stumped him for some time now, but it looks like his luck isn't bad. Keeping the scroll, he once again observed the palace to ensure he didn't miss anything. After confirming there was nothing else here, he turned around to leave the place.

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Outside the palace, two youths could be seen looking at the palace.

"This is where it came from", one of them said.

The other narrowed his eyes to observe the palace closely.

Following the darkness, it led them here. So, they were certain someone had acquired the treasure here or was about to. And the treasure was what brought about the darkness. For something to cause such a strange phenomenon, if it wasn't a mysterious treasure, then what is?

"We should head in, maybe the person hasn't been able to acquire the treasure yet", the other youth suggested.

They didn't delay and started walking towards the palace, only to stop after taking four steps. Because, a figure who had a black cat on his shoulder was coming out from the palace, and from his expression, it looked like he obtained something good.

"It's you!", one of the youths pointed at Grey with anger visible in his eyes and his entire body trembling.

Grey who just stepped out of the palace was stunned by the youth who pointed at him. He didn't recall seeing this youth anywhere before.

"And you are?", he asked in a confused tone.

When the youth heard Grey's question, he flared up once again.

"You bastard! I'll kill you and those friends of yours!", he shouted seemingly on the verge of going crazy. Tears could be seen at the side of his eyes.

"I don't recall having any conflicts with you", Grey who was smiling previously was currently frowning.

"What happened", the other youth couldn't help but inquire of his companion on seeing he was on the verge of losing himself to anger.

The youth recounted his experience with Grey and his friends, but because of his anger, he couldn't explain properly.

But Grey heard one of his sentences clearly, and it immediately struck a bell.

This was the youth Klaus kicked in the nether region!

Chapter 116 - You're Ruthless! I Like It!

A weird expression appeared on Grey's face when he recalled the incident. He remembered the youth blacked out from pain after getting kicked by Klaus before being stripped off his clothes by Klaus once again.

When the youth saw Grey's expression after recognizing him, he was enraged once more. He didn't know what happened in the room after he fainted, but when he woke up, he was surprised to see his clothes were gone. Not just him, his friends also.

When had he ever been embarrassed like that before? Never!

That was the greatest humiliation he had ever faced in his life, but it was nothing compared to when he checked his nether region. The moment he saw the result of the kick he received, he passed out once again.

How could he accept it? His eggs were shattered! His life as a man was gone! He hated Klaus, he hated his friends. The hatred sank deep into his bones that the only reason he was still very much alive had turned to revenge.

He ground his teeth so much that blood started flowing from his mouth. His nails had sunken deep into his flesh because of clenching his fists too hard.

Grey seeing all this didn't say anything, even if he were to apologize in Klaus's stead, it wouldn't change anything. From the bloodshot eyes of the youth, he knew the youth would rather die than accept an apology.

He didn't feel sorry for the youth though, they were opponents at that time, so there was nothing to feel sorry about. Although, if he were to find out the youth was turned into a eunuch after that kick, he might feel a little pity since he was also a man.

"Since we've found one of them, we'll kill him first before finding the rest. And it's great he was the one who acquired the treasure", the other youth said.

To him, Grey would die even if he didn't have any previous encounter with his friend because he acquired the treasure they came searching for. But since he was someone his friend wanted to get revenge on, it wasn't an issue since it was the same as killing two birds with one stone. He would collect the treasure, while his friend would get revenge.

"No! I'll make him go through what I went through first. Then cripple him, after that, I'll drag him like a dog wherever I'm going until he dies!", the youth announced with a maniacal glint flashing through his eyes.

He didn't want Grey to die an easy death, he wanted him to suffer, he wanted him to beg for death, he wanted him to live a life worse than death!

'Isn't this a little too excessive? What did you do to make him hate you so much?', Void asked in a stunned voice.

He was left speechless when he heard what the youth said he wanted to do to Grey.

Grey was also at a loss of words, he wasn't the one who even attacked the youth, yet, the youth was facing him with such strong animosity.

"You've already suffered enough, I'll give you a chance to keep your life if you leave now. I'm in no mood to play with you", Grey waved them away.

Both youths were in the Third and Second stages of the Origin Plane respectively. Even if he couldn't defeat them within a short time, he was confident he could defeat them in the end.

"Hmph! A First stage Origin Plane Elementalist dares to be so arrogant in front of me", the other youth sneered.

He was in the Third stage of the Origin Plane, there was no way someone in the First stage could defeat him.

"Don't underestimate him, he's also a Dual Elementalist, and can easily fight across stages. We'll join hands together to quickly take him down", the castrated youth said.

The fact that he was angry didn't cloud his senses, he remembered Grey defeated his friend who was a stage above him.

"No one had ever fought across stages against me and won! I'll defeat him myself", the youth declared proudly.

He was the one who fights across stages, not the other way around. He was a genius from the Stellar empire, a Dual Elementalist, who would dare to say they could defeat him when they were one stage below him, talk less of two?

"You're right! There's no way he can defeat you", the castrated youth nodded.

Being driven by anger, he quickly put the thought of Grey being overly strong to the back of his mind. It wasn't like he was alone, since he was here with someone even stronger than himself, he didn't need to fear Grey.

"When I'm done with him, I'll leave him to you", the youth said while walking towards Grey leisurely.

Grey sighed while shaking his head, he didn't like unnecessary battles.

"To save yourself the pain, why don't you kill yourself", the youth said coldly.

"You think you can beat me?", Grey looked at the youth with a playful look.

"Heh, you think too highly of yourself. But before I beat you up, I'm quite curious about one thing though, where did you keep the treasure?", asked the youth.

He didn't see any bag with Grey, so he was curious about where Grey kept the treasure he acquired.

Grey didn't bother to answer, to him, talking so much nonsense with someone you wanted to beat up was a waste of time.

'Time to test out the strength of my body', he thought.

Standing ten meters away from the youth, Grey suddenly disappeared from his spot.

"Huh!", the youth exclaimed in shock.

Grey appeared within half a meter of him the next second and sent out a blow.

Bam!

Grey's blow connected with the earth armor the youth created. And to the spectators surprise, and even Grey, the youth was sent flying.

Bang!

The youth slammed into the ground fifteen meters away from his previous location.

Splatter!

He vomited a mouthful of blood that had pieces of internal organs in it.

Raising his head, he looked at Grey with fearful eyes.

The earthen armor he created could defend against a full-power attack of someone in the Third stage of the Origin Plane. But now, there was a hole in the spot Grey punched!

The castrated youth s.u.c.k.e.d in a cold breath. He was initially shocked by Grey's speed, but the attack power of that blow almost made him faint from fright.

"How can his physical strength be this high?!", he exclaimed in terror.

Due to the strengthening the body gets from the elements when cultivating, it's natural to see people with strong physical prowess. But he had never seen or heard of anyone whose body was as strong as Grey's body.

"Wow!", Grey exclaimed while looking at his hands in shock.

Because he wanted to test the strength of his body, he used his full strength in that blow, and the power stunned him. He wasn't too surprised by his speed since he also boosted his speed with the lightning and wind element. But the attack power shocked him greatly. This was almost the attack power of someone in the Fourth stage of the Origin Plane!

"Attack together!", the injured youth quickly suppressed the injury and ordered.

He regretted not heeding his friends' words. His earthen armor had shattered and the spot where Grey's blow connected was red. Although there were no physical injuries, he knew how strong the internal injury he suffered was.

"Yes", the castrated youth nodded.

They both surrounded Grey, with the injured youth at the front while the castrated youth was at his back.

Grey felt slightly regretful though, had he known, he would have struck the youth on the head. That would have killed him for sure, but he didn't bother though. He knew if not for the earth armor, then the injuries the youth suffered would have been stronger.

The other reason the youth wasn't fatally injured also attributed to the fact that since he was a Dual Elementalist, his body was stronger than Single Elementalist. Even though it wasn't half as strong as Grey's body, it was better than others.

"He's a monster!", the castrated youth yelled grief-stricken.

'How can his defenses be so strong? Why did I have to be enemies with someone like this?', he thought in despair.

To him, Grey was an enemy he didn't want to have!

Even after trying for so long, they had not been able to break through his defenses. Even when some of their attacks managed to connect, because some of its strengths had been reduced, it didn't seem to affect him much.

The other youth was also in despair, his heart was on the brink of failing him. He thought he was a genius, but on encountering Grey, he knew he was nothing.

Grey was also surprised by how strong his body was. He didn't expect his body's defense would increase by this much.

Ten minutes later...

"Please, spare me", the castrated youth cried out with snot running down his nose.

Grey had already killed his companion, now he was the only one left. Initially, he thought he couldn't live because he had been castrated, but now, Bullshit! He wanted to live, even if he wouldn't have a child it doesn't matter, as long as he's alive, he was okay.

"I'm sorry, I don't give second chances", Grey said coldly before attacking.

Thud!

The lifeless body of the youth fell on the ground.

'You're ruthless! I like it!', Void said while once again taking his position in Grey's shoulder.

"Let's go"

Chapter 117 - Or What?

After Grey acquired the Great Void technique, he unexpectedly didn't find any other thing. Other than clearing the path of all monsters he saw on the way, he didn't do anything else. He soon got to the end of the path, and it was blocked!

He couldn't help but ask Void if his senses were correct. Void first complained about being doubted before telling him he could still sense it, and the energy was coming from the other side of the wall that blocked the path.

Grey further studied the wall and found out there was a seal on it. It seems he would have to wait for it to open automatically. Having nothing to do, he couldn't help but think of his friends.

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On the other side, Klaus and the other two had just arrived at the end of the ancient path they took. When they got there, there were also other geniuses looking around, trying to find the entrance to the place the final treasure was located, but to no avail.

"How come the path is blocked?", Klaus asked with a confused expression.

"I don't know, but I suppose this should be the end of the path. But... Where is the Great Earth Essence Liquid?", Reynolds looked around.

After Alice recovered slightly from her injury, the trio continued the journey, and other than the technique Klaus found, they found nothing else. Had Klaus not gotten that technique, he would have thought the expert was playing tricks on them.

Since the path ahead of them was blocked with no other way to advance, it only meant one thing, they were already at the end of the path! But since they were already at the end, then where was the treasure the expert promised they'll find after getting to the end of the path?

"There's an opening, only, it looks like this place is sealed and we'll have to wait for it to open", Alice deduced after studying the wall closely

"Doesn't this mean that acquiring the treasure would become harder?", Reynolds counted the youths present and including them, they were ten.

Since the path is sealed, it meant there was a chance for more people to appear, this will further increase the difficulty of acquiring the treasure. There were multiple paths and others might have also reached the end of them.

It was unknown if these were the only ones who would end up at this particular path since most of the paths intersected. Amongst the other seven youths, there was one he had seen before, he was certain the person was from the Qilin empire, but he didn't know which Academy she was from.

He nodded as a form of greeting, to which the other party responded with a smile that showed her dimples.

The young lady had an average height, she was around sixteen to seventeen years old, her pure face and appearance were particularly alluring

Seeing the exchange between the two, Klaus drew closer to Reynolds and threw his hand on his shoulder.

"Seems like someone caught your eye", he said with a mischievous smile.

Reynolds seeing the smile on Klaus's face couldn't help but shake his head.

"You think everyone is like you?", he glared at him before shifting his attention back to the wall blocking their paths.

He couldn't be bothered with what Klaus was thinking, he didn't even know the young lady and only recognized her because he saw her when they got to the al beasts forest.

"That's why they are living an uninteresting lifestyle", he chuckled while darting a glance at the girl once more before nodding in approval.

'At least your taste isn't bad', he thought.

With nothing left to do, they waited just like the others who got here before them.

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On Grey's end.

Since there nothing he could do, he started cultivating.

Thirty minutes later, some youths started appearing and within another thirty minutes, the people gathered here including Grey were ten. And the Darkness Elementalist was surprisingly one of them.

When the youths couldn't find the passageway to where the Great Earth Essence Liquid was, they were irked.

"What is going on? We have reached the end of the path. Why is there no access to where the Great Earth Essence Liquid? Could it be that we have been tricked by the old man?"

"There's an eighty percent chance that we have been tricked. The old man said that each of the fifty-four ancient paths contained treasures and dangers, but we have come all the way here peacefully without discovering any treasures. We didn't even encounter any dangers. Not even a beast has emerged. It was just like a pointless wander"

"Don't talk anymore. I'm afraid that this ancient path isn't as simple as we had imagined. We should continue to look for the passageway once more"

Most of the people were distressed. They began to have lesser respect towards the old expert. Some started to call him old man. As a matter of fact, they had grown depressed along the journey of this ancient path. After reading the words on the stone slab, they felt that this ancient path must have rare treasures. Even if there weren't any great treasures, there had to be at least some essence stones or some sort of elemental weapons.

Unexpectedly, they had gotten nothing even though they had reached the end of the path. This might not be the most depressing thing. The thing that depressed them the most was that they didn't even encounter a single creature.

Where were the treasures that were mentioned?

How about the dangers?

If they weren't being tricked, then what would it be?

Of the ten people who were here, about six of them used the same path Grey followed. So it was expected they all felt scammed. And because they didn't find anything nor did they face any dangers, doubts started welling up in their minds.

It was like they were taking a peaceful stroll in their backyards! In fact, their backyards were more dangerous than these ancient paths.

They all felt the old man was a trickster when he was alive and even when he was close to death he didn't spare them and set up this big ploy for them.

Listening to the complaints of these people, Grey whose eyes were closed couldn't help but smile, because all the treasures and dangers of the path had been met by him. The only thing he didn't acquire was the legacy, and it was because he decided to leave it for someone else.

First, he acquired the greatest treasure of the expert, then, he was transported to the castle the legacy was located, and then, he found an extremely rare space element technique.

What was luck? This was!

In truth, amongst all the geniuses here, the Darkness Elementalist was the most depressed one. Not only had he gotten nothing, but the time he finally found something he wanted, it was obtained by others. When he wanted to reclaim it, he kept on getting stopped by others. He was even almost fatally injured by Klaus.

His pride as a genius was shattered on multiple occasions by the trio. The more he thought about them, the angrier he got.

'Hmph! After acquiring the Great Earth Essence Liquid, I'll refine one to boost my strength. Then I'll kill them all', he thought coldly.

Being a proud person, when had he ever been stepped on? Never! He had never even lost before, but this time, he not only lost, but he had to run away like a dog with his tail between his legs just so he could keep his life. He had always looked down on people who ran away from battles, yet, he did the same thing. How embarrassing!

After calming himself a little, he managed to study the wall and realized there was a seal on it.

'Hmm, it's just like the one on the door', he raised his brow.

He wasn't the only one who noticed it, others also noticed it, that was why they were all waiting.

"Hmph!", snorting coldly, the Darkness Elementalist walked closer to the door.

The others made way for him when they saw him coming, they all recognized him, and didn't plan on offending him.

"Stand up and move five meters backward. No one is allowed to get this close to the wall", he said coldly to Grey who had his eyes closed.

Grey slowly opened his eyes and a fierce glow shot out of them.

The Darkness Elementalist was so shocked by the fierce glow that he unconsciously took a step back.

The moment he realized what happened, waves of embarrassment surged in his heart and he instantly flared up.

"Get up now! I don't like repeating myself!", he yelled angrily.

The others who were watching took some steps back and started pitying Grey because he was about to be picked on by the Darkness Elementalist.

Just then, they all heard something that almost made them faint. The youth who was clearly in the First stage of the Origin Plane, and looked innocent asked a question that threw them off their feet.

"Or what?"

Chapter 118 - Blue Fire!

Grey stared at the young man before him with his emotionless eyes without even making an attempt to stand up. How could he allow others to step on him as they like? Had this happened before his upgrade, then he would have let it slide since he wasn't a match for the Darkness Elementalist at that time. But now, to hell with him!

The crowd looked at Grey like he had a screw loose.

'Brother, are you tired of living? How can you ask him such a question? Didn't you see him outside when he killed someone instantly? Even though it might be due to his opponent's carelessness, his strength was still clear for all to see! And you still have the guts to ask him 'or what?'

This was what was running through the head of everyone. Some even shook their heads thinking Grey was just seeking death.

But some couldn't help to admire his fearlessness. They had to admit that if they were in his position, they would have already gone not just five meters backward, but ten!

"It's good you're sensible, now scra... Wait what?!", the Darkness Elementalist not expecting Grey to ask him such a question had already started rambling on before he realized what Grey said.

He was on the verge of going mad! Why did people keep on obstructing him today? Who did he offend?

Things all started going awry after clashing with Alice and the others. Since then, nothing good had happened to him. Now an ant even dared to refute him! What insolence! He would not take this lying!

Without thinking, he launched an assault on Grey who was a couple of steps away from him. Now, even if Grey begged him, he would still kill the insolent bastard!

The others all shook their heads in pity, such a handsome and brave young man was about to be killed. Already concluding that Grey was dead, some didn't even bother to see how he would be killed. But the outcome of the attack once again threw those who watched off their feet that some even rubbed their eyes violently to confirm if they weren't seeing things.

Bam!

The sound of a blow connecting resonated in the path before a figure was sent flying. Looking closer, the figure who was still standing was none other than the innocent-looking young man.

Bang!

Pu!

The Darkness Elementalist slammed into the wall before coughing out a mouthful of blood.

Grey who was previously in a sitting position was currently standing with both legs apart, and his left hand outstretched. His hand was still clenched into a fist. From his stance, it was easy to deduce he just struck out a blow.

"Are my eyes failing me? How did he move at such speed?", one of the youths amongst the crowd asked in disbelief.

He couldn't believe it, if not for seeing it personally, he would have never believed something like this could happen even if he was beaten to death.

How can someone in the First stage of Origin Plane, send the Darkness Elementalist who was not only two stages ahead of him, he had even instantly killed someone in the same stage as himself flying? It was impossible!

"Maybe it was because it was a surprise attack", another youth chipped in still clearly in a state of shock because of what just happened.

"Surprise attack your head! How do you call that a surprise attack? The victim of the surprise attack was clearly him", one of the few people who admired Grey's bravery quickly jumped into the conversation to defend him.

Due to the Darkness Elementalist attacking suddenly, he deemed it as a surprise attack.

Unknown to Grey, because he stood up to the Darkness Elementalist, he had acquired some fans. Even if he knew, he wouldn't be bothered with it. All he did was stand up for himself and nothing more.

"You...", the Darkness Elementalist was about to speak, but...

Pu!

Due to the agitation he was feeling, he coughed up another mouthful of blood.

What sort of monster did he encounter?

If not for his quick reaction and strong body, that blow would have injured him fatally. Since he was a Multi Elementalist, his body was naturally stronger than that of Dual Elementalists.

With anger surging in his heart, veins could be seen appearing on his forehead. He was infuriated! How can someone two stages below him, send him flying. He had thought Klaus's group were monsters, but this young man in front of him was even more monstrous than they were.

Others might think that Grey used the elements to boost the strength of his blow just like how Elementalists does while still in the Collection and Fusion Plane, but he knew otherwise. This was the pure power of Grey's brute strength.

While the Darkness Elementalist was still thinking about how Grey's physical body could be that strong. Grey looked at his hands and a look of disappointment flashed on his face.

'*Sigh* It's a shame this blow didn't kill him. Although... This outcome isn't bad either since I'll get the opportunity to fight with him', he sighed while shaking his head.

Seeing Grey sigh with a look of disappointment appearing on his face, the crowd were all curious why he would show such an expression.

'You just sent someone we wouldn't even dare to refute flying! What's up with that expression?'

Some of them were yelling in their heads.

After a minute went by, the Darkness Elementalist had been able to clear his head. He knew one of the reasons Grey was able to easily strike him was because he was too agitated and because of that, he left an opening for Grey to exploit when he wanted to attack him.

He slowly walked closer to Grey, preparing to strike once more. But after taking some steps, he paused and retreated one step backward. He didn't dare to get close to him, he had already experienced Grey's formidable physical strength. Only a fool would allow himself to be hit twice.

Noticing the Darkness Elementalist didn't dare to come close, Grey's lip curved upwards to form a smirk.

'Looks like he's wary of my physical power', thought Grey.

He had already expected this though. It was just like that youth he fought with previously, after the youth noticed getting close to him while fighting was a mistake, he didn't dare to get close to him any longer.

Without further delay, both parties sent out attacks.

Grey sent out a ball of blue flames. This was the first time he was using his blue flame since awakening his fire element.

The Darkness Elementalist used his strongest element, which was the darkness element.

Boom!

Both attacks clashed and the shockwave spread out in all directions. The spectators all retreated further on seeing the power of the attack.

Grey was pushed one step backward, while the Darkness Elementalists was pushed three steps backward. The result of the clash was visible for all to see, Grey won!

Although this one clash shouldn't be used to determine the final outcome of the battle, but the spectators were still thrown into an uproar.

One of the fighters was a Third stage Origin Plane Darkness Elementalist, while the other was a First stage Origin Plane Fire Elementalist. The former was regarded as one of the strongest, if not the strongest person who entered the trial land, while the latter was an unknown bystander.

The crowd wasn't aware of both fighters being Multi Elementalists because they had only seen them use one element each.

"Did you see that? The color of his fire was blue!"

A yell brought everyone back from their absentminded state. And they all once again stared at the young man in shock. Just when they thought he was done surprising them, he would do something even greater than what he did previously.

Elementalists with special colors for their elements were just as rare as Darkness and Light Elementalists. The strength of their attacks was always stronger than that of others with the same element and on the same stage.

"How is this possible?", muttered the Darkness Elementalist.

He had almost pulled out his hair from dragging it too much. Grey had almost sent him into a frenzy.

His eyes were slowly turning bloodshot.

Grey was also shocked by the power of his blue flame, he never expected it to be this strong.

'It's because of the grade', he thought.

This was the only reason he could think of that made the attack power stronger than that of the Darkness Elementalist.

Crack!

The sound of walls cracking reverberated in the path. Everyone including Grey and the Darkness Elementalist shifted their attention to the source of the noise.

The wall blocking the path was cracking rapidly.

Boom!

The wall soon exploded with debris flying in all directions. Everyone used their various elements to block the pieces that went their way.

"This isn't over!", the Darkness Elementalist yelled loudly before dashing past the newly opened path.

Although he wanted to kill Grey, his top priority still remained acquiring the treasure.

Grey didn't delay and just like the Darkness Elementalist, he also rushed past the path. He recalled hearing the other youths speak of the Great Earth Essence Liquid, he knew of it, so he also wanted to vie for it.

After he went through, the others also followed behind.

This wasn't the only wall that opened, the walls at the other paths also opened up.

Now the true struggle had begun!

Chapter 119 - Ancient Temple

On the path where Klaus and the other two were located.

Crack! Crack!

On hearing the sound of the wall cracking, everyone stood up and stared at the wall intently.

Some moments later.

Bang!

The wall exploded. Everyone protected themselves from the pieces.

"It's the passageway that leads to where the Great Earth Essence Liquid is located. I never thought it will activate on its own"

"Haha! I thought that we had been tricked. Let's go!"

"What are you all waiting for? Go now! If someone else reaches there first, I'm afraid we won't be able to get any share of the precious liquid"

The sudden appearance of the channel excited everyone who was irritated just moments ago. One by one, they rushed towards the channel. After all, most of them hadn't gotten anything in the ancient path and weren't feeling very good. They were eager to be the first to reach where the treasure was as they were certain that the treasures there would be extraordinary. If they could obtain some of it, their trip here would be worth it.

The passageway was very short and within five seconds, they were all out of it.

When Klaus and the rest walked out of it, they saw silhouettes emerging from different directions. They were coming out from different ancient paths. For a moment, at least sixty people had appeared in this place and the number was still increasing.

There was a hint of consternation on everyone's face. Obviously, this situation was beyond their imagination. Many of them were thinking the same thing 'be the first to get in so that they could seize the treasure'. But now, it seemed like their plan had failed. However, none on the scene was an idiot.

Very quickly, they understood the key to this situation. Clearly, the passageway of the fifty-four ancient paths were opened at the same time. Before it was opened, numerous people had already been waiting like Klaus and company at the end of their respective ancient paths. This explained why so many people had appeared as soon as the passageway was opened. This was the only explanation.

"It seems like many have died on the way", said Alice.

Anyone was able to discern this. From the beginning, there were over one hundred and fifty people who entered this place. Now, there were only sixty of them. Taking into account those who were coming in and still in the ancient paths, there were only about one hundred at most. That was to say, nearly fifty geniuses or even more had died in the fifty-four ancient paths.

This was undeniably cruel, but anyone who decided to step into the trial land knew that dangers and cruelty co-existed together, and must be prepared to die. Death could occur at any time.

There were battles between humans and also against creatures and the presence of other dangers in the place. Therefore, it was very normal for over fifty people to die along the way.

"Look, it's Grey. Let's head over", Reynolds was the first to spot Grey.

Since the people here weren't that many, it was easy for them to spot Grey. They all went in his direction.

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After Grey came out of the passageway he didn't spot the Darkness Elementalist, but he was quite surprised by the number of people who were coming out from different paths though. It didn't take long for him to realize what happened.

'All the paths opened simultaneously', he placed his hand on his chin.

Void was lying on his shoulder lazily.

Grey sensed some movement from his right and turned towards that direction. He saw his friends coming towards him and a smile formed on his face, but his face soon went cold when he noticed Alice was injured.

Even though she hadn't come close to him yet, he was able to realize it from her movement.

"What happened?", he asked the moment they got close.

When Klaus and Reynolds heard the question, their smiling faces also went cold. Klaus went on to recount what happened to him through gritted teeth. Although he was able to injure the Darkness Elementalist before he left, he still hoped they should kill him.

On hearing Alice almost died under the hands of the Darkness Elementalist, killing intent flashed through Grey's eyes. He had promised himself to grow stronger to protect his family and friends. Now, he heard someone nearly killed his friend, he was infuriated.

"He's a dead man", he said icily.

Initially, the only reason he wanted to fight with the Darkness Elementalist was just to test out his strength. But now, it had turned into a death battle. He would kill him no matter what, even if it meant entering the Fusion State!

"We know", Klaus and Reynolds said simultaneously.

Soon the trio started planning their revenge, and they completely forgot about Alice's presence even though she was the reason they were planning revenge on the Darkness Elementalist in the first place.

Alice felt happy seeing how her friends were already planning revenge on her stead. She couldn't hope for better friends, although, she pouted when she realized they had all forgotten about her presence.

Just as she was about to complain, Void caught her attention.

"What a strange cat. Grey, where did you find it?", she asked curiously while gazing at Void.

"An egg", Grey replied offhandedly and continued planning with the others.

Void threw a glance at Alice but shut his eyes once more.

Hearing Grey's response, Alice almost rushed forward to attack him.

'What do you mean an egg? Do I look like a fool? If not for the fact that you're planning on getting revenge for me, I'd have beaten you up!', she complained internally but decided to let them be.

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The other geniuses who came here all looked around. Some started complaining when they realized what happened.

"Motherf***er! The old man does know how to play tricks. He has tricked us all even though he has already passed away. All the passageways are opened simultaneously. Even if there is a Great Earth Essence Liquid, it's going to be a fierce fight"

"That's true. Look, even the Darkness Elementalist is here. Who's able to compete with him? And there are those peerless geniuses of the Royal families and a few other Third stage Origin Plane geniuses. We won't stand a chance in their presence."

"Well, that's not necessarily true. Even if we can't get the Great Earth Essence Liquid, we may still be able to get some other treasures. We can't just go back with empty hands."

Plenty of them with weaker strength began to feel slightly disheartened. This wasn't the result they expected and was the last thing they wanted to see. With so many geniuses here, it had become even harder for them to obtain any treasure, but most of them revealed ruthlessness in their eyes. Since they had already come here, they couldn't let themselves return empty-handed. Even if the competition was fierce, they couldn't just give up like that.

"There's an ancient temple ahead. The Great Earth Essence Liquid is just ahead." Someone roared, stirring everyone into motion.

Each of them shouted excitedly and ran towards the ancient temple with their fastest speed possible, fearing that they might be later than the others.

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"The ancient temple has already existed for countless years. It must be left behind by the Old man. It should be the place that holds most of his treasures. The nine drops of Great Earth Essence Liquid should be inside. Let's go over as well," said Grey.

They all dashed towards the direction where everyone was going. That was the most important part of this place. Everyone ran towards the ancient temple. The strongest people that appeared on the scene traveled extremely fast. They reached the destination in a matter of a few seconds.

Everyone opened their mouths, shocked by the scene. Ahead was a vast and empty field, the only thing visible was the ancient temple suspending in the air. The temple didn't seem huge and only had a dozen of rooms and an ancient palace inside. The palace and rooms were fiery red. Even after an extremely long period of time, the brilliance of the place didn't seem to diminish in the slightest.

What really attracted the people's attention was the mysterious crystal-like pond in the temple. It wasn't huge and only had a size of one square foot. It was completely condensed using fire, red and the shape of lotus flowers were engraved on its surface. The illumination of the light seemed to be making it come to life. Everyone marveled at the sight of it.

Buzz! Buzz!

The crystal-like pond shook. Nine rays of light as white as jade shot out of it up to the sky like nine heavenly swords rising into the heaven. Each light seemed solid and radiated the unconcealed pure Essence of the World. The emergence of the white light immediately attracted the attention of everyone.

"Look, the light is emanated by the nine drops of Great Earth Essence Liquid. The Great Earth Essence Liquid is just inside the pond"

"That's right. It has to be the Great Earth Essence Liquid. That's the essence of the World, and is extremely precious"

"Sure enough, the old man didn't lie to us. There are truly nine drops of Great Earth Essence Liquid here. If I can obtain just a drop of it, the benefits will be inestimable. My elemental grade will increase and I will even see a breakthrough in my stage"

Everyone was excited. The Great Earth Essence Liquid was an unparalleled natural treasure that had the effect of increasing one's elemental grade. It also had a great healing property. It was so attractive that even a Peak Overlord Plane expert would be influenced by it.

If words about the Great Earth Essence Liquid were to spread out, it would inevitably cause chaos and attract thousands of experts here to compete for it. It might even stir up a war in the empires.

"I must get the Great Earth Essence Liquid", A young man could no longer control his emotion and was the first to run towards the pond.

Upon seeing this, Grey couldn't help but shake his head. This bastard was being too impulsive. He should at least gauge his own strength before doing so. How dare a puny little Ninth stage Arcane Plane Elementalist go and seize the Great Earth Essence Liquid? That was no different from seeking death.

Swoosh!

Sure enough, before that young man could get to the pond, a silver sword appeared from behind to slash him into half before he could even let out a wail.

"Hmph! How dare an insect like you try to get the Great Earth Essence Liquid first before measuring your capabilities"

Chapter 120 - The Protectors

"Hmph! How dare an insect like you try to get the Great Earth Essence Liquid first before measuring your capabilities"

A young man snorted coldly. A youth in blue clothing emerged from the crowd. He was a genius from the Royal family of the Blue Wind empire and was also one of the few people in the Third stage of the Origin Plane that was present here.

From his previous attack, everyone was able to discern that he was a Lightning Elementalist. His strength sent chills down people's spine. The strength of this young man jolted those who were not strong enough but were ready to rush towards the pond back to reality. Most of them showed disappointment in their eyes. After that, they began to shake their heads before sighing.

Although they didn't want to admit it, they knew it in their hearts that the Great Earth Essence Liquid was no longer related to them. It was something they could never touch.

"Do we have to make a move?", Reynolds asked while staring at the pond.

"Be patient. This isn't as easy as it seems", replied Grey.

According to the style of the expert, and his experience when he wanted to obtain the blue flame, he knew there was no way they would be able to acquire this treasure easily. Compared to what he faced in the volcano, the dangers in the ancient paths were a walk in the park for him.

And the reason for that was because according to the expert, the blue flame and lotus were his greatest treasure.

While he was still thinking about what the possible obstacles they would face could be, he sensed a gaze, turning his head in the direction he felt the gaze coming from. About two hundred meters away from their group, he saw a youth staring at them with eyes filled with unconcealed killing intent.

Other than the Darkness Elementalist, who else would look at the group with such killing intent?

After the Darkness Elementalist charged through the passageway, he moved a couple of meters before spotting the group he came here with. He went over to join them.

The reason he was still among the crowd and hadn't stepped forward to try to obtain the Great Earth Essence Liquid was that he was still feeling irritated from his previous battle with Grey, and also because no one had dared to obtain it.

When he saw the first person who ran forward, he sneered in contempt after noticing his strength. He was about to make a move when the youth from the Blue Wind empire made a move. Just as he was looking around, he caught sight of a familiar figure that has been engraved in his head even though their contact wasn't long.

When he saw the people he was grouped with, a look of incredulity appeared on his face.

'How can they be friends?', the Darkness Elementalist howled internally.

The four people he hated the most in his life were unexpectedly friends. Had it been that only the first trio he encountered were friends, it wouldn't have been as shocking as four of them being friends.

His confidence was first shattered by Alice, then, he was almost killed by Klaus and Reynolds joint assault, then, he encountered the monster known as Grey.

These were the first people among his generation he had ever felt inferior to. What was worse was that he was not only a Multi Elementalist, not only was his stage higher than theirs, but he also had the rare darkness element to boot.

Yet, he felt inferior to a Dual Elementalist who was a stage below him, A Water Elementalist who was also a stage below, A Lightning Elementalist who was two stages below him and was a high-grade summoner, and lastly, an innocent-looking Fire Elementalist who was two stages below him, had blue flames instead of red and had terrifying physical strength.

He started trembling unconsciously because of anger. Unrestrained rage and killing intent were visible in his eyes. But surprisingly, rage and killing intent wasn't the only thing visible in his eyes, a slight trace of fear appeared without him knowing.

When Grey made eye contact with him, he felt the other party's fighting intent. He unconsciously prepared himself to attack. Just as he was about to make the first move...

"Are you okay?"

A voice brought him out of his enraged state. Hearing the voice, he calmed himself and shifted his gaze from Grey and his group.

"I'm fine. We should focus on getting the Great Earth Essence Liquid, for now", he replied coldly.

The person who spoke previously was one of the youths in his group. When the youth saw the Darkness Elementalist almost losing himself to anger, he was stunned. He had known him for a long time and knew how calm he was. This was the first time he had seen him like this.

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"What's up?", Klaus nudged Grey with his shoulder when he realized he wasn't paying attention.

"Our target", Grey used his head to point Klaus in the Darkness Elementalist's direction.

Following the direction Grey showed him, he saw the Darkness Elementalist with his group.

"Hmph! He won't leave this place alive", he snorted coldly.

"That's not going to be easy though, you should be aware of the stages of his companions", said Grey.

'Hmm", Klaus nodded.

If they ganged up on the Darkness Elementalist alone, then the chances of killing him were quite high. But since he was with his group, if they attacked him now, there was a possibility the other parties might reverse the situation.

Including the Darkness Elementalist, their group contained four other Second stage Origin Plane Elementalist. In Grey's group, the one with the highest stage was Alice and Klaus who were each in the Second stage.

Although they had no problem with facing them one on one, they were one man short, so the other group not only had the advantage in terms of cultivation stage, they also had the advantage in numbers.

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After a man has been killed, it created a great deterrent force. The genius from the Blue Wind empire wore a smile on his face. He sent out a palm strike at the pond. Just as the enormous lightning palm was about to touch the pond, a ray of light shone from outside the pond, then a large fire palm materialized and collided with the genius's palm.

Bang!

The power was ancient and extremely strong.

Shuuu!

Fiery red lights began to rush out around the pond. One by one, each light rapidly materialized and turned into nine warriors that were completely made out of fire.

"Elemental Warriors!", A youth in the crowd yelled out

Seeing the nine warriors appear out of thin air, everyone gasped in shock. When they all sensed the stages of the Elemental Warriors, they were all sent into an uproar.

"They are all in the Fifth stage in the Origin Plane", the genius from the Blue Wind empire furrowed his brow.

This was getting harder and harder.

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When Grey saw the Elemental Warriors appear, he wasn't too surprised.

"Hmm, sure enough, it isn't as simple. Let's wait and see", he said.

The nine Elemental Warriors had always been hiding in the pond. They would only emerge if someone tried to touch the pond. Grey had expected an obstacle, so he was incomparably calm.

"They seem to be protecting the pond", said Reynolds.

The others nodded to what he said. Getting past these nine Elemental Warriors wouldn't be easy, from the positions they took, it was easy for them to help each other out.

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The sudden appearance of the protectors immediately set off a wave of commotion. Most of them were astounded. The means of the old expert was certainly unimaginable. Fortunately, the Elemental Warriors just stood close to the pond.

Their duty was to guard the pond and the ancient temple. They would never take the initiative to attack, so, as long as one didn't go near the pond, one wouldn't be attacked by them.

"Let me see how powerful these Elemental Warriors are", the Darkness Elementalist walked out.

When the crowd saw the Darkness Elementalist step out, they all waited curiously for the result of his test.

He steadied himself and blasted out two attacks simultaneously, one was his darkness element and the other was his lightning element.

The Elemental Warriors easily dispersed his attack and forced him back by three steps. His expression began to change.

"So powerful! Each of them possesses strength slightly greater than my own, and they could join forces with one another during the most critical moment. It's almost impossible to get past them and obtain the Great Earth Essence Liquid inside", he said.

The circumstance was already clear for all to see, the only way for them to obtain the Great Earth Essence Liquid is to get rid of these protectors!