

## Affinity 131

### Chapter 131 - Toying With Quinn

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Boom!

A tree exploded into bits after being struck by a powerful fireball.

"Ah! Where are they?!" Quinn could be seen with frustration all over his face.

He had been searching for Grey and his friends for almost six hours now, and the lack of results was starting to irritate him. Since none of his companions have released the signal yet, it meant neither of them have found Grey yet.

What was more frustrating was that he was already starting to tire out since he hadn't gotten a good rest since the prolonged battles. Although physically he was quite okay after taking some tonic that helped restore his essence, he was feeling tired mentally, and the only way to solve that was to rest.

Walking out of the woods, he saw a ruined building. This was the sixth building he had come across since he started searching for Grey and his friends.

It was a five-story building with at least twenty-five rooms.

'If I don't find them here, I'll rest a little. After recovering, I'll continue the search.' thought Quinn.

Getting closer to the building, he didn't sense anyone on the first floor, being too tired, he didn't bother to search all the floors after not finding anyone on the second floor of the building.

He randomly picked a room on the second floor before going in. After entering the room he set up some defensive measures and immediately sat in a lotus position. If he didn't rest for even a little, then even if he finds Grey, he might not be able to even fight against him. After getting into a meditative state, he carefully hid his presence just in case.

Unknown to Quinn, Grey and his friends were in this building. Only, they were all situated on the fourth floor and were all fully engrossed in recovering.

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Two hours later.

Grey was the first amongst the group to awaken from his state of cultivation.

He walked out of the room he occupied, leaving the still cultivating Void alone. He initially wanted to wake Void up, but when he remembered how he disrupted Void's cultivation the last time when he refined his body, he dismissed the idea.

'I remember sensing someone, but, looks like the person didn't stay for long.' thought Grey

When he was cultivating previously, he sensed the presence of someone walking inside the building, but after some time, the presence disappeared. He initially wanted to go check it out, but after not sensing the person again, he stopped himself and focused on cultivating.

He assumed it was probably one of the geniuses who came into the trial land.

Although this looked careless, he was very safe. Being an Inscriber means he's naturally good with arrays. He had placed multiple arrays in not just his room, but also the rooms of his friends.

If anyone were to carelessly charge in, then, they're in for a rough time. Although the attacks from the arrays aren't strong enough to kill them, they shouldn't have any problems hurting them.

With nothing to do, he decided to look through the other floors. In no time, he had already looked through the other two empty rooms on the fourth floor and was on his way to the fifth floor.

Some steps on the stairs were missing for some unknown reasons, there were holes in the walls, and when Grey got to the last floor, he was greeted by the moonlight shining through the roofless building.

The end of the passageway was destroyed so there was a huge hole in the wall. Grey walked closer to the hole and looked through the hole, observing the compound, and also the forest that was not far from the building.

"Huh!" Grey saw a familiar shadow walking out of the building.

'What's he doing here? Could it be that he followed us here?' Grey pondered when he saw Quinn leaving the building.

'Well, since he's here, then I'll play with him for some time.' Grey jumped through the hole in the wall.

He was bored and since a prey had appeared for him to have fun with, then he wouldn't mind playing Quinn to death.

Using his wind element, he slowed his descent, so the impact of the landing wouldn't spread far.

He planned to kill Quinn slowly, first, he'll break him down mentally, before killing him.

Quinn who just stepped out of the building felt his ear twitch.

'Someone or something is following me.' He thought coldly.

Compared to other humans, Quinn's ears were more s.e.n.s.i.t.i.v.e to sound just like that of an animal. Although it couldn't be compared to an animal's hearing, it was better than that of regular humans.

So even when Grey tried to be as silent as possible, he still made some sounds which Quinn surprisingly picked up from over fifty meters away.

Quinn raised his vigilance and continued walking without looking back. He didn't want to alert whoever, or whatever was following behind him.

The only thing that made him slightly worried was the fact that he didn't know the strength of his soon-to-be opponent. If he could find out, then he'll know what measures to take.

He reduced his speed and focused hearing on what sounds he could pick up. From the light footsteps he was hearing, he was able to confirm it was a human that was following behind him, but he was still unable to sense the Plane or presence of the person.

'To think someone would follow me. Hmm, I'll know who the person is soon enough.' thought Quinn.

Had it not been for his impeccable hearing, then there was a chance the person following behind him would be able to successfully sneak attack him.

"Show yourself!" Quinn turned around sharply and exploded out with a sea of fire that spread out in all directions.

The power of the flame was quite weak due to it spreading in such a large scale, but Quinn didn't plan on using it to kill, he wanted to force out his stalker.

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'He sensed me, to think he knew I was following behind him.' Grey casually waved his hand and an earth wall appeared in front of him that blocked the flame.

But after blocking it, he climbed up one of the trees. With the aid of the wind element, it didn't take him long before he got to the very top of the tree.

It hadn't even been close to two minutes since he started following behind Quinn, yet he was discovered. He felt quite embarrassed at how poor his stalking was.

He just finished creating the first symbol but he hadn't made it appear yet. But he knew there was no way Quinn would be able to sense it.

'I originally planned on using two symbols, but...whatever, one should be enough.' Grey thought and attacked with the symbol while still hiding in the trees.

After the symbol sent out the attack, unlike before when the symbol would remain visible, this time, after the first attack, it disappeared, like it was never there.

'Let the fun begin!' Grey laughed happily inside.

Bam!

Quinn managed to dodge the attack, but after looking around, and not finding anyone, his face turned sour.

"Come out and fight like a man!" Quinn roared.

Grey wanted to shamelessly retort and say he was a lady, but after some thought, he decided it was best to attack him again. If he were to speak, then there's a chance Quinn might figure out which tree he was hiding on.

Quinn slammed into the tree that was closest to him and his hair turned into a mess.

Another minute went by with him not seeing his opponent, or where the attack was coming from. Only a fool wouldn't realize what was happening, his opponent was toying with him.

"I'll kill you!" He almost dragged his hair out from annoyance.

Why was this happening to him? Who was so bored to follow him and start tormenting him?

The most annoying thing was that his opponent wasn't trying to kill him, and was currently playing with him. He had tried escaping multiple times, but he was met with assaults that had nearly taken his life.

He remembered Klaus was a Water Elementalist, but he knew none of them was a Wind Elementalist.

He tried burning the trees, but the person would put out the fire with the water element. Even though he knew the person was in the trees, there was nothing he could do to get the person out.

"Who are you? Come out this instant!" Quinn ordered.

Grey hearing this felt like Quinn wasn't as smart as he thought he was.

'Does he really think I'll come out? I think he has a screw loose or something.' Grey shrugged and continued his assault.

Chapter 132 - Darkness! Consume!

Another minute went by with Grey not stopping his assault. He naturally has a reason for this. Although he wanted to kill Quinn, he knew it wouldn't be easy.

Had Quinn not found out he was following behind him, then maybe he would have done a sneak attack that would end his life or at the very least, injure him, instead of toying with him. But alas, Quinn was too vigilant, and quickly figured out he was being followed.

After being found out, Grey decided it was best to wear him down while also toying with him. This wouldn't only break him physically, but also mentally. Once he's worn down, then the real battle would commence.

But there was one thing he had to make sure of, and that was, as long as he showed himself, then he had to kill Quinn at all cost since he had used two other elements. Quinn would be able to figure out he had five elements that would put his life at risk if the information of him wielding more than three elements were to be disseminated.

The first reason for this was because, in the entire history of the Azure continent, the highest number of elements a Multi Elementalist had ever wielded was three, although, there might be a chance of people having more but not showing it.

Then the second, and most important reason was that, if the people from his empire were to find out he could wield five elements, then he would be subject to multiple questioning and possible experiments since when he took the test, he had only two elements.

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After being assaulted for almost three minutes, Quinn had finally calmed himself and started thinking, soon, a realization dawned on him.

'This person is trying to wear me down. Well, there's also a chance the person is deranged, so there's no way I'm sure this is his plan. But, if I'm the one doing something like this, that would be my only reason.' Thought Quinn.

Placing himself in the shoes of his unknown opponent, he assumed the reason the person was doing this is to wear him down. Although he wasn't a hundred percent sure, he felt he shouldn't be far from it.

Having come to an assumption, he stopped trying to escape since it had been futile all this while and focused on defending mostly. This allowed him to conserve more energy.

'Hmph! There's no way you can do this for long. Your essence will be used up soon and then, I'll see where you can escape to.' Quinn snorted while blocking an attack.

Given the amount of essence an Origin Plane Elementalist can keep in the body, attacking for over thirty minutes straight without taking breaks would naturally dry it up. Only when an Elementalist gets to the Sage Plane will they have an unlimited supply of elemental essence.

When defending, an Elementalist tends to use lesser essence, but again, this all depends on the strength of the attack the Elementalist is defending against.

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It didn't take long for Grey to realize Quinn had changed tactics. Instead of trying to escape, it looks like he's trying to fight a war of attrition.

'\*Sigh\* Although he acted dumb previously, he truly is a great fighter. But unfortunately for him, I can go on for hours without running out of essence.' Grey sighed at Quinn's quick thinking but also felt pity for him since his plan wouldn't work out.

When attacking with the symbol, it doesn't require the Inscriber's elemental essence, rather, it takes its essence from the environment. Given how abundant the essence here is, there's no way it would run out.

The only downside of inscribing was that if the number of inscriptions the Inscriber is using simultaneously is too much, it wears the person down, just like what happened to Grey previously. But for the current Grey, he could keep up a single inscription for just over one hour before it starts straining him mentally.

'Since he wants to play, I'm pretty free, so I don't mind.' Grey chuckled playfully and increased the speed of his attacks.

He just stayed on his tree, in the cover of the night, and was enjoying the show Quinn was putting on.

Another fifteen minutes went by with Grey sometimes increasing the tempo of the attacks, and sometimes decreasing it.

'It shouldn't be long now, once this person runs out. I'll immediately kill the person!' Quinn thought spitefully.

This was the only word he could use to comfort himself. Even though he hadn't been injured, defending nonstop for almost twenty minutes without resting is annoying. He felt like an animal being toyed with.



A terrifying aura was being congealed in his body. He was gathering so much energy that once he sees this person, he'll kill whoever it was instantly.

Fifteen minutes later.

'How can he still keep going?' Quinn's mind was turning into a mess.

It had already passed the estimated time of thirty minutes, but the person still hadn't stopped the attack, and the speed of the attacks was still the same.

'What's all this? It doesn't make sense!' Quinn felt confused by everything.

He was already starting to get exhausted, even though he hadn't been attacking. The energy he had been preparing previously had already started to slowly reduce, and the stress of having to defend against attacks that would come from unpredictable locations was starting to eat him up.

"Why are you doing this? Come out and we can talk things out!" Quinn roared looking like someone who was on the verge of going insane.

Anyone facing the same situation would feel that way. The most annoying this was that he hadn't even caught a glimpse of his opponent.

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'\*Sigh\* It's a shame a nice young man like him is about to go crazy.' Grey shook his head in pity like he wasn't the cause of it.

If Quinn were to know what he was thinking, he'll surely curse him and his entire family.

'But, I've had my fun, and, watching someone do one thing repeatedly is quite boring.' Grey slowly stood up.

'It's time to end this!' Grey prepared himself for the last fight.

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"Ahh! You don't want to come out?! Fine! I'll force you out!" Quinn shriek madly.

"Darkness! Consume!" Quinn spread his arms wide and a terrifying scene occurred.

Darkness?essence soon started spreading in all directions, and the moment it came in contact with any living thing, it slowly started consuming it. When it came in contact with a tree, the tree would slowly start decaying, like it was going through the passage of time. After decaying to a certain extent, it would fall and shatter into bits.

Even the ground he was standing on wasn't spared from this attack, and it soon parched up. The earth slowly started having cracks like it would give way shortly.

Within ten seconds, all the trees within a three hundred meters radius had all decayed, with the earth also suffering from the same thing.

The impact of the attack was dreadful, no one would believe this was the result of an attack. Even Grey who witnessed it was having a hard time believing it.

Looking at it properly, it felt like it was the natural work of time!

Chapter 133 - Quinn's Death

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Grey who just prepared to attack had a fright when the phantom appeared behind Quinn.

'What is that?' He looked at it curiously.

But the next moment, he turned and jumped from his tree to the next one trying to escape the range of the attack. The scene of the first tree and the earth being consumed sent a chill down his spine. He didn't even dare to block the attack, he outright ran away.

Who would dare to block something like that? The speed at which the darkness essence was eating up everything on its path was frightening. Grey was almost sure if he set up a defense, there was a chance it might also eat it up.

Although there was a chance he might be able to successfully block the attack, he didn't dare to take the chance. What if he couldn't block it? Wouldn't that mean he'll dry up like the trees and the earth?

While running, he realized the attack was still spreading out. When he originally started attacking Quinn, they were just over two hundred meters away from the building. But, after Quinn's multiple attempts to escape, they had moved further by at least one hundred meters or so, he wasn't too sure about it though.

Now, at this pace, there was a chance the attack would get to the building. If his friends were caught up by it, then the consequences would be detrimental.

He quickly ran towards the building at his fastest speed, but the speed at which the attack was spreading was only a little bit slower than he was.

When he reached the building, he wanted to send out an attack and disrupt the cultivation of his friends. Even though the sudden disruption might harm them, it was better than dying, right?

Just after passing through the fence surrounding the compound, the darkness essence also reached there. But it stopped after moving two meters from it.

Grey hastily canceled his attack the moment he realized the darkness essence had stopped spreading. When he turned to look at the result of Quinn's attack, he s.u.c.k.e.d in a cold breath.

"Oh my God! How can this be the result of a single attack?" He exclaimed in shock.

Every single thing on the path of the attack had been destroyed. The fence had fallen, the few trees still standing looked like they were transported here from one thousand years ago. Grey was sure if the trees were hit by a little wind, they would fall apart like the others.

He curiously sent out a wind attack, and the result was just as he had predicted, it fell apart and shattered into bits.

"This guy's a monster. Luckily, the attack stopped spreading, or I wouldn't have forgiven myself if something were to happen to the others." Grey sighed in relief.

Had he not played Quinn to a state of almost going mad, then he wouldn't have used such an attack. Having this technique and not using it previously meant the technique couldn't be used lightly.

Thinking up to this stage, he quickly dashed towards where they previously were. Even though he had predicted the state of the forest after seeing what its outer region looked like after the attack, he was still left speechless when he stepped on a tree that had fallen on the ground and it shattered.

Getting to the location, he couldn't find Quinn.

"Of course he'd escape. But he hasn't gone far, I can still sense him around." Grey charged towards where he was sensing the darkness essence.

Two minutes later.

Grey caught sight of an emaciated-looking young man.

"Oh my God! No wonder he didn't use it previously." Grey was shocked by the price Quinn had to pay.

Quinn who was slowly walking away turned around instantly and looked at Grey with eyes filled with insanity. His previous amazing looks were gone, his face and body were all dried up.

"It's you!" He exclaimed.

"Me? I don't know what you're talking about. Also, who are you?" Grey replied while looking around innocently before he questioned.

He knew it was Quinn, but after hanging around with Klaus for so long, he had picked up a thing or two about annoying people.

Quinn's anger increased a notch higher when he saw the innocent-looking expression on Grey's face. But on hearing the question, he flared up instantly.

"I'll kill you? I know you were the one who attacked me," Quinn yelled.

"If I attacked you, you'd be dead. Also, I still have no idea who you are," Grey said confidently.

Quinn was actually slightly taken aback when he heard this. From the little contact he had with Grey, he felt Grey was speaking the truth since he didn't think someone of Grey's caliber who he even thinks of as an equal would stoop so low.

"Hmph! I don't care if you're the one or not. Hand over the nine drops of the Great Earth Essence Liquid, and I'll leave your corpse intact," Quinn snorted coldly.

"Have you seen yourself?" Grey chuckled.

If Quinn decided to lie down without moving an inch, it would be very easy for everyone to mistake him for a corpse.

'There's no bag with him, this means the nine drops of Great Earth Essence Liquid is not with him, but his friends.' Quinn thought while placing his hand on his bag and destroying a two inches object that had weird symbols.

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The moment the object was destroyed, Quinn's companions who were in different places felt their own heat up. Taking it out, it floated into the air before moving in a particular direction.

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"Where are your friends?" Quinn asked.

Grey glanced at Quinn before looking around. He didn't miss the part where Quinn placed his hand on his bag and took it out moments later.

'I shouldn't delay any further. I almost caused a catastrophe for my friends when I played with him previously. I'm not making that mistake again.' With this in mind, Grey attacked.

"Don't think you can defeat me even though I look like this. You're a fool to think I'm weak." Quinn laughed and struck out.

Grey's fireball was met with Quinn's attack. The attack exploded, but Quinn's attack surprisingly continued moving towards Grey.

Quinn used a lightning attack, but for some reason, it had the corrosive effect of the darkness element.

While Grey was scurrying to destroy the attack coming his way, Quinn coughed up a mouthful of black blood.

'I need to stop attacking. The after-effects of this technique are too powerful, although it gives my other elements the corrosive ability of the darkness element, it also continues eating me up.' Quinn struck out another attack before trying to escape.

"Heh, like I'll allow you run away," Grey smirked after once again using a flurry of attacks to destroy Quinn's attack.

He had already noticed although Quinn's attack didn't decline in terms of strength, his body looked more dried up.

Blocking Quinn's escape route, he attacked him without hesitation.

Three minutes later.

Quinn was on his knees panting heavily, he didn't have any strength left to keep himself standing.

"If you know you're a true genius, allow me to recover and we'll have a real battle with no one else intervening!" Quinn tried to rile Grey up.

"Hehehe, I'm actually a shameless genius," Grey replied with a shy expression on his face.

"Accept your death!" He declared and attacked.

"It's you! How is this pos..." Quinn's speech was cut short.

His body fell lifelessly with his eyes filled with shock and unwillingness. The element Grey used in killing him was the water element, so he quickly realized Grey was the one who assaulted him, only, it was a little too late.

"\*Sigh\* It's a shame we didn't have a grand battle." Grey shook his head and went to search the bag of Quinn which had fallen some distance away from his body.

Chapter 134 - Always Check The Corpse!

"Uh! What's this?" Grey took out a map from Quinn's bag.

Studying the map, he realized it was a map of the trial land, the part that they had explored, that is.

'How long did it take to make this map?' He rubbed his chin while carefully analyzing the map.

With the size of the map, coupled with the freshly drawn locations, it was easy for him to figure out they were the ones who made it. Looking closer, he realized the spot circled was where the valley was located.

'Seems like he was the one who found the door.' Grey guessed.

From how Quinn acted when the door just opened up, he felt there was at least a fifty percent chance they were the ones who found it.

There was also a chance he was wrong though, and Quinn wasn't the one who found the door, but he didn't care about it. He had already gotten some massive rewards thanks to whoever found the place.

After going through the map, he once again focused his attention on the bag. But at the end of his search, he was left disappointed by what it contained. Given Quinn's strength, he should have at least gotten some great stuff here. But other than the map, multiple two inches wooden objects with array lines all over it, and some tonic, he found nothing else. Not even spare clothes!

'What a disgrace. Well, I should head back.' Shaking his head, he turned to leave.

But he stopped midway his turn when something caught his eye. The object was under Quinn's body and only the edge was slightly visible.

"Oh!" He exclaimed softly.

Filled with curiosity, he walked towards the body and moved it to the side. Picking the object, he was surprised that it was actually a darkness element technique.

Without further delay, he read the content of the scroll. This was unexpectedly the technique Quinn used previously. Although Grey was stunned by its power, he didn't like it.



The technique was like a double-edged sword that not only hurts the one being attacked but also hurts the one attacking. The price of using this technique was something Grey felt was too excessive. Using the technique not only drains one of his essences, but it also takes a little bit of the user's lifespan.

But this mainly depends on how much the Elementalist allows it to. If the Elementalist wants a stronger attack, the price they need to pay would be higher. It's even stated that an Elementalist can sacrifice his entire life to use a one-time catastrophic attack.

If the Elementalist is at the Overlord Plane, then the attack from sacrificing his entire lifespan can easily destroy one of the four empires. It truly was a deadly technique. Unfortunately, it's not something Grey would ever wish to use.

'No wonder he looked so dried up when I found him, his essence had almost been completely drained for that attack. It would take at least a month or two before he could slowly recover. It's a good thing I didn't get c.o.c.ky and tried to defend against it though.' Grey sighed in relief thinking of the attack.

This wasn't an attack the current him could defend against, it would be hard even if he were in the Fusion State, but not impossible. He kept the technique in his ring before searching Quinn's body.

'Note to self; remember to search the bodies of your enemies after killing them.' Grey smiled while searching the body.

Had he not caught sight of the scroll, then he would have missed such a golden opportunity. Even though this was an attack he didn't plan on using, but, who knows what the future holds. Maybe this attack might be of great use to him in the future.

When he was done searching the body, he unexpectedly found another technique and a dagger hidden in Quinn's clothes. The dagger was surprisingly a lightning elemental weapon, and the technique was a darkness element technique.

"\*Sigh\* What a waste of good clothes." Grey shook his head before deciding it was time to leave.

He had unknowingly spent almost fifteen minutes there. Since he had killed an enemy, and also acquired some items, he was in a good mood.

The scene of Quinn's death, ten minutes after Grey left.

A young man could be seen walking behind a floating wooden object. The object was glowing slightly in the night. Before long, the young man walked closer to the body of Quinn. His expression changed drastically when he saw the dead body of Quinn.

"It's Quinn! But...but..." He wanted to speak but he couldn't get the words out of his mouth.

This young man was Aron. Of Quinn's companions, he was the one closest to this place, but it still took him almost thirty minutes to get here.

When he saw the emaciated-looking corpse of Quinn, he was left speechless. The reason he recognized him quickly was because of his clothes. Yet, he still didn't dare to believe it.

Who was strong enough to force Quinn into using his forbidden technique? Not only that, but the person survived it and killed him in the end.

"It's definitely those bastards. They must have ambushed him!" He yelled angrily.

"He wasn't ambushed, I killed him myself."

A voice suddenly traveled from behind Aron. He quickly turned around and saw Grey smiling softly.

"Hmph! Although you're strong, you're not strong enough to kill him. Now, hand over the nine drops of the Great Earth Essence Liquid, and I'll forget I saw you." Aron stretched out his hand towards Grey.

'Okay... I think everyone in this group has a screw loose.' Grey looked at Aron weirdly.

He originally planned on leaving, but when he was about to leave, his instinct told him to wait a little longer. He hid behind a tree, and just when he was about to give up and leave, he saw Aron being guided here by the wooden object.

"What's that thing?" Grey pointed at the floating wooden object.

He noticed this was what directed Aron here. It was quite intriguing, being curious, he asked about it.

"It's none of your business. Give me what I asked for before the others get here!" Aron ordered trying to scare Grey with his companions who were on the way.

"Actually, I have a better idea. Why don't I kill you before they get here?" Grey asked playfully.

Aron didn't answer but his eyes went cold.

"Also, I'm quite surprised you're not going to take revenge for him," Grey said.

"I don't believe you're the one who killed him. But since you're already an enemy, I wouldn't mind killing you." Aron said icily.

"\*Sigh\* You're even dumber than he was." Grey felt speaking with Aron was a waste of time.

Without delay, he lashed out an attack.

Aron who was about to refute swallowed his words and immediately defended himself. But was sent flying from the force of the attack.

'He's this strong! I need to stall till the others get here.' Aron thought.

He immediately changed his mind and instead of fighting back, he only defended, trying to stall Grey till his companions returned. Now he knew it was stupid of him not to run away the instant he saw Grey.

One minute later.

"Arghhh!" Aron screamed in pain as his left arm detached from his body.

"Hehe, I bet you regret not running away the moment you saw me. Well, it's already too late," Grey chuckled coldly.

Aron looked at Grey and felt he was looking at a monster. He was a stage ahead of Grey, yet, he couldn't even fight back.

"Please, spa...spare me. I...I'll tell you what the object does," Aron stammered as he dropped to his knees begging for his life.

Aron's body fell on the ground after being stabbed by Grey's new weapon.

"Don't worry, I'll ask the next person who comes," Grey replied.

He thought of searching him, but after keeping Aron's bag in his storage ring, he decided to hide in his previous spot. Since searching Aron would take some time.

Another twenty minutes went by, and the body count had increased to three. Now, of Quinn's group of five, only two were left alive.

Grey only took the bag of his new victim without searching the body. He wanted to stay hidden until the remaining two from Quinn's group arrived. Once he's done killing them, then he'll search them together.

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"Nathan!" A young man called out to another man who was one hundred meters away from him.

When the young man turned around, he noticed it was someone he knew. They were the last two from Quinn's group. They were accidentally not far from each other, so after seeing one another, they continued the journey together.

Before long, they got to the scene of Quinn and their companions' death. They looked at each other with fear in their eyes after seeing the corpses on the floor.

"I've been waiting for you two."

Chapter 135 - Refining The Great Earth Essence Liquid

"I've been waiting for you two."

Both youths jumped in fright when they heard the voice. Of the five of them, they were the weakest. Seeing the other three dead, they instinctively wanted to escape from here as far away as they possibly could.

They turned around only to see Grey.

When they realized he was alone, they breathed a sigh of relief. Even if Grey was strong, it wasn't to the extent he could kill them, right?

"What are you doing here?" The youth called Nathan asked coldly.

He had striking gold hair, beautiful aquamarine eyes, and a slender body. The only thing that spoilt his looks was his unexpectedly huge front teeth. They were just like that of a rabbit, sticking out no matter how he tried to cover it up.

Even though he tried to hide his fear, it was still evident in his eyes.

"Killing people," Grey replied casually.

"Huh!" The other youth exclaimed, not expecting Grey to be this forthright.

"You're saying you killed them?" Nathan asked, pointing at the corpse on the ground.

Grey was the only one present, so naturally, he should be the one who killed them. But, Nathan and the other youth couldn't believe he was the one who killed all of them. They had seen him fight against Quinn previously so they knew he was powerful, but at that time, Quinn suppressed him, so even if he could kill the other two, there was no way he could kill Quinn.

Grey couldn't be bothered with their thoughts, he slowly walked towards them. He wanted to end this quickly and return to his friends. He had already spent a long time here.

Twenty minutes later.

Grey could be seen walking away from the forest. Five figures were lying motionless close to each other.

Although fighting against two opponents was harder than fighting against one, given that both youths were already consumed by fear, they couldn't really put up much of a fight. After killing them, Grey didn't forget to search them properly, along with the others.

Unlike Quinn, they didn't have any valuables in their person, he only found some items after rummaging through their bags. From the four bags, he managed to obtain two earth element techniques, one wind element technique, and four water element techniques. He also found three elemental weapons and about a dozen or so elemental stones.

'The gains aren't bad. Although I expected more given the strength of their group, I'll have to do with this. Maybe, I could rob people.' Grey pondered while walking back to the building.

The idea of robbing others was quite interesting since he wouldn't need to worry about searching for treasures, but after thinking more about it, he decided against it. Doing something like that would mean creating a huge number of enemies for himself, unless, he'll have to kill everyone he robs.

But he wasn't that type of person. He might be cruel to his enemies, but that doesn't mean he'll start killing people who didn't even offend him. Had Quinn not tried to kill Alice, or tried to search them forcefully with the intent of killing them, then he wouldn't have killed them. All in all, this was something he'll think about some other time, for now, it's time for another upgrade.

"The others should be up by now." Grey increased his speed and darted towards the building quickly.

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At the building.

Alice, Klaus, Reynolds, and Void were currently looking at the forest in shock. Of the four, Void was the first to wake up, after not finding Grey, he decided to explore the building. On getting to the top floor, he was left dumbfounded by what he saw. The others followed him to the top floor after they woke up and couldn't find Grey.

For almost thirty minutes now, they had been looking at what used to be part of a forest.

"How did this happen?" Klaus couldn't help but ask.

"I don't know," Alice and Reynolds answered.

They were just as astounded as Klaus was. How could a well-nourished and lively forest turn into this within a matter of hours?

"This should be the result of an attack," Alice said with a hint of uncertainty after contemplating for a while.

She still had doubts about it though, but since only some part of the forest was like this, an attack was the only thing she could think of. But, how powerful can one be to unleash such a catastrophic attack?

"Grey should know the cause. But he isn't here, unfortunately." Reynolds said.

"Hopefully he's safe," Klaus said.

Normally, given the strength of the people who entered the trial land, they weren't scared for the well-being of Grey. But, the current state of the forest frightened them. If there was someone who could

unleash such a powerful attack among those who entered the trial land, then there's a chance that Grey wasn't the person's match.

And since the attack wasn't far from the building, they felt there was a chance Grey was battling against such an opponent. No matter how much confidence they had in Grey, they still felt fearful seeing the state of the forest. Now, all they could do was hope Grey didn't battle against this person, and even if he did, he should be safe.

Another ten minutes went by before they saw a figure moving towards the building from the destroyed forest at an outstanding speed.

"It's Grey," Klaus said happily.

The others impatiently stood up from their sitting position and ran closer to the hole on the wall.

"\*Sigh\* Thankfully, he's okay." Reynolds breathed a sigh of relief.

When the group confirmed it was Grey, they felt like a heavy stone had been lifted off their hearts. They had been worried sick when they couldn't find Grey, only Void wasn't bothered since he could still feel the connection he had with Grey.

Void was able to sense this was a darkness element attack since he also had the darkness element. The first person that came to his mind was Quinn, but he couldn't be sure since Quinn wasn't the only Darkness Elementalist.

Grey was left speechless when he was bombarded with questions by the group. It took him a while before he managed to tell them this was the result of a technique Quinn used.

"He's that powerful?!" Reynolds exclaimed in shock.

"I was also surprised by the power of the attack. If not for my quick getaway, I'd have most likely been severely injured if I didn't die from it." Grey replied still fearful of what might have happened to him had he tried to block the attack.



"It's good you've killed those bunch of hateful fellow though. I'm quite sad I wasn't able to witness it."  
Klaus said sadly.

He wanted to be present when Quinn died, but he was still satisfied since he died under the hands of one of them. It was better than him escaping, right?

"We should forget about that and focus on the matter at hand. I think since you all have recovered completely, it's time we refine the Great Earth Essence Liquid." Grey said looking at the others seriously.

If they didn't want to refine theirs now, he'll still refine his. Although the Great Earth Essence Liquid wouldn't give them a sudden boost in strength and might only push them a stage higher, the benefits in the long run were amazing. Even if he didn't refine anyone, it wouldn't change anything since he could still increase the grade of his elements in the future.

But being in a place like this, it was important to increase your strength at any given chance. You can never tell what might happen, so improving further was a must for him.

"I originally planned on asking about that, it's just seeing the forest made me forget about it temporarily," Alice said.

"Hmm, okay then it's settled. We should all head back into the building. I have some essence stones with me, I'll use them to create a protective array around our rooms." Grey passed one drop of the Great Earth Essence Liquid to them.

Each drop looked like a single teardrop that had congealed over time and formed into a pearl. It was quite comfortable to hold and just breathing in the air around it nourished the body.

After each person collected their drop, they went over to their rooms. Grey quickly went to work to set up the protection arrays before going to his room. The array required him to use four essence stones, so he had to collect from Klaus to complete the last array.

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Grey's room.

"Here's one for you," Grey threw one of the drops to Void.

'Hmph! I thought you had forgotten about me," Void snorted, but was still unable to hide his happiness.

'I'll improve the grade of my wind element, it's the one with the lowest grade currently. I still have four drops left with me, I'll think of who to give them to later on.' Grey thought before entering into a state of cultivation.

Since he wanted to improve the grade of his wind element, then he'll carefully guide the drop to merge with his wind essence bead. The bead will then slowly absorb it. Given his speed in absorption, it should take him at least half the time the others needed.

Chapter 136 - I Can't

While Grey and his friends were improving the grade of their elements, a heated battle had started between the youths from the Qilin empire and those from the Azure empire. This was not unexpected since there was a feud between both empires. It was only a matter of time before they started killing each other more openly.

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Currently, two groups were facing off against each other, and a long sword could be seen in the middle. One of the groups had seven youths in total, and the other group had nine people.

"This weapon was found by our group, I'll advise you to leave here if you want to keep your lives." A youth from the group of seven said.

He was the leader of the group and was someone Grey had encountered previously, the Twelfth prince of the Qilin empire.

When Grey saw them previously, they were around ten or so, but now, they were only seven. Of the trio from the Starlight Academy Grey recognized, two were missing and only one of them was still around. The most likely cause of this might be that they separated from the group, or, they were dead.

"I don't see your name written on it," The leader of the other group said coldly.

Even though compared to the other group, their group had fewer people in the Second stage of the Origin Plane, they had more people overall, having an advantage of two extra people. Of the nine people, four were in the Second stage of the Origin Plane, while the remaining five were in the First stage. While the twelfth prince's group had only two in the First stage, and the rest being in the Second stage.

"Bullshit! This is ours and the sooner you leave here, the better for you." The last of the trio from the Starlight Academy said angrily.

"Heh! We're taking this, and there's nothing you can do to stop us." Another youth from the Azure empire laughed coldly.

Both groups stared off with no one showing any sign of retreating, but from the expression on the faces of those from the Azure empire, one could tell how confident they were.

With both sides disagreeing, a fight soon broke out. Due to the advantage of having two men extra, they quickly started oppressing the group from the Qilin empire.

"Haha, since you refused to leave, you should stay here." The leader of the group from the Azure empire laughed arrogantly and attacked the twelfth prince.

The leader of the group was surprisingly no weaker than the twelfth prince, this further increased the morale of his group. But the same can't be said for the group from the Qilin empire, with their strongest person tied up by the leader of the other group, their morale plummeted.

Their only hope was now placed on the second strongest person in the group, a youth from the Royal Academy. Just like the twelfth prince, he was royalty, only, his status was nowhere near that of the

twelfth prince. He was the son of the Emperor's brother. If even he couldn't defeat his opponent quickly, then their group was doomed.

This tactic was actually ingenious since once they killed off the weakest in the other group, their numbers would further increase, giving them a better advantage. But there's a downside to this tactic of theirs.

If the strongest person in the other group were to overpower their own and maybe kill him before they killed off the weakest ones, then they would be in danger. Luckily, the people they sent out were up to the task. The twelfth prince was held by their leader, and the second strongest person was only a little stronger than his opponent, so there was no way he could kill his opponent soon.

The twelfth prince's heart fell when he saw what was going on, he knew once they managed to kill off the weakest ones, then his life was in danger.

'I need to escape.' He urged himself.

Staying here was no different than seeking death, his current opponent was on par with him, but, if he wanted to escape, this was the best time. Even though his opponent was on par with him, there's no way he could stop him from escaping.

"Neil, you know what to do." He said to the second strongest person in the group.

The only reason he's informing him was that they were related, and given his strength, he could also escape from here. But if he decides to play hero and die with them, then it had nothing to do with him.

---

Three youths could be seen walking into the compound the battle was currently taking place, they were all in the Second stage of the Origin Plane.

"Isn't that Finn?" One of the youths asked pointing at the person fighting against the twelfth prince.

"Yeah. Hmm, those are people from the Qilin empire," Another youth said identifying the twelfth prince's group from their attire.

Although the difference in clothing between each empire wasn't that much, there are still some notable differences. For example, the design and fabric used in clothing for the Azure empire are more appealing than that made in the Qilin empire.

"Those are the bastards who attacked my group previously. I was lucky to escape alive," The third youth said with anger visible in his eyes.

"Then let's go get your revenge." The first youth said walking towards the groups fighting.

Although they weren't as strong as Finn, or the twelfth prince, they couldn't be called weak either.

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The twelfth prince who was just about to make a break for it was stunned when someone else attacked him from behind. He hurriedly dodged to the side, narrowly escaping.

After landing, he quickly turned around to see his attacker.

"Remember me?" The third youth asked grinning evilly.

Well, one of those insignificant people is about to make his life hell.

"Hmph! Even if you have forgotten about me, I still remember you clearly, you nearly killed me you asshole!" The youth yelled before attacking once again.

'F.u.c.k! How I wish I could go back in time and kill him!' The twelfth prince cursed.

Although he still didn't recall when he saw this person, he still felt he should have killed him when he encountered him previously. One of the things he hated was being attacked by an already beaten opponent.

Finn who was standing by the side was also surprised when an unknown youth attacked his opponent. He didn't recognize him even though they were from the same empire. Being from the second best Academy in the Azure empire, he was naturally arrogant, he was about to yell at the youth before he saw the other two.

Since they were people he knew, he decided to kill the twelfth prince first and reprimand the youth later.

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While the battle was ongoing, two youths were sitting on top of a building in the compound watching the battle calmly.

The youths were Damian and Alan. They were surprisingly together.

"Are we still going to keep watching?" Damian asked blandly.

Although he wasn't friends with the twelfth prince and his group, he wouldn't just sit by and watch people from the Azure empire kill them. Being a citizen from the Qilin empire, he would fight against those from the Azure empire, although not blindly.

The only reason he wanted to stop them was that he was here before the battle started, so he knew the twelfth prince's group were the ones who found the weapon. But he also knew only the strong could keep such things.

"Let them suffer a little longer. You should know how they act towards us," Alan said nonchalantly enjoying the suffering of the twelfth prince's group.

"Once one of them is killed, then saving them would become difficult," Damian said.

"It's none of our business, if things become complicated, we can always just sit here and do nothing," Alan said not being bothered by the already injured group.

"I can't," Damian said before jumping off the building.

"\*Sigh\* His lack of interaction with people has made him somewhat naive." Alan said while shaking his head.

With Damian already revealing himself, he had no other option but to do the same.

Damian was still in the First stage of the Origin Plane, but Alan had unexpectedly broken through to the Third stage, added to him being a Dual Elementalist, they shouldn't have a problem lending a hand.

It's just, left for Alan alone, he wanted the twelfth prince, those piece of shits from the Royal Academy, and the sc.u.mbag from the Starlight Academy to suffer a little more.

Chapter 137 - Such A Brave Young Man

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Boom!

An attack exploded out with the twelfth prince being pushed back by the impact. He could fight against Finn without much fear since they had almost the same strength with him being only slightly stronger. It was so small that it was barely noticeable.

'Shit! Where did this moron come from? Couldn't he have just waited till after I escaped before he came over?' The twelfth prince cursed.

This was the worst situation he had found himself in since entering the trial land. He even felt his luck was pretty bad since someone this weak would be the reason for his death.

Escaping was currently getting harder, but, it's not impossible though. So long as the chance presents itself, he'll run away without looking back. He wouldn't even be bothered about Neil. If Neil could escape then he was okay, but if he couldn't, it was not his problem, what mattered was that he could survive.

The twelfth prince who was currently cursing his bad luck and coming up with an escape plan, almost fainted when he saw two more unfamiliar people coming towards where the battle was taking place. His chances of escaping against two people were already low, even keeping himself alive was already a tough task, if one more person joined the fray, then his fate would be almost sealed.

His group wasn't having an easier time either, Neil who was the second strongest person of the group and was previously suppressing his opponent was currently fighting against two people, now, he was already slightly injured. Things were a little worse for the weakest person who was ganged upon, he was severely injured and had one foot on death's door, if he isn't saved, then he would die within a minute or so. And once he dies, then it was over for the group.

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"Who are those?" Finn who was about to continue his attack on the twelfth prince paused and asked when he saw Damian and Alan coming in their direction.

"People from the Qilin empire, I think," The youth fighting alongside Finn replied with a little hint of uncertainty.

"Hmph! More fools coming to their death," Finn snorted coldly.

If these people were truly from the Qilin empire, then they wouldn't mind killing them too.

The twelfth prince whose face was sour was elated on hearing their conversation. Although there are some differences between the attires of each empire, there are some that are almost identical, and in a place like this, it's easy for someone to wear the clothes of those from another empire, so there's no way to be certain of a person's identity through what they're wearing.



"Where are you from?" One of the youths who was fighting against Neil left the battle and stopped Damian and Alan from advancing any further.

Bam!

Alan struck immediately without even bothering to answer the youth. Since they came to fight, then there's no need for unnecessary conversations. An enemy is meant to be killed, not talked to.

Bang!

The youth slammed into the ground hard, he coughed up a mouthful of blood with a few teeth as well.

"Kill them!" Finn roared angrily.

There was no need to speak any further, Alan's actions had already given them the answer they needed. And, even if Alan and Damian joined the battles, they still had the advantage in numbers, so, Finn wasn't afraid of them.

"Are you calling that thing?" Alan asked without showing any signs of nervousness. It was like the battle was nothing to him.

"No, there's no need. I can handle them myself." Damian shook his head and started walking forward.

He immediately went to assist the youth who was almost dead. If he didn't move any sooner, then the youth would die.

Now it was twelve against nine, two ganged up on Alan, two faced off against the twelfth prince, two faced off against Damian, and the rest fought against one opponent each. Neil and the youth who was severely injured had a little breather, but the youth who was severely injured couldn't fight properly anymore.

Two minutes later.

'They're strong,' Finn was surprised by Alan and Damian's strength.

Although he was a bit stronger than Damian, he was sure he stood no chance against Alan. He still didn't know his stage yet though.

"Arghh..." A scream spread out in the battleground, but it was quickly cut short.

The others subconsciously took a glance at the cause of the shout, and they saw the previously injured youth in the twelfth prince's group lying lifeless on the ground. He managed to hold on for some time, but his injuries were just too severe for him to continue fighting.

'Hmm, one out. It wouldn't be bad if another one died though, maybe that one from the Royal Academy.' Alan thought looking at the dead youth blandly.

He could've saved the youth, but he didn't. He knew just how heartless these people were, the only reason he was helping out was because of Damian.

Since he started fighting, he had not used his full strength, he hadn't even used his second element, yet, one could see how easily he was fighting even when he was fighting against two people.

Damian looked in Alan's direction but saw him shaking his head, he smiled wryly and summoned his elemental creature. Although this couldn't compare to Reynolds' summon, it was still a force to be reckoned with.

Rawr!

The creature roared the moment it appeared, stunning both youths who were fighting against Damian.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Everyone stared at the scene in shock. This wasn't the first time most of them were seeing summons, it's just, the way it was currently slamming the youth into the ground continuously was excruciating to watch. Even Damian felt somewhat sorry for the unlucky youth who was being slammed repeatedly into the ground.

Within twenty seconds, the golem had slammed the youth into the ground a total of twelve times.

Crash!

The golem threw the youth away and he crashed to the ground.

Seeing the appearance of the youth, everyone s.u.c.k.e.d in a cold breath.

'How could the creature be this cruel?'

This was the only question running through the minds of everyone present there. The youth was currently unrecognizable, his legs were broken in multiple places, and some bones on his hands could be seen piercing out through his skin.

While the appearance of the youth stunned everyone, the golem dashed towards the second youth.

"..."

The youth's action left everyone speechless. The golem was in the Second stage of the Origin Plane, just like the youth. But, being scared shitless because of what the other youth went through, he didn't dare to fight against it.

Damian was shocked by the youth's cowardly nature. Had he been in his situation, he wouldn't have run away, he wouldn't even stand and look on as his companion was being mauled.

"Tsk, tsk, such a brave young man," Alan's voice brought everyone back from their dazed state, but the mockery in his words was evident for all to see.

The twelfth prince and his group laughed lightly, only two of them had long faces. From the looks of things, the dead youth was a friend of theirs.

"What are you all standing there for? Stop it!" Finn yelled loudly.

The golem not finding its supposed opponent turned its attention to another person. Luckily, it knew its allies and enemies.

Unlike the first youth who was grabbed easily and the second youth who cowardly escaped, this one stood his ground against the golem. Even though he wasn't its match, he could still hold on for a while.

"Alan!" Damian called out.

He couldn't keep the summon up for too long, so the quicker they ended the battle, the better for them.

Alan hearing his name could only shake his head and unleash his full strength.

With the group from the Azure empire losing two people in quick succession, their morale took a hit.

Six minutes later.

The group from the Azure empire had lost another two people, and Damian had dismissed the golem. He didn't dare to keep it up till he became thoroughly exhausted.

"Escape!" Finn yelled loudly when realized things weren't in their favor anymore.

Staying any longer was no different than a death wish.

"Heh! Is that even possible?" Alan chuckled coldly.

Ten minutes later.

Twelve corpses could be seen on the ground.

"Thank you," The twelfth prince said.

He didn't know them, but since they offered a helping hand, he was grateful.

"It's nothing," Alan said offhandedly before walking in the other direction.

After Damian and Alan left.

"That bastard, he allowed Francis to die," One of the youths said angrily.

The others knew who he was talking about. After Alan showed his strength, they felt he could've saved their friend but he didn't.

Chapter 138 - One More Time

The twelfth prince smiling face changed right after Alan and Damian were out of sight. He only put up a facade when they were around to put up a good impression.

"Hmph! We'll deal with them later, for now, we need to stay together," The twelfth prince said.

Although he hated Alan's arrogant attitude, he couldn't allow the others to go ahead and attack them for now. They still have almost four more months to stay here, and since the conflict with the Azure empire has escalated to this stage, they need every single member of their empire.

"Which Academy are they from?" Neil asked.

He too wanted revenge on Alan and Damian, he felt they might have been watching the battles previously but only intervened when things were too difficult for them to handle. The reason he felt this way was because of the direction Alan and Damian came from. This compound had a single entry, and they were fighting close to it.

"I recognize the summoner from the competition, he's from the Lunar Academy. Since he's close to the other guy, then there's a chance they're from the same Academy," The youth from the Starlight Academy said.

"The Lunar Academy, they've been pretty c.o.c.ky lately. Once we get out of here, we'll put them in their place!" A youth from the Royal Academy declared.

They all heard about the incident where Blake charged up to the Starlight Academy and injured their instructors, they also heard about the incident with Chris.

"They're a bunch of arrogant ingrates." The youth from the Starlight Academy said hatefully.

Had Alan and Damian still been present here, the chances of Alan attacking them all would be very high. But, he wouldn't be surprised by how ungrateful these people were though. Damian was the only reason he even helped them anyway.

"That's enough! We'll settle this after leaving this place." The twelfth prince ordered.

The others immediately stopped speaking about the matter after hearing the twelfth prince's order. But, they kept the grudge in their hearts.

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The next day.

'Hmm, blue. Well, it's better than purple, so I'm okay with this.' Grey thought while staring at the result of his test.

He was currently in the chaos space checking how high the grade of his wind element increased. His wind element was originally in the orange grade, but after absorbing the drop of the Great Earth Essence Liquid, it went up two grades.

With the increase in his grade, his stage also saw an improvement and he had broken through to the Second stage of the Origin Plane.

If one has a purple grade in one element, one would already be considered a genius and be vied for by the Academies. Having a blue grade would put one at the very top, yet, Grey had five elements, one of them had a grade he had never heard of, two were of blue grade, and the other two were purple grade.

If news of this spreads out, then there's a chance all four empires would try to kill him at all costs. The reason the Qilin empire was added to the fray was simple, they wouldn't allow someone they couldn't control to grow too powerful. Chris was enough headache for them.

---

Leaving the chaos space, Grey realized everyone else was still absorbing their drops of Great Earth Essence Liquid, Void included.

"This is expected," Grey said before walking out of the room.

Looking around, he felt very bored. It took Grey just over six hours before he completely absorbed his drop, so, it should take the others twelve hours or so. This means he still had to wait for six hours.

'Hmm, what should I do?' Grey thought rubbing his chin.

He had been cultivating for so long, so naturally, he wouldn't want to continue cultivating. The only thing that made him feel slightly better was that after the first round where he recovered, he had some fun with Quinn and his group.

He couldn't help but stare at the forest once again.

'That truly was a powerful move.' He thought before bringing out the technique.

He decided once he awakens his darkness element in the future, he'll learn the technique.

'\*Sigh\* It's best I train while waiting for them.' He sighed before walking out of the building.

Had he been alone, he would've already continued exploring the trial land. At least, he would get to face different challenges on the way, but since he had to wait for his friends, he decided to do his physical exercises. Besides, it's been over two months since he last trained his body. If not for strengthening it with fire previously, then its strength would have remained stagnant.

Two hours later.

Grey could be seen sweating profusely, but his breathing was still light.

'This isn't that bad.' Grey thought pleased with the outcome of his training.

He was currently behind the compound, and for the past two hours, he had been training none stop. Yet, other than sweating, he didn't really feel tired.

When Grey was about to take a seat, a thought suddenly came to him. He had only seen the chaotic essence form of elemental fusion but had tried seeing its physical state.

There are some cases in nature where elemental fusion actually takes place. He hadn't thought of it before, but now, he suddenly recalled it.

Since he could make earth walls appear at will, and also make a ton of water appear, doesn't that mean with his ability to fuse elements he could turn the ground into mud?

Thinking about all this, he felt his reasoning was plausible and since he currently had nothing to do anyway, he'll try to work on it. If he could successfully make it, then he would gain a new trump card.



When fighting, all he had to do was turn the ground into mud and his opponent would sink downwards. The sudden disruption would then give him the upper hand, and also this would make escaping almost impossible for them.

The thought of it excited him, and he quickly went to work.

Thirty minutes went by without Grey getting any results. But didn't give up, he knew what he was attempting wasn't something he could get instantly, so, he was slowly taking his time.

'Hmm, my first hypothesis was wrong. Rather than creating the mud element instantly, I should try influencing the state of the ground with the water element.' Grey thought while staring at the ground.

Normally, before the ground turns muddy, it required being soaked by or in water. So the first thing he decided to do was channel water essence into the ground and see the outcome.

When he tried it the first time, the result showed him he was heading in the right direction. Although the ground didn't turn into mud, he was softer compared to before, but it immediately hardened the moment he stopped channeling his water essence into it.

"Haha, I'm such a genius," Grey laughed happily.

The result of his test was very pleasing with this, he knew his theory wasn't wrong.

'But how come no Water Elementalist ever thought of this?' He questioned thoughtfully.

From his current theory, he didn't even need to use the earth element on this. The earth was already available, all he had to do was add in the water element. This was something every Water Elementalist could do later in the future.

'Hmm, I won't think about that for now.' He dismissed the thought and focused on his training.

Another one hour went by with Grey performing multiple attempts. Although he hadn't gotten the required results, he knew he wasn't far from it.

"The amount of essence I put in is too small, and I also need to channel it in quickly. This is quick taxing though," Grey said rubbing his head.

After multiple trials, he felt the reason he wasn't getting the d.e.s.i.r.ed result was due to his speed in channeling in the water essence and also the amount of essence he channels in.

'I still have about three hours or so before the others wake up. With my current progress, I should be able to succeed before that time. Well, even if I don't succeed now, I can always continue another time.' He tried to keep himself calm.

When doing something like this, rushing oneself isn't the best decision. Although sometimes it's quite helpful, it's not always good.

One hour later.

"\*Sigh\* I should take a rest, attempting it too much will not get anywhere." Grey shook his head and went to take a sit.

Even after trying for two hours, he still hadn't gotten it. Although he tried to stay positive, failing repeatedly is quite frustrating especially within such a short time.

"I should try it one more time before I stop," Grey who just sat down stood up again opting to try it out again.

Who knows, maybe he could get lucky!

Chapter 139 - Overpowered Ability

At the back of the building.

Plop!

"F.u.c.k! Too much water essence," Grey cursed out as he tried to escape from the spot he was standing on. But due to the suddenness of what happened, he failed and sank downwards.

Splash!

The sound of water splashing out sounded in the area.

Currently, over half of Grey's body was submerged in mud-like water. What differentiated this from mud was because of the excess water, so instead of it turning into mud, it turned into a small pool of about a twelve-foot radius, that was filled with dirt.

"Shit! How could I have forgotten about this possibili..." Grey's words were cut short when water filled with dirt entered his mouth.

Ptui!

Grey spat out multiple times, he didn't forget to rinse his mouth with water and spitting it out again.

"\*Sigh\* How unlucky," He sighed after managing to wash off the taste from his mouth.

Due to failing multiple times, he forgot that he was doing the test right under his feet. When he was trying out this attempt, he channeled in way too much water essence, and the result was not surprising. He fell into the pool of water he created.

Had he know this would be the result, he wouldn't have attempted it one more time, rather, he would've just rested and gone back to the building.

How embarrassing was it to fall into the dirty water?

'Luckily, no one was present.' Grey thought feeling lucky.

Just as he was about to step out of the pool of dirt and wash up.

'What are you doing?'

Grey heard the familiar small voice in his head.

'\*Sigh\* Just when I started feeling a little lucky, guess someone was bound to see me in this state,' He tiredly shook his head.

"I'm bathing, wanna join?" Grey replied while splashing the dirty water around.

Void suddenly disappeared from his previous spot, appearing some distance away.

'Who baths with such dirty water?' Void looked on curiously.

"People, of course, who else would?" Grey replied while putting on an expression of enjoying his dirt bath.

'Are all humans just as strange as you and your friends are?' Void couldn't resist asking.

When he first saw Grey, he felt he was quite weird. This further increased after he made contact with Grey's friends, Klaus and Reynolds to be precise. He felt Grey and his friends were a weird bunch, Alice excluded.

"How come you're up this early?" Grey tried to change the topic while getting out of the dirt pool.

'I'm already done with absorbing the drop you gave me.' Void declared proudly.

"Oh! That's fast, I thought you'd take another hour or so," Grey said while washing the last bit of dirt off his body.

'When did you finish absorbing yours?' Void asked.

"About four hours ago," Grey said.

Void was stunned by how quickly Grey finished absorbing his. It took him just over ten hours, and he was already thinking his absorption speed was fast, but on hearing Grey's time, he felt a little disheartened.

'Monster,' Void said before looking around curiously.

"Huh!" Grey turned around abruptly when he heard this.

'But, there's nothing here.' Grey scratched his head, confused by Void's statement.

It was only after some time passed did he realize what Void meant.

Since there was nothing left for him to do, he created a pool by using his earth element to create an opening on the ground, and used his water element to fill it up, he took off his last surviving wet clothes, spread them on the trees so they could dry up, and jumped into the cool clean water.

'\*Sigh\* How relaxing, I should do this more often.' He thought.

Void came closer to the pool, touched it with his paw, and silently retreated.

Grey who was leisurely cooling-off caught sight of Void's strange behavior.

'He doesn't like water.' He thought.

From how Void reacted, Grey guessed there was a possibility that he didn't like water.

"Hey Void, aren't you going to cool off?" Grey asked trying to confirm his guess.

'No, I'll just watch from the side,' Void said firmly.

"You're scared of water?" Grey asked raising my brow.

'No, who would be scared of water?' Void said looking at Grey oddly.

'Hmm, maybe he truly isn't afraid of water.' Grey thought.

After three minutes went by, Grey got somewhat bored because Void hadn't been speaking since.

When Grey was alone previously, he would go for hours, and sometimes even days without speaking to others while he was here, but since meeting Void, he would quickly get bored if he's not training, cultivating, fighting, or sleeping.

The thought of Void being scared of water crept into his head once again.

"Since you hatched, you haven't taken a bath. Why don't you wash off now, at least that way, you'll smell nice," He tried persuading.

'Who says I haven't cleaned myself? And I do smell nice,' Void said.

Grey and Void soon got into an argument. Void stuck with saying he had cleaned himself, but Grey kept telling him that l.i.c.k.i.n.g himself was different from taking a proper bath.

"Fine to settle all this, why don't you just take a dip?" Grey said trying to stop their little argument.

'No,' Void refused once again.

'There's no way I'm getting into that.' He thought, looking at the water.

"Fine," Grey finally verbally agreed to his refusal.

'\*Phew\* That was close, luckily, I stood my ground.' Void breathed out heavily while thinking.

He hated getting his fur wet, so naturally, he didn't want to get into the pool.

Grey closed his eyes and his lips curved upwards.

"Void! Catch," He threw a small fruit to Void.

This was something he found in one of Quinn's companions' bags. It really couldn't be said to be a great treasure, but its aroma and taste were quite appealing, and it also contained a little essence inside.

Void raised his head vigilantly, when he saw the fruit coming his way, he instinctively wanted to dodge thinking Grey threw a ball of water at him, but the aroma of the fruit shot straight into his head and he paused in place.

'Hehe, got him.' Grey laughed evilly inside while creating a ball of water behind Void.

He initially wanted to use the water alone, but when he recalled Void's space element, he knew he would be able to escape easily. But if he's distracted by something, then there's no way he could escape.

Thinking his plan was already a success, he couldn't help but let out a chuckle.

But his smiling face froze, and the next scene shocked him. The water ball, as well as the fruit which was supposed to hit Void at the same time suddenly disappeared and appeared on top of Grey.

"Ouch!" Grey unconsciously yelled even though the hit he got from the fruit didn't hurt him in any way.

The water ball also fell on top of him, exploding on impact. Grey was very careful when he was creating the water ball, so it didn't have any strong effect, its only use was to completely soak its target.

"What just happened?" Grey asked while rubbing his head which took the hit from the fruit.

A smirk had formed on Void's little face.

'Hehe, I'm not dumb enough to fall for that trick.' Void chuckled looking at Grey.

"It still doesn't explain what just happened," Grey said still confused.

'This is just an innate ability of mine, I can mess around with the space around me, this way, I could easily return an attack that is being sent towards me back to the unsuspecting attacker.' Void explained, not forgetting to omit its limitations.

It's not that he didn't trust Grey, but what if after he found out its limitations he adjusts the water he sends his way? He couldn't take that risk.

Grey s.u.c.k.e.d in a cold breath when he heard Void's explanation.

"Such an overpowered ability! The space element truly is something else!" He exclaimed.

Since the ability had something to do with space, then it's surely something of the space element. How great was it to return an attack that was sent your way? It's an epic ability, to say the least!



But, Grey knew such great abilities all had limitations and in some cases even side effects. Take his Fusion State, for example, that was nothing less of an overpowered ability, but it had limitations as well.

Grey's curiosity towards the space element increased and he started asking Void things about the space element, which Void told him what he knew about it. The truth was, other than what his abilities could do, he didn't really know everything about the space element.

Just as Void finished explaining, the ground he was standing on suddenly turned into a pool of dirt, just like the one Grey created previously, and he fell into it with a 'Plop!'.

The sudden appearance of the dirt pool shock Void. But alas, he couldn't escape his fate. After managing to come out of the dirt pool, he was forced to get into the clean pool Grey was soaking in.

"Haha, I won at the end." Grey laughed when he saw Void's expression when he entered the pool.

And so, one human and a cat enjoyed the cool pool in the midday sun.

Chapter 140 - Back To The Garden!

At the entrance of the building.

Grey who was accompanied by Void was staring at the fading shadows of his friends. After they all came out of their seclusion, they each saw an increase in strength, naturally, they'll continue exploring the trial land. Even though the chances of finding something at the level of the Great Earth Essence Liquid, there were still other things to be found.

Just like they did previously, they were all separating once again, only, this time, Grey had a companion.

'So, where are we headed now?' Void who was perched on Grey's shoulder asked with excitement visible in his expression.

"Hmm, let's see." Grey took out the map he acquired from Quinn's bag and studied it.

Although this wasn't a complete map of the trial land, the parts on it were well detailed, there were even some landmarks Grey recalled seeing, it was amazing. Even the places they passed through when they entered the trial land were shown on the map. He couldn't help but feel somewhat apprehensive of Quinn's background. For him to have such a vivid map, and being the one who discovered the black door, not just that but from the map, it felt like that was their goal of entering the trial land. This meant that they had been searching for this place for years now, and since the trial land only opens up once every one hundred years, one can only imagine how long it took them to create this map.

In the end, Grey was the one who benefited from their hard work. Even though he was a little fearful of Quinn's background, he's dead now, and there's no way people would know he was the one who killed him, so, he threw that to the back of his mind.

While he was going through the map, a place suddenly caught his attention.

'The garden is close to this place, once I get here, I should have no problem locating it.' Grey thought while staring at the familiar-looking landscape.

"We'll be heading to a garden, there are a lot of fruits there." Grey said showing Void their destination on the map.

'Oh! You've been there before?' Void asked.

"Yeah, about two months ago." Grey replied.

'Wouldn't others have cleaned it up by now?' Void asked.

It's been so long, so there's a chance others have found it just the way Grey found it.

"Had it been any other garden, I wouldn't have wanted to return but given what is protecting it, I don't think anyone else would be able to clean it up. Besides, there's somewhere close to it, so even if we don't find anything there, it's not that bad." Grey said.

He found a place on the map which was marked with a book. So there was a chance it might be a library, even if it isn't a library, it should definitely be related to books. Since he was quite curious about this place so he wanted to check it out.

'Okay.' Void nodded and they soon went on their way.

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"\*Sigh\* So weak. Staying on this side of the trial land wouldn't help me improve in any way." Grey said while looking at the wild bull lying on the ground.

The bull was in the Ninth stage of the Arcane Plane, had it been one and a half month ago, then this would have excited him, but now, it's not even worth speaking about. This was the eighth beast he had encountered since leaving the building, but none of them were in the Origin Plane.

"Hey, Void! I've never seen you fight before, why don't you take out the next beast?" Grey looked at Void who was lazily looking at the dead bull.

'Not a chance, they're not worth me making a move.' Void refused before praising himself.

"Hmm, haven't you reached rank four?" Grey inquired.

'I have.' Void nodded.

"Okay, so, you'll be dealing with the next beast." Grey said pointing ahead of them.

A beast could be seen coming in their direction, it was a Ninth stage Arcane Plane Two-Tailed Fox. Each tail had different colors, red and green respectively which represented the fire and wind element. This type of fox is quite rare outside, but it's still found in some places, there were reports of it being seen in the al Beast Forest.

'Fine.' Void replied grumpily and disappeared.

Boom!

A deep red fire exploded out on the place where the Two-Tailed Fox was previously standing. The fox didn't even react before it was blasted to pieces.

"Wow!" Grey exclaimed on seeing the strength of Void's attack.

'The strength of that attack could easily rival an attack of a Third stage Origin Plane Elementalist, it might even be stronger. Also, how can something like this be defended against.' Grey was speechless.

Void's attack appeared out of nowhere, not just that, but it appeared directly above the fox. How can that be defended against? The more Grey saw the prowess of the space element, the more he wanted to awaken his own sooner.

'Happy now?' Void appeared in his previous position once again.

Grey nodded but didn't speak a word.

"Attack me." He suddenly said after keeping quiet for some time.

'Huh!' Void was stunned by Grey's odd request.

"Attack me, I want to check out something." Grey said seriously.

'Okay, should I use my full strength, or...?' Void asked still slightly

"Full strength." Grey's expression turned serious.

'I should warn you though, my attack power is stronger than what you just witnessed.' Void warned.

"I know." Grey responded.

'Okay, if you say so. But remember, if you get injured, this was your idea.' Void said.

Grey didn't answer and just prepared himself. He didn't want to speak too much, he was currently using his spiritual sense to the fullest. He wanted to see if he could sense Void's attack.

Seeing Grey's actions, Void knew he was prepared, so he also prepared himself and disappeared. Since Grey wanted to test out his strength so much, then he'll gladly entertain him. He still held a slight grudge over what Grey did previously, and had been looking for a way to get back at him, who knew he would ask for it himself?

Grey steadied himself while keeping his senses as sharp as possible.

"There."

Bang!

Grey was sent flying and crashed into the ground.

"Shit! Do you plan on killing me?!" Grey yelled out.

'I warned you previously.' Void retorted immediately.

Grey stood up and thought about what just happened. He sensed a slight vibration in the air but it was too late.

'Had my spiritual sense been stronger, I would have been able to sense him quicker. I'll try it again. It's best I can sense it now while I haven't awakened my space element, that way if I were to chance upon a Space Elementalist, I wouldn't be caught unprepared.' Grey thought.

"Again!" Grey said after clearing his head.

'No.' Void declined.

It's not that he didn't want to beat Grey up, but if he accepted it so easily, then Grey would be able to figure his thoughts.

'I'll beat him up. Hmph! This will teach him not to put me in water again.' Void thought.

Bam!

Bang!

Boom!

In six minutes, Void had attacked Grey four times, and other than shouting out in pain, Grey hadn't been able to stop even a single attack. Had his physical body not been this strong, and had he not used earth armor, then, he would have been injured badly.

The only good thing was that he had managed to sense him quicker on the last attack, only, he was still sent flying.

After managing to stand up from the last attack, he decided to stop the training.

Just as he sat down, a thought came to him.

'I should try it one more time before stopping for today.' He thought.

But then, he remembered what happened the last time he said something like this.

'Nah, I'll just rest.' He quickly dismissed the thought.

He still clearly remembered what happened in the morning. At that time, his clothes were only dirtied, maybe this time, they'll be ruined. He didn't dare to take the chance.

'Are we stopping now?' Void asked when he saw Grey taking a seat.

"Yeah, we'll continue some other time." Grey waved tiredly.

'\*Sigh\* Well, I had my fun while it lasted.' Void sighed.

"What?" Grey asked.

'Nothing.' Void quickly shook his head and appeared close to Grey resting on his shoulder.

After resting for ten minutes, Grey felt revitalized.

"Okay, we should continue our journey." He stood up and started walking towards his destination.

The next day.

"We're here." Grey said looking at the still flourishing garden.

'I knew it would still be intact.'