Affinity 1111

Chapter 1111 Grey's Cockiness

The group were separated when they stepped in and only Void and Alice were in the same place as Grey, the others seemed to have been transported to another place.

Grey, Alice and Void were not the only ones present here. There were still a large number of people. Afterall, the number of people who entered the place was by no means small.

The group appeared in a hall, in this hall, there was a large throne that was in the middle, facing them. Beside the large throne, there were five smaller thrones. Other than the thrones, there were a large number of chairs as well.

Grey guessed that this was most likely the place where the True God and the other people held a meeting.

When they entered, they seemed to hear some inaudible voices, arguing.

Everyone looked at the thrones curiously.

"What do we do now?"

Someone from the crowd asked.

They didn't see any way out of this hall, so it was clear that they had to search for the way out. There should be some good things here as well, so they wanted to also search for them.

Some people suggested that they should check out the thrones.

Alice and Void were about to move when Grey stopped them.

"I don't think it's that easy. Leaving this place is definitely associated with those thrones, but we shouldn't be careless." He said thoughtfully while staring at the thrones.

He was not the only one who had this thought as well. Some people didn't move, waiting for the others to investigate first. Only after they've confirmed that it wasn't dangerous would they head out.

The person who suggested this was in the Mid stages of the Elemental Venerable Plane, seeing that others wanted him to take the lead, he snorted and randomly pointed at a Peak Sage Plane Elementalist at the side.

"You, go and test it out."

The face of the Sage Plane Elementalist he pointed turned pale, he knew that it was most likely dangerous, so the fact that he was the one chosen meant that he would die and the others would learn from his mistake.

To him, this was a painful pill to swallow.

Unfortunately, there was nothing he could do. He gritted his teeth and walked toward the thrones.

He didn't dare to go for the biggest throne, so he went for one of the smaller ones. At least, he might be able to survive the attack from this one if there was any.

When he got close to the throne, he sent a small wisp of wind element at it. He was a Wind Elementalist, so he went for the softest possible way to test it out.

The attack hit it while the young man bolted away for his life.

The result was not what they expected, rather, a gentle force came from the throne and wrapped itself around the young man who was trying to escape. Before anyone could react, the young man was nowhere to be seen.

The expressions of everyone changed when they saw this. None of them knew if the young man was alive or dead.
"I sensed spatial fluctuations."
A Space Elementalist in the crowd said.
Other Space Elementalists chimed in to agree to what this person said. Although they couldn't be sure, they still felt the possibility of this person being killed was low, rather, he was most likely teleported to another place.
This place was strange to begin with.
Grey looked at the thrones, then at Alice. Void was clearly waiting for Grey's go ahead so they could go as well. Others had started moving, interacting with the thrones and being teleported away.
A larger disturbance came from the side, someone had touched the largest throne, and the commotion was quite bigger compared to the other ones.
The person who touched it wasn't teleported instantly, but only after a few seconds.
This person was in the Mid stages of the Elemental Venerable Plane, the same person who suggested they investigated the thrones.
When the others saw this, they all instinctively wanted to head over there. But something odd happened when the next person tried to interact with it.

The moment the person's elemental essence touched it, the person screamed and was almost killed. If

not for the person acting fast, he would've died.

The expression of Grey and the others changed drastically.

'These things are testing people before teleporting them away?'

This was the thought that came into his head the moment he saw this. Anyone with discerning eyes could tell that the teleportation of the Mid stage Elemental Venerable was slower than that of others when they used the smaller thrones. It most likely had something to do with the large throne.

"Do you think it's accessing people's strength?" Alice asked.

The first person who used that throne was in the Mid stages, but this person who was almost killed was still in the Early stages of the Elemental Venerable Plane. If that was the case, that meant only those in the Mid stages or with strength in the Mid stages of the Elemental Venerable Plane could use that throne.

"That might not be the case, let's watch." Grey replied.

He didn't feel like that was the case. Of course, he wasn't sure as well. Maybe when the next person tries it, they will know the requirements of using this throne.

Grey was not the only one who was analyzing the thrones. The others were also making their own deductions. Some time later another Mid stage Elemental Venerable stepped out, after interacting with the large throne, he let out a muffled groan and was sent flying.

Seeing the figure crashing on the ground, the expression of the others changed once again. Looks like strength was not the only thing needed, or it was probably not what was needed to step into the space there. Luckily for this person, he wasn't as injured as the Early stage Elemental Venerable who tried it out before him.

Grey looked at the throne once again, before turning to Alice, "Do you think we should try it? The smaller ones are safer, but if there is anything to gain, the larger one should have more things."

Alice didn't hurry to make up her mind, the risk was quite large. If she didn't meet the requirements, she would be injured.

"What do you think?" She asked Grey.

"I'll naturally meet whatever requirements is set." Grey said matter-of-factly.

He didn't even have the least bit of reservations, he outright said it. Of everyone here, if they were to ask who the most talented was, he was probably the number one. Everyone in the Elemental Venerable Plane that was present here was at least two to three years older than him. Adding the fact that he started cultivating three years later than others, and was also in a continent with lesser elemental essence, he felt for a fact that none of the people present was more talented than he was.

Of course, there is also the possibility that this thing was not testing talent. Either, he would find out when he got there.

Alice was left speechless when she heard this, she was about to speak when Void added.

"As long as he can go, so can I." Void was even more carefree compared to Grey.

It should be known that Void was very lazy when it came to cultivating, if not for Grey forcing him at times, he would never cultivate for a long time. He even felt his talent was higher than Grey's.

Grey could increase his elemental grades to the highest level which would definitely increase his talent, Void on the other hand was born with the highest elemental grade, and it was for all his elements. There is a difference between the two, one was working towards it, while the other didn't even need to do anything. It was clear as day who the superior one was.

Alice felt a headache when she heard the duo brag. Well, she couldn't really call it bragging. Grey and Void were special, so, yes, there's a high chance that they could enter. There wasn't even a bit of doubt in their eyes.

"Since you're confident, let's go. Standing here is not good for us." She urged them.

Some people had already given up on the large throne and were using the smaller ones. Not everyone wanted to risk their lives for something they didn't know if they could pass.

There were naturally people who also went to test it out, some passed while others failed.

Of all the people testing the large throne, not even five percent had been successful. Around forty people had tried it, yet of the forty people, only three had gone in. It was a staggering number.

Most of the people had managed to enter the smaller thrones, but surprisingly, some people were not able to do so.

Grey, Alice, and Void finally walked in the direction of the large throne. They were the ones with the lowest realm that had walked in that direction.

Chapter 1112 A Garden

As the trio headed in that direction, a few people couldn't help but look at them. Some people snorted, looking at them with disdain; they felt like the trio overestimated themselves.

Being looked at by so many people made Alice a bit uncomfortable, especially given how they stared at them as if they were looking at fools.

"You don't need to bother with them." Grey whispered to her as they got close to the throne.

They stood in front of it, and before they could even touch it, the throne reacted and actively sent out a gentle stream of force their way, it soon covered Grey and Void, and only after a short moment did it cover Alice as well. It was clear that Grey and Void triggered it. Alice, who was with them, was accessed by it before it surrounded her and took her with them.

It wasn't that Alice didn't meet the requirements, but Grey and Void exceeded it by far, so it was naturally triggered.

Being with the duo meant she would have to be accessed first before being sent through with them.

The strange situation made the others look at Grey and his friends with mouths wide agape. There were a few people who knew Grey, so when they saw the reaction of the throne, they were beyond shocked.

"Could it be that it doesn't access strength but potential?" Someone from the crowd asked.

Those rejected were older compared to those who entered. Age might not be the only factor the energy was accessing, but it should also be among the requirements.

The others fell deep into thoughts, and a few in the Sage Plane suddenly had the urge also to try. Since Alice could enter, then they could as well.

"Don't be rash. Do you think you're like them?" An Elemental Venerable chided when he saw someone from his Faction trying to go and try. He was the leader of his group, so he had the final say.

Everyone saw that, unlike the previous times, there was a different reaction when it got to Grey and his friends' turn. There must've been something that triggered this.

The Sage Plane Elementalist paused and looked at the throne, his eyes burning with passion. He felt he was on the same level as the trio who were accepted. Even a cat could enter. How could he be inferior to a dumb Magical Beast?

This was the question in his head.

Everyone saw the cat that entered with Grey; it was also accessed by the energy, if not, it would not have been able to enter.

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While those people were considering the requirements to enter with the large stone, Grey, Alice, and Void appeared in another space.

They arrived at a large compound, and looking around; they couldn't find anyone.

"Another space, I wonder what it holds. There should be rewards, I think." Grey said thoughtfully.

None of them knew anything about this place.

"Do you think those people from the Heavenly Fate Faction got to this place?" He suddenly asked.

There is a high chance that they did, but it was probably too dangerous, or the tasks were too complicated, so they needed more people to try and break through it.

"We'll only know when we explore this place." Alice said.

Grey was always overthinking things. In such a place, there was no need to overthink everything. As they advanced, they would naturally find out some things.

Grey shrugged, he was only curious.

The trio soon started to explore the place. Other than a garden, they didn't see anything else.

Void suddenly thought of something, and he brought out a small bunny. He had kept the bunny in his spatial storage under Grey's instructions, but seeing a garden, he recalled it.

The bunny looked at them with an annoyed expression. It couldn't believe they kept it in such a place for so long.

"Don't look at me that way, it was his idea." Void shifted the blame to Grey. He only followed Grey's instructions, so it had nothing to do with him.

Grey smiled sheepishly before looking away as if he didn't do anything. The bunny couldn't complain and only stared at the garden in front of it.

"Let's explore this place together." Grey suggested to the bunny.

The bunny didn't say anything and just hopped around. A few seconds later, it said to Grey.

'Something is guarding this place. It won't come out now, but it will come out later.'

Grey didn't sense anything. He relayed the message to Void and Alice, they sensed for a while but didn't find anything unusual.

"How did you know?" He asked the bunny.

'What do you take me for? I'm a top-tier expert, and I'm used to these things. You'll need to pass through a trail to break through this place. It should have something to do with this garden.' The bunny looked at Grey in disdain.

Grey didn't mind being looked down on by the bunny, it could say whatever it wanted. He told Void to keep the bunny the last time because it didn't want to fight, so there was no need to keep it there.

Grey tried to keep it in his storage ring but realized he couldn't. Void was surprisingly able to, so he left it to Void.

After some thought, he walked forward. There was nothing he could do. The compound was covered with a film, and he knew there was no way he could break through it. He didn't even bother to try.

When they got close to the garden, a projection appeared. Some sort of spiritual energy formed it.

The projection was that of an old man who looked harmless and friendly. The old man looked at Grey and Void before looking at the bunny leader. Alice was the last person it looked at, a little taken aback.

It seemed to have some sort of intelligence.

"To pass this stage, you must care for the plants."

With that, the projection vanished. Chapter 1113 Finding Balance Grey looked at where the shadow had disappeared from, a bit shocked. "It has intelligence. Do you think we can ask the senior about this place?" He looked at the others. "After passing this place, it might appear again." Alice replied. Grey nodded before looking ahead, and his expression changed slightly. How were they going to take care of the plants? Each plant looked alright. "You should know more about plants. What's wrong with them?" Grey turned to the bunny leader. 'They lack some things. You can sense it with your spiritual senses, are you that lazy?' The bunny leader transmitted its voice. Alice heard how the bunny leader spoke to Grey and couldn't help but laugh. Very few people could talk to Grey like this. There must be a special relationship between Grey and the bunny, if not, Grey wouldn't be so relaxed even when the bunny leader looked down on him.

Grey walked closer and tried to sense it, but he didn't feel anything strange and looked at the bunny

'You're not even trying. Look at every particle of it, and you'll see what's wrong.' The bunny leader said

leader with a frown.

with a sigh, a bit disappointed that Grey was this daft.

Alice also heard this, and just when she was about to sense it, she took out her Seelie. These things were quite close to nature, so they should have a good chance of discerning what was wrong with the flowers sooner.

When the Seelie came out, it quickly burrowed into one of the plants. It came out and merged with Alice. Her eyes shone with a bright light.

Grey looked at her, he could tell that the Seelie must have found what was wrong.

He also started to study the flower carefully. Even though Grey knew he could just wait and listen to Alice, he felt there might be something to gain from this, so he didn't mind and started studying it. One has to recall that he was a study freak, so he would forget about everything else when he started. The bunny leader didn't know anything about Grey, so it only felt like he was talented but very lazy.

Void lay on the side. He didn't bother even to try to do anything. He hated doing all these things. Grey would never leave him behind, so as long as Grey could figure out how to pass this stage, he would definitely take him along.

The bunny leader already knew how to pass the trial, so it lay next to Void. It was around the same size as Void at the moment.

Void and the bunny leader had their eyes closed as they took a nap, while Grey and Alice had their eyes closed as they studied the flowers.

Grey's expression changed from time to time as he examined the flower. He was apparently starting to see some things he had missed the last time.

"So it's like this...." He muttered before moving to the next flower.

The garden wasn't big, around twenty or thirty square meters. There were flowers planted all over, but not too much as well.

Grey didn't rush to study the others, after seeing what was wrong with the first flower, he tried to see if he could settle the issue.

This flower had some more dominant cells, and it affected the overall growth of the flower. Presently, if people looked at it, they would not see anything wrong with it, but as time passed, the flowers would develop some issues and die out very quickly.

These flowers were different from normal flowers since they were made entirely of energy, they had to be balanced, if not, they would explode from the unbalanced energy.

Grey realized that this flower had eight types of energy, and they all correlated with his eight elements.

He opened his eyes and looked at the flower once again.

"Alice." He called out softly.

Alice turned to look at him, slowly opening her eyes.

"How many elements appeared in the flower you're checking?" He asked straightforwardly.

"Three." Alice replied.

She had two elements, adding the ice ability of the Seelie made it three.

Grey nodded before closing his eyes once again. He couldn't be distracted. After confirming what he wanted, he focused his time on balancing the energy in the plant.

The more elements one has, the harder this task is.

He soon released some essence inside the flower. Streams of energy from all his elements entered the flower, and he started to balance the cells with the lesser energy of each element with the other elements.
His expression soon changed, and he opened his eyes and ran away.
Boom!
A loud explosion rang out, sending Grey, who was running away, flying.
"F*ck!" He cursed in annoyance.
He could not balance the energy in time, and it exploded on his face. If not for the fact that he was fast, the attack might have injured him.
This thing was not as easy as he thought it would be.
Balancing the energies required more than he thought.
Alice opened her eyes to stare at Grey's sorry state, and her expression was also more serious after this. Since this happened, it meant that if she were careless, she would face the same fate as Grey.
Void opened his eyes, and seeing Grey, he closed his eyes again.
The bunny leader looked at Grey and smirked. It wanted to laugh at Grey. It could do this task with its eyes closed, yet Grey failed.

Grey couldn't be bothered with others. His expression was not the best. Although not injured, he still felt annoyed that he was sent flying. He had to make sure that he was more careful during his next try, if

not, he would suffer again.

He calmed his mind and started balancing the energy once again.

The energy distribution was different with each element, the light element had the lowest while the others had a higher ratio.

Chapter 1114 Finding Balance II

'Could it be related to my elemental grades?' Grey thought when he looked at the distribution of essence.

His light element was the lowest of all his elements, while his fire was the highest. It had been a while since he checked his elemental grades since he had been going from one place to another. He hadn't even had the time to cultivate properly, other than the short time in the Pyrmond Faction before they came here, he wouldn't have cultivated for a long time.

Thinking of this, he didn't try to balance the essence, instead, he entered the chaos space.

When he appeared on the mountain, he could not help but look at the place, lost in thoughts. His cultivation journey started from this place. It had been around seven to eight years since he started cultivating, and it had been a thrilling journey so far. There had been good and bad times, and he had nearly lost his life on multiple occasions, but he always managed to survive each difficult situation and come out stronger than he previously was.

He sighed and then walked to the temple, looking at the device used in checking his elemental grade, he was quite curious about how it appeared here. Thinking about it was not going to give him anything, so he gave up and placed his hand on the device.

After the usual routine, he looked as the light lit up.

As usual, his fire element was the highest, being the only one of his elements that were in the emerald grade, after the fire element, he surprisingly had three elements in the yellow grade, namely; his earth, water, and lightning elements were all a grade below the fire element. These four were the highest, followed by the wind, darkness, and space element which were all in the cyan grade, only the light element was still in the blue grade.

Seeing the light element still in the blue grade, he could not help but feel a bit disappointed. His other elements were all miles away from it. Nevertheless, his fire element was the one he felt more helpless towards because it had been the emerald grade for a while now, but it hadn't shown any signs of upgrading.

One has to know that he was just one grade behind the legendary black and white elemental grade. Once this element advances, he feels he would gain something from it. Unlike Void, who was born with such a high elemental grade, he had to work hard to increase his own. Luck has been on his side, and he had obtained some treasures that helped him advance faster than usual in his fire elemental grade, but his hard work could not be undermined.

Grey didn't stay in the Chaos Space any longer. Now that he got a general idea of his elemental grades, he would work with that while distributing the essence in the flower. It would also be helpful to him a well. This could help strengthen his chaos orb but it couldn't unleash its full potential since the energy distribution was not balanced.

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In the outside world, Grey opened his eyes and stared at the flowers, he muttered while looking at them, "Maybe this stage wants to see the control an Elementalist had over their elements."

Grey didn't rush, he created an essence orb in his palm and started to distribute the energy, it was a painstaking task given the large difference between the elemental grades of his elements, but he knew if he could get it, it would be beneficial to him.

The bunny leader looked at Grey, stunned by what he was doing. It was mainly staring at the essence orb in Grey's hand. It could tell that it was not ordinary.

Grey didn't trust the bunny leader, so he made the essences obscure. This way, no matter how the bunny leader probed, it would not be able to see through it.

He seemed to sense the bunny leader's gaze and smiled at it. The bunny leader turned away, not bothering him any longer.

The place turned quiet as everyone was busy with something. Alice and Grey focused on cultivating while Void and the bunny leader slept.

Three hours later.
Grey opened his eyes with a sigh, he was mentally exhausted!
This was the first time he was actively trying to balance his power, and contrary to his expectation, it was difficult. Initially, he thought after getting the idea of his elemental grades, he would know in what ratios he would distribute his energy. However, this was easier said than done.
In the past three hours, he had tried it over a thousand times, and the essence always seemed to lose stability and explode in his face. If not for the fact that he was using a small prototype, he would've been injured if he had tried using a larger orb.
Grey was not the only one who was having difficulties, Alice was also having some issues, but her situation was not as bad as Grey's.
The duo exchanged views, they could see the tiredness in each others' eyes.
"If we can master this, our strength will increase. But is it that easy?" Alice wore a helpless expression.
After some silence, Grey said, "I feel I should be able to pass the trial with what I've gained so far."
"Want to try it out?" Alice asked.
Grey shook his head, "I wonder if we'll only have to deal with one or more at the same time?"

The old man told them to care for the flowers, it was unknown if they had to care for just one or all the flowers in the area.

Without even checking, Grey knew for a fact that each flower had a different distribution. If they had to take care of them, they had to think of a way to learn how to balance their strength in different scenarios. It was both a good and a bad thing. They would gain strong control over their power if they could learn how to distribute their strength in different volumes. Achieving this was the difficult and time-consuming part.

Chapter 1115 Freakish Magical Beasts

Grey knew he would only see the answer to the question when he tried it out.

He had studied the first flower and had gotten a rough grasp of stabilizing the energy for some time. As long as he wanted, he could solve the problem for now. They wouldn't have to stay here long to stabilize it. According to the old man, all they needed to do was take care of the flowers.

Grey calmed his mind and started to work on the flower, he infused more of the light element, not daring to add anything to the fire element. He didn't necessarily need to infuse essence for each element since some had more, all he needed was to balance it with the others.

The flower shook for a second but was quickly able to keep the essence in the flower steady, making it almost balanced. He couldn't achieve a perfect balance for now, but there was no issue with getting something close to it.

After some seconds, the flower lit up. Grey sensed strange energy from it and grabbed it without even thinking.

The energy burrowed into his body, and he felt a great sensation, it was like all his power was being merged.

He raised his brow and looked at the flowers strangely, "They can help stabilize the power in your body."

Alice studied Grey's condition and nodded, this energy was a strange yet beneficial to them. With it, they can get better control over their strength.

When the sensation died down, Grey created an orb made from essence, he wanted to see the difference now that he had this energy.

His eyes opened wide, and he laughed delightfully, "It can help with this. Wouldn't this make the level simple?"

Alice tried as well after Grey's successful attempt. She had a better grasp of it than Grey, so her control was by no means lower than his, instead, it was higher.

When Alice sent a stream of energy inside the flower, there was no fluctuation, and before long, the same scene that appeared when Grey stabilized the first flower happened.

Alice also merged with the energy, this was a good treasure, so she would naturally not want to lose the opportunity.

Alice was ecstatic when she absorbed the energy.

"Void, stop sleeping and learn this, it will help you stabilize your power." Grey called out to Void.

Void opened his eyes and looked at Grey oddly, "My power is balanced."

After saying that, an orb appeared in front of him.

Grey's mouth twitched when he saw this. At first, he thought Void was only saying it to escape the stress of learning this, but he didn't speak any further after seeing the orb Void conjured. Void's energy was more balanced compared to theirs. Even Alice was lacking when it came to Void's control.

'What the hell is this cat?' He complained.

How could Void's control be so high? It was shocking. Void rarely cultivated and only slept.

Since when has sleeping been able to make people so strong?

Void couldn't be bothered with them, he closed his eyes and continued sleeping.

The bunny leader, sensing Grey's gaze, also created a ball in front of him and tossed it at Grey.

Grey caught it, and his expression turned sour.

These two Magical Beasts were far superior to them. From the looks of it, they should have at least ninety-eight or ninety-nine percent control over their strength.

Grey might be powerful, but he didn't dare to say he had more than seventy-five percent control over his strength.

He didn't bother with the duo anymore and continued accessing the next flower.

Just as he was about to sense it, the old man's projection appeared again.

"Little friend, since you've balanced the flower, you have passed this stage." The old man said with a soft smile.

"Oh, are we not allowed to continue?" Grey asked suspiciously.

"You can, but since you've already balanced the energy in one flower, you can leave this place and go to the next one." The old man explained.

"Will these things disappear forever if we balance all of them?" Grey asked another question.

The old man smiled, he could tell that Grey was attracted to the energy he absorbed, so he probably wanted to absorb more.

"They will reappear once another person enters this stage." The old man replied with a chuckle.
"Oh, then I would like to continue, senior." Grey bowed respectfully.
"Alright. But be warned, it will only continue to get harder with each flower you balance." The old man said and his projection disappeared.
As the projection disappeared, a spatial tunnel appeared on the side. Apparently, the old man didn't bother with Void and the bunny leader, this meant that they could leave without doing anything.
Grey looked at the flowers and turned to Alice, "Would you like to try?"
Alice thought for a while before nodding. The energy was a treasure, she wanted to absorb more of it if possible.
Grey nodded and went to the side. He sat down cross-legged and entered a cultivation state.
Alice knew he was probably preparing for something, so she went ahead with her business.
Two hours later, Alice gave up with a helpless expression. She only managed to balance four more flowers. The difficulty was more than ten times harder than when she started.
"I can't continue."
Grey opened his eyes when he heard this.

"Alright, it's time for me to try." He muttered and walked over to the garden.

He didn't start to balance them instantly. First of all, he wanted to see how many flowers were left, and if could do more than Alice.

He started to sense them, and after some time, he knew that he would be able to balance at most five more.

'If I follow the conventional path, then I won't be able to go far.' He thought to himself.

Just like Alice, he sensed that the difficulty was stronger than the first time he balanced it.

Chapter 1116 Klaus' Breakthrough

Grey calmed his mind, and his spiritual senses spread out, covering at least fifteen flowers.

When Alice saw what he was doing, her eyes opened wide. She couldn't believe what she was seeing.

Grey wanted to stabilize fifteen flowers at the same time. This was a shocking thing.

She frowned and said, "Grey, don't be greedy. This is dangerous."

Most of the time, she didn't bother with anything Grey was doing, but after recalling what happened the first time Grey tried to stabilize the first flower, she couldn't help but feel it was too dangerous.

If one flower could send Grey flying, then fifteen would be able to do serious damage to him. His strong body would not be able to help him in such a situation.

Grey didn't respond to her, he had already started to infuse the flowers with his essence.

"Void, get ready to help him if needed." Alice's face was serious.

Grey had already started, so she couldn't stop him. The only thing she could do now was to make sure they were prepared for what would happen next.

If Grey lost control, then the energy would explode. The power might be at the Peak of the Elemental Venerable Plane, given the number of flowers.

Alice was not the only one who frowned at what Grey was attempting, in the void, even the projection of the old man was also frowning.

He shook his head with a sigh, "Youths are too impatient."

With Grey's talent, he would be able to stabilize five more, he might even be able to add another one to make it six. But Grey was overshadowed by greed, and he directly tried to balance fifteen. If this wasn't greed and overestimating oneself, the old man didn't know what was.

Void and the bunny leader looked at Grey.

The bunny leader was a little taken aback, it didn't think that Grey was the greedy type. It had been traveling with them for some time, so it at least knew some of his characters.

Sweat gathered on Grey's face, dripping to the ground. He was under immense pressure, any slight mistake and the energy would lose control. As long as he loses control of one of them, just like a ripple effect, the others will lose control as well and explode in his face. He didn't dare to be careless.

Contrary to what the others thought, he didn't feel like he was overestimating himself. He sensed them properly, and carefully picked these fifteen.

Of all of them, only one of them did not need him to infuse the fire element. This would help him maximize his strength. His control over his fire element was the highest, so since he had to place it on more flowers, it would be easier for him to control.

The others held their breaths as they watched Grey balance the energy in fifteen flowers simultaneously.

Time went by slowly as everyone's hearts were at their throats.

The time needed for this one was higher than the previous ones, which was expected, but it was not as long as the time Alice needed to stabilize five.

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Grey was slowly infusing them, making sure he didn't rush any of them. If one of the flowers were to be stabilized, then Grey's efforts would be wasted since the difficulty would increase, putting him in danger.

After twenty minutes, Grey's eyes shone with brilliance and with a grunt, he managed to stabilize all fifteen flowers at the same time.

The flowers gave off a blinding light. Given the high number that was cleared at the same time, the energy that came out was stronger, and there seemed to be some sort of transformation.

In the void.

The old man looked at Grey with a shocked expression. He had sensed Grey's spiritual sense and knew it was not even on the same level as Void and the bunny leader, yet he managed to succeed.

Although the old man was only a projection, he still had some sort of intelligence.

"Merging with more would make his strength more balanced. Eight different energies." He muttered to himself before shutting his eyes.

He could sense the energies in a single flower, and when Grey tried to merge all fifteen together, he sensed that there were actually eight energies in one of the flowers. This made him flabbergasted. The

difficulty of achieving the feat Grey just achieved with two elements was very low, much less with eight elements.
'A monster has appeared.'
This was the only thing in the head of the projection.

Grey had no idea that achieving this had given away the fact that he had eight elements away, luckily, the old man was just a projection and naturally had no enmity with him.
Grey was currently smiling from ear to ear as he looked at the others who had their mouths agape, "Shocked?"
Seeing his smug face, Alice felt annoyed and sent a lightning bolt at Grey.
Grey dodged it with a laugh. He was ecstatic. Merging with these energies would be very beneficial for him, given the high number of elements he had. This was the reason he made sure he absorbed a high number of it.
He soon started to feel a difference, even without checking, he could tell that there was an increase in his light element.
Presently, his body was actively absorbing light elemental particles at a crazy speed.
He closed his eyes to stabilize his mind before they set off.

While Grey and Alice are in the garden, Klaus is surprisingly in an unfortunate situation.

When he stepped into the building, he was transported to another place. None of his friends were with him. This was not what he found annoying, rather, Lara was with him.

Just like Grey and Alice, they also saw five thrones. Each throne giving off spatial fluctuations.

Lara suggested they go for the safer, smaller thrones, but Klaus naturally refused.

He dashed to where the large throne was located and touched it. Just when he thought he was about to escape from her, she grabbed him and teleported with him.

He felt the throne would not accept her, but to his surprise, she met the requirements.

They appeared in a volcano. Being Water Elementalists, they favored being in the water or even the ground. Although water could suppress fire, in such a place, a Fire Elementalist would have the advantage.

In the volcano, they were currently faced with flying Magical Beasts that started attacking them the moment they appeared.

"Damn it! You've spoiled my luck!" Klaus cursed as he was sent flying by an attack.

He was still at the Peak of the Sage Plane. What attacked him was already in the Elemental Venerable Plane.

Lara didn't say anything but frowned as she fought off the Magical Beast that attacked her.

She was almost the same height as Klaus, being slightly shorter.

Her jade-like skin glowed even in the volcano.

Klaus was cursing as he ran around.

"Stop moving. How will I fight them if you're not staying in one place?" She complained.

"F*ck you! If not for you, I wouldn't have been in this mess." Klaus knew how great his luck was. There was no way he would've been in such a situation if he had been teleported alone.

But Lara just had to follow him.

Lara felt a headache as she looked at him. She had always known Klaus had a bad mouth, so she didn't like speaking with him.

'If not for the mistress, I would've killed him myself.' She looked at him coldly.

Klaus sensed her cold gaze and couldn't help but shiver. He wasn't afraid of her, but he knew he was no match for her.

"Block them, I'm going to break through." He said and sat down, leaving everything to her.

He didn't have a choice, he had to break through now. If not, Lara will not be able to protect him forever.

Lara looked at him, her eyes showing a different emotion. She snorted but still blocked the Magical Beasts that were trying to go close to him. She even created an ice dome around him.

Klaus was sitting cross-legged and sensed the ice dome. He reinforced it with his element as well. Lara might be in the Mid stages, but he was still more confident in his ability to protect himself.

Now that he was so close to the Elemental Venerable Plane, he knew that his defensive ability would not be any weaker than someone close to the peak of the Early stages in the Elemental Venerable Plane.



The Magical Beast was already in the Early stage of the Seventh Rank. Since Klaus' attack could bring it down, it meant that his attack power was already in the Elemental Venerable Plane. Previously, only his defense was in the Elemental Venerable Plane, but now, his attack had also reached this stage. Lara was able to guess why there was no disturbance, "Good, protect yourself." Klaus didn't say anything else, it's not like he wanted her protection anyway. After his breakthrough, the duo started to ascend the volcano. They needed to go out of the volcano. Lara realized the longer they stayed in the volcano, the more suppressed the water element was. They would stay for some time before their attacks would become almost useless against these Magical Beasts. Grey had successfully passed the stage he appeared in. Klaus was still facing the challenge of climbing out of the volcano. Reynolds and the others were also going through different challenges at the same time. With the exception of Keith, the others successfully used the large throne to enter the secret space and were all facing different opportunities and dangers. Grey, Alice, Void, and the bunny leader stepped through the passage and appeared in another location. This time, they saw a large hall in front of them. At the front of the hall, a Bull was standing guard.

Seeing the Bull, Grey told Klaus and the bunny leader to check it out.

Hearing the arrangement, the bunny leader showed a displeased look on his face.

"It's a Magical Beast. Wouldn't be easier for you two to check it out first. You just have to retreat if it's dangerous." Grey explained.

The bunny leader wanted to say something, but it stopped itself and followed behind Void.

They soon got close to the Bull, but there was no reaction from the Bull whatsoever. It was like it didn't see the duo.

Grey and Void exchanged glances, and with a nod of the head, Void took another step. The moment he stepped on the stairs leading to the hall, the motionless Bull moved. It sprang to life and blocked the path of Void and the bunny leader.

The Bull didn't do anything else, only blocking their paths. With the size of the Bull, as long as it didn't move, there was no way for anyone to enter the building.

Void turned to Grey again, seeking approval if he should attack the Bull. Grey nodded.

The next moment, Void's aura changed, and a sharp claw made of the darkness element appeared and attacked the Bull.

The Bull's eyes shone before it rammed into it. The claw was destroyed instantly.

Void's expression changed and he hastily retreated. The bunny leader tried to use the opportunity to sneak into the building, but the Bull stomped on the ground aggressively with its hindlegs, almost stamping the bunny leader.

The threat of death made the bunny leader rush back to Grey's side, even faster than Void. It shook his head at Grey, telling him they were not as strong as the Bull.

Grey studied the Bull for a while before walking forward. The Bull's dull eyes came to life, and it charged at Grey. "Go in, I'll block it." By the time Grey's voice was heard, he was already entangled with the Bull. In front of the Bull's large figure, Grey looked like an infant, but he was very fast. The Bull was unable to hit him due to his speed. Void joined him as the duo teamed up to harass the Bull. Alice and the bunny leader were free, and they walked toward the door leading to the hall. The Bull, sensing this, rushed at them. Grey and Void blocked its path. Grey even used the chaos orb. The strength of the orb was frightening after the last round. Now that Grey knew how to balance his strength to minimize the effort and maximize the result, it was pretty easy to create a chaos orb. They were alone, so Grey had no reservations when using his elements. He created the chaos orb with all eight elements. Even if the bunny leader were to see this, it wouldn't be able to speak about it since it's always with Grey. Of course, Grey didn't make it too obvious. He made the elements known by most people dominant to hide the aura of the other ones. After grasping how to properly control his elements, he had no issues with this.

The Bull didn't take this attack on, instead, it opened its mouth and shot out a stream of water.

The water collided with the orb and exploded.

The pace of the explosion forced Grey and Void back, the Bull however, didn't move from its spot.

Alice and the bunny leader entered the building at the same time as the explosion.

When the explosion died down, Grey looked around and saw the Bull at its original position when they first entered this place.

"So its job is to stop people from going in?" Grey looked at the Bull.

He wasn't sure of this, but he felt it would be better if Alice was able to find something inside while he was entangled with the Bull.

At first, he thought he would have to kill the Bull to pass through this stage. However, that doesn't seem to be the case.

The second Alice entered the building, the Bull stopped fighting and went back to where it was lying.

Grey walked to the building and stepped in.

Alice turned to look at him, she also sensed that the battle had stopped.

The inside of the building was the normal size which made Grey heave a sigh of relief. Since Grey entered this secret realm, almost all the buildings he had entered were the same, looking small on the outside while being large on the inside.

They didn't rush to do anything as they stood in the same spot, waiting for instruction like in the first round.

Five minutes breezed by, and they didn't see anyone.

"Maybe that place is different." Alice said.

"I guess so." Grey agreed with her words and they decided to start exploring the place. The hall was mostly empty, but on the sides, there were rows of doors. He walked closer to one and tried to open it. No matter how he tried, he was unable to open it. He even went as far as using elemental attacks, but it was futile. After he failed to open the first one, he went to the next one. In this place, other than doors, there was nothing else. So their only choice was to try to open the doors. Alice, Void, and even the bunny leader all started to try to open the doors on the side. A few minutes later, there was finally a reaction. It was from one of the doors Void tried to open. It shook for some time before making a loud clicking sound. "It opened." Alice and Grey rushed to the door. The bunny leader also stopped what it was doing and rushed there as well. It was curious what was inside these doors. The door opened slowly. The group looked at it with anticipation, but their expressions soon changed when they saw what was inside. The door opened, and a room appeared in front of them, chains were on the walls, and a skeleton could be seen chained to the ground.

"A dungeon?" Grey blurted out.

That was what this thing looked like. But a normal dungeon looked cruder. This place was a beautiful large hall, if this was its purpose, Grey felt a bit disappointed.

"Probably." Alice replied as she stepped into the room.

Other than the skeleton chained to the ground, there were some things carved on the wall close to it.

Chapter 1118 Was That There?

Grey and Alice walked over to read what was written on the wall, but it was in a language they did not know.

"Do you know this?" Grey asked the others that were there.

The bunny was mysterious and should've been in this place before them, so Grey felt it was best to ask it since there was a probability that it would know.

'How would I know?' The bunny leader looked at him oddly.

Grey could only give up, however, he didn't forget to write it down. This was probably valuable information. He didn't know too much about ancient times, so it wouldn't be bad if he could decipher this.

They continued trying to open the other doors. Three more opened but just like the first one, other than chains and skeletons, there was nothing else.

Grey was not too picky, he picked up all the chains, while being looked down on by the bunny leader. He couldn't care about how the bunny leader looked at him. What was important was that he got something from this place.

When he touched the chains, he noticed that they seemed to be able to restrain his ability to access his elements. If not for the fact he only held them for a short time, he was certain that he would've lost his ability to use his essence for some time.

'Good stuff!'

This was all he exclaimed as he picked them up. With this, if he could use it to chain down anyone that was stronger than himself, he would be able to beat them up. Of course, that was all on the premise that they didn't break free from it on time. Anyone stronger than him would not have any difficulty with breaking free from the chain if Grey tried to use it to pin them down. He might have a stronger physique, but those people had powerful elemental abilities, so all they needed to do was to make sure that they were not caught by the chain.

After taking all the chains he could take, he also tried to see if there was anything special about the skeletons. At this point, even Alice started to look at him strangely.

"Don't look at me like that, this thing is a treasure. No one knows how long they had died, but the bones are still intact. This shows that they had a powerful physique as well." Grey explained.

Alice didn't say anything, she didn't know what to say. All she could do was to let him do as he pleases.

Grey had the thought of taking one of the bones for further study, but then he decided against it. Although he was curious about it, it was disrespectful to start studying the bone of a dead expert.

They soon walked out of the building.

The Bull was lying in the same spot, not looking at them.

"How do we leave?" Grey looked around.

He had gotten some things here, and since there was nothing else, he didn't want to waste his time any longer.

Alice shook her head. They entered this place the same time, so there was no way she would know how to leave.

"Why don't we kill the Bull?" Void suggested.

The Bull looked real, and he couldn't help but wonder what it would taste like. This Bull was definitely raised in this place, so its strength was above average. Its meat would also be very delicate as well.

There was nothing else, so the group went over to kill the Bull.

Alice didn't join them since she was still in the Sage Plane. A single attack from the Bull might be able to kill her, so she decided to sit this one out.

While watching them, she studied the place, frowning slightly. She was a hundred percent certain that killing the Bull would not send them to the next stage.

There was no way the chains were what could be taken out of this stage. From the first stage, it was easy to see that there would be things they would have to do for them to advance to the next stage.

'What could this stage task be?' She fell deep in thought.

While she was thinking of how to leave the place, Grey and Void had started their attack on the Bull.

The bunny leader also joined in on the fun, attacking the Bull's legs as it cursed at it. Apparently, it was still feeling vexed from the time the Bull almost stamped it.

They fought the Bull for over ten minutes before they managed to successfully take it down.

When it died, contrary to what the others expected, it vanished. Turned into energy and entered the body of Grey, Void, the bunny leader, and Alice who was sitting on the side.

Alice raised her head to look in their direction. 'I was wrong, can killing this Bull take us to the next stage?' She thought internally. However, after the Bull died, nothing happened. Other than the energy that entered their bodies, there was no change. "Damn it! Who told them we wanted energy? Give us back our meat!" Void cursed. The energy that entered their bodies only helped in replenishing their used up strength. This was not what they wanted. It was a huge loss in their book. Grey was also thinking at this point. They had killed the Bull, yes, they expended a lot of energy. But it wouldn't really matter to them. It wasn't like... His expression changed and he tried to absorb elemental essence from the surrounding. He soon realized that he was unable to. 'I was able to absorb light essence in the last stage.' He thought to himself with a frown. Alice was looking at his face with an odd expression, "Did you notice it as well?" Grey nodded. There was no essence in this place, so as long as they fought against the Bull, if they didn't defeat it on time. Then they would be the ones in trouble.

"What would've happened if we ran out of energy?" Grey couldn't help but ask.

They had been fighting for some time and their essence was drained.



Grey pointed at the top of the building, there was a window there connected to the hall. They took flight and appeared in front of the window. There was a passageway there. "How come I didn't notice this window the first time?" Grey was suspicious. Even though he didn't survey the place well, he still felt that such a large window would not have been able to escape from his view. "Neither did I. I think we felt it was part of the building and naturally didn't care about it." Alice deduced. Grey nodded and brought out a smaller chain that he started to study. Of course, he didn't hold it. Placing it some distance away from him, he used an elemental weapon to hold it as he studied it. He had obtained a lot of elemental weapons during his journeys. "The metal is forged with something. This is what's giving it the ability to restrain elemental essence. I wonder what it could be." He muttered as he continued observing the chain. They were currently walking in the passageway. So he didn't feel too stressed. Alice would notify him of anything that was happening. Before long, they got to the end of the passageway.

Grey kept the chain and studied his new environment. He didn't want a repeat of what happened the last time.

A large field appeared before them.

The field didn't have much, just a way down a cave.

As they walked, Grey recalled that this place was just like most on the places he had been to in this secret realm. Small on the outside, large on the inside.

Chapter 1119 Ancient Cultivation Path?

At the front of the cave, they saw the projection of the old man once again.

Grey and Alice heaved a sigh of relief since they would get instructions on what to get from this stage.

When the old man saw them, his eyes showed confusion.

"Did you fight the Bull?" He asked when they got close to him.

Grey nodded.

"Strange." The old man muttered.

Grey and Alice were still full of energy, even though they had fought with the Bull, which shouldn't be. The Bull is programmed to be as strong as whoever it's fighting. It would not completely dominate the person, but it would be able to fight them till they were exhausted. Only then would this passage open up, and they would be transported here.

The old man didn't stay on the topic too long. Since these people passed, then he would let them into the next stage.

"Go through the passage, it will release its pressure on you. The longer you can endure, the better the rewards." The old man said and disappeared.

This stage would've been better if they were tired since the pressure would push them to the limit. But Grey's group was fine, which was out of the expectation of the old man.

Grey and Alice exchanged glances before heading into the cave. All they saw was a long passage stretching as far as the eye could see.

"I wonder what's releasing the pressure." Grey looked at the passage with curiosity.

After some time, he took a step into the passage, and his body shook, but he regained himself almost instantly, and the pressure he suddenly felt vanished as if it had never appeared.

On the other hand, Alice paused for some time to adjust to the pressure. Void and the bunny leader were the same, only, they had it easier than Alice. They were Magical Beasts, so they had an excellent tolerance for these things.

Grey was the only one who didn't feel anything. He continued forward in a carefree manner, not bothering with this stage.

Seeing how Grey was walking without a trace of pressure, Alice followed behind him. The pressure at the start isn't something that could stop her from advancing.

Hundred meters, two hundred meters, three hundred meters. The further they go, the stronger the pressure. It started to affect Alice as her breathing started to get heavy.

She looked at Grey's expression and was once again dumbfounded by this friend of hers. Grey didn't even break a sweat, it was almost like he was taking a stroll.

"Aren't you feeling the pressure too?" She couldn't help but ask.

"Pressure? Not really. I feel a tingling sensation on my skin if that counts." Grey replied.

Alice's face turned dark when she heard this. Sometimes, she just wished to beat the hell out of Grey.

"Are you sure you're not feeling any pressure?" She asked again, to be sure. Grey liked to joke with his friends, so she had to confirm whether he was joking.

"I'm serious. I don't feel any pressure at all." Grey replied seriously.

Alice looked at him with an odd expression. The bunny leader was shaken when it saw and heard all this. It couldn't believe it. It was feeling the pressure, and even though he had no problems advancing for now, it was unknown if it could reach the passage's end.

Void didn't show too much surprise, he had always known Grey was a freak. Whenever he sees any new freakish thing done by Grey, he shows no shock.

"Can you continue?" Grey asked.

Alice nodded with a grit of her teeth.

Grey didn't speak any further and continued walking. Alice followed behind him, a little slower now. Once she got to a certain stage, she knew it would be dangerous.

Five hundred meters.

"I can't go any further." Alice supported her body with the walls of the cave.

At this stage, Grey also started to feel it on his body. The pressure was getting stronger, and his body felt like a heavy boulder was pressing it.

'It can only suppress things related to my cultivation realm.' He thought to himself.

When he first stepped foot on the passageway, he felt a foreign force trying to enter his body and mess up his essence. His essence, however, was no longer in his body. It was kept in the Chaos Space.

Not just that, but the orb in his body reacted and destroyed the energy that entered his body. This was the reason why he had been carefree.

The case was different since it had started to pressure his physical body. 'Could this be a trial to train the body? I wonder if ancient Elementalists cultivate their bodies.' Grey thought to himself as he studied the pressure on his body. Alice stopped at the five hundred meters mark. She was barely holding on, and she couldn't take it anymore with her physical body being pressured too. "I'll be going ahead then." Grey said before he continued going further. Alice sat down cross-legged and started to cultivate. She could tell that this place was also perfect for her essence and body. The result was evident in her essence since she had walked a good distance on it. Void and the bunny leader followed Grey, they could still go on, so there was no need to stay behind. Besides, it was quite beneficial for them. Especially this part that worked on the body. Magical Beasts had strong bodies, to begin with. A man and two small Magical Beasts standing on each side of his shoulder began heading further into the cave. In the depth of the cave. A pavilion could be seen, and in the middle of it was an armor floating on its own. The armor sparkled with brilliance. Even after staying in this place for so long, its radiance couldn't be hidden.

At the side of the pavilion, a figure could be seen, it was unknown if the figure was alive or dead.

Chapter 1120 What Has The World Turned Into?

On the passageway.

Grey was still walking further into the cave. It was starting to get harder for him to continue.

The bunny leader was panting heavily, finding it hard to keep its body upright. From the start, it was standing on its hind legs, but now, it was on all four as it was finding it hard.

Grey thought the pressure on him increased because he was carrying the bunny leader and Void, but when he dropped them, he found out that it was the same.

After Void's plea, he carried him. The bunny leader couldn't help but beg as well.

Grey's current figure from a distance was like one of someone with three heads, just that the other two are way smaller than the middle one, and they had different shapes.

He couldn't be bothered with all these. At the moment, he had walked over a thousand meters. His speed was by no means slow, but with every two hundred meters crossed, the pressure would almost double.

He couldn't see Alice anymore, unsure if there was something impeding it. Normally, he should be able to see her since the path was a straight line. But contrary to his thoughts, it wasn't so.

"Do you think we can reach the end?" Void asked, panting. His tongue was out as he struggled to breathe.

"I can't tell. Another five hundred meters, and I'll be at my limit." Grey responded with difficulty. His carefree attitude was long gone.

'You should sit and strengthen your body, and then continue.' The bunny leader suggested.

Grey thought about it and sat down cross-legged, he soon started to feel his body growing stronger.

He broke through to the Elemental Venerable stage and acquired the abilities of an ice dragon. His body also grew stronger. Presently, the explosive force of his body was stronger than his elemental attack. Only the chaos orb is stronger than his attack

His body greedily used the pressure from the cave to temper itself, growing stronger as time went on.

Grey enjoyed the feeling of his body getting stronger as he sat that. Before he knew it, three hours passed with his eyes still closed, fully in a cultivation state.

One more hour went by and he opened his eyes, excitement flashing through them.

"Hahaha." He laughed and jumped back up, he threw his fist forward, and an explosion rang out in the cave.

The strength of his physical body had climbed to the Mid stages of the Elemental Venerable Plane. It was originally in the Early stages, but now, it was close to the peak of the Mid stages.

The bunny leader and Void were startled, both falling from Grey's shoulder.

The bunny leader was cultivating, like Grey, it was lost in the feeling of strengthening its body. Void, on the other hand, was sleeping.

Void flipped mid-air and landed on his legs. The bunny leader was not as agile as Void, but it managed to make sure it didn't land on its head. Its butt slammed into the ground and it groaned in discomfort. Looking at Grey who was smiling foolishly, it couldn't help but snort coldly.

It was the one who told Grey to cultivate his body, yet, this was how Grey paid him back.

Grey scratched the tip of his nose, a little embarrassed. Void jumped and landed on his shoulder, but the bunny leader opted to walk on its own now.

Void was used to always being on Grey's shoulder whenever they were walking, and it was tiring to have to walk on his own.
The pressure lessened after their round of cultivation.
They walked another five hundred meters and could barely move their bodies.
Grey tried cultivating, but he realized that it was useless. His body couldn't advance any further for now.
He was about to give up when he caught sight of a light from the other side of the tunnel.
"The end of the tunnel." He pointed at the light, diverting the attention of the two Magical Beasts to it.
One has to know that they were under more pressure compared to Grey. Grey only had to focus on the pressure of his physical body, while the two Magical Beasts also had to face the pressure of their elemental essence.
Seeing the light, they were rejuvenated and walked faster, trying to reach the end as soon as they could.
Grey also walked faster. He wanted to run, but his body couldn't take that much. He also tried to use the space element, but it was useless since he couldn't open the space here.
They walked to the end, the bright light almost blinding them. Their visions returned to normal after some time, a pavilion appearing before them.
"A place to rest?" Void asked.
"Not likely. There should be a reward." Grey looked around.

The bunny leader also looked around, a little expectant on what they would gain from this. If anyone appeared now and told them that the increase in their physical bodies was the reward, they might beat up the person.

Although they were all happy with the increase in their strength, they still wanted to get more rewards.

Not seeing anything outside, Grey knew it was time to walk inside the pavilion and inspect it.

As they walked closer to the pavilion, the motionless figure inside the pavilion, who hadn't been moving all this while, opened his eyes.

The figure was that of a young man who looked to be in his early twenties. The figure walked closer to the armor, caressing it, his eyes showed an expression of pain. Before long, he turned to the door.

Grey and Void walked in at this moment.

"Oh." A surprised exclamation escaped from the mouth of the young man. He didn't expect a human and two Magical Beasts to be the ones to pass through the trial.

One has to know that even Dragons had failed the test, yet, a bunny and a cat even passed it.

"What has the world turned into?" The young man muttered.