

## **Affinity 1331**

### Chapter 1331 A Tomb

The group of ten headed towards the pyramid. They've already dealt with the Scorpion and they increased their speed, it took them only a few minutes before they got to where the opening into the pyramid was located.

Grey was standing behind the leader of the Giant. Even though he had already shown some of his prowess when it came to fighting, there was no use in bothering with who was leading the group. All he was interested in was getting treasures he could use to help those around him.

The leader of the Giants didn't rush into the opening, he sensed it for a while to know if there was any danger, after getting nothing, he walked in, accompanied by Elaris. Grey was behind them, he already knew there was nothing ahead that would stop them thanks to Void who was the first to enter.

After entering the pyramid, all they saw was a long path ahead of them.

They moved along the path, carefully observing the place. As they were moving, Grey was focused on the marks that were on the wall. From his observations, they were a form of writing, but they looked very similar to array lines which he found a bit odd.

'Could it be that arrays are a form of language?' He thought to himself.

He has always been fascinated as to how arrays came about, after all, it was quite strange that drawing some lines would make someone grow stronger, or become faster or the other abilities array has been able to give Elementalists.

The lines were all so strange yet so wondrous to see.

Grey was staring at the marks and making a mental note of some of the marks. The marks were similar to the ones he saw at the door. Due to encountering the Tortoise, he was forced to stop his observation, now, he didn't have to bother with anything.

Before they knew it, they got to a place that led to three different places. All three paths looked alike, but they all knew they led to different places.

"What now?" One of the Giants asked.

"We have two options, go into the same path to ensure our safety and risk losing more treasures, or spread out so we can get more treasures but risk getting in danger." The leader of the Giants told them their options.

"We should split up. After all, the goal from the start was getting into this place. Since we're already here, there's no need to team up. This will save us the trouble of having to clash due to wanting the same treasure." Grey was the one who answered.

The leader of the Giants nodded to Grey's words, although they didn't sound kind, it was the truth. They might be getting along for now, but that was all because there was nothing that would cause a clash of interests, once there was, then they would clash.

"Thank you for helping us open this place, I'll be leaving with my people now." The leader of the Giants took the middle path and left with the other four giants.

"Why did you say that?" Elaris asked, a little annoyed at Grey.

"I don't think you come out often, if not, you'd know the sooner we split up the better it is for everyone." Grey didn't bother with her and went straight to the path on the right. That was the side he was sensing Void from, and with Void picking that path meant only one thing, it held more treasures.

Elaris felt irritated at the way Grey was treating her, if not for the fact that she didn't want to fall out with him, she would've attacked him the second he spoke to her in such a manner.

She still followed behind Grey.

Sylvia's brother and the other two followed behind them, they knew that with Grey and Elaris taking this path, they didn't have any other choice. Besides, now that they were separated, if they were to be

caught by the Giants, they risked getting attacked by them. After all, the only reason they were together was due to an alignment of interest, now, the goal had been achieved and they didn't need each other any longer.

Grey continued following Void, and before long, they got to a large opening. The place was like a Hall, and there were chairs around. A tomb could be seen in the middle of the Hall, and things made of gold and some other materials could be seen.

These things didn't attract too much attention from those present, rather, it was the flowers that were planted around the tomb that drew the attention of everyone present.

These flowers all possessed different elemental essences and a very large concentration of said elements.

"Amazing..."

Brax muttered.

Grey didn't hurry to get close to it, he was a little wary of this place. He didn't believe it would be that easy to acquire these things. Not just him, but the others as well.

However, after watching it for a few minutes, they realized it was safe to walk close to it.

Elaris headed for the flower that gave off a chilly aura. Snow could be seen around this particular flower.

Grey wasn't in a haste to check out the flowers, he was observing the tomb, wondering if it was inhabited.

What sort of person would be buried in a place like this, surrounded by gold and other forms of treasures?

This was the question in Grey's head.

He suddenly found something odd. Void saw shiny things yet he let them be.

Void would normally take any type of shiny object regardless of whether it was of value or not. Yet Void let go of these.

'Something's wrong.' Grey's eyes opened and he studied the place.

The problem was that he still couldn't sense anything wrong, but he was getting a growing feeling of unease.

"We should leave." He said to the others.

They looked at him, and Elaris was the one who spoke up, "What is it with you? If you want to leave you can, you're not the leader of this group, you know."

"I have zero interest in leading anyone." Grey started walking towards the exit of the place.

He was about to take a step outside when he sensed danger, turning around, he noticed something no one else had.

The tomb was open...

'Fuck it! I hate these types of opponents.' He complained and rushed to where Sylvia's brother was and grabbed hold of him.

Sylvia's brother was about to ask what happened when he saw a large skeletal hand grabbing at him.

"Don't go, nourish me."

The eerie voice sent a shiver down his spine. The skeletal hand was getting closer to him and he could feel his essence being drawn from him.

'No wonder Void didn't stop.'

Void's intuition towards danger was very high, and he knew staying to pick up treasures would put him in some danger.

"We're leaving." Grey threw a stream of fire at the hand and dragged Sylvia's brother with him, he didn't care about the safety of the others. Since they wanted to listen to Elaris, he didn't have any reason to bother about their safety.

Elaris moved fast, she froze the hand coming towards her and rushed towards the exit.

Brax and Victor followed behind her. The moment they left the place, a skeleton with little parts covered with decayed flesh appeared.

"It's been so long, how much longer will it take before I can awaken? Even these flowers are useless." The skeleton spoke in a cold tone.

It soon sensed something and when it looked at the flowers, its expression changed drastically. They were all gone, all sixteen flowers.

"Damn it! When did they take them?!" It roared furiously.

These flowers were products of hundreds of years of planning, and they were all gone.

"How? Who?"

Its bluish flaming eyes, just like an inferno spiked up, it realized when the flowers were taken.

The time he was attacked by the stream of fire he noticed something strange about the flame, but due to how quickly everything happened, it didn't think too much about it, and there were others it targeted. But now that they were all gone, it realized the abnormality with the flame.

"I'll kill you!" The skeleton which had not left this place for hundreds of years moved towards the exit of the tomb, its treasure was stolen and it wanted it back at all costs.

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Other than Grey, no one else understood the meaning behind the roar of the skeleton.

Grey had a nonchalant expression on his face, but he was elated deep down. The flowers were taken by none other than him. He didn't actually need the flames to force back the hand since there was no way it would be able to reach him, but there was no way he would give up such an opportunity. He used the flames to hide his true intentions, and no one knew he took it. Well, the skeleton knew, but it was none of his business.

Unbeknownst to Grey, he was being hunted down by the skeleton.

#### Chapter 1332 Heading Deeper Into The Pyramid

The human group of five didn't know there was a skeleton chasing after them. After leaving the tomb, they all felt a sense of relief and a little hint of sadness. If they were able to get even one of those flowers, they would've been able to benefit greatly from it, but unfortunately, they were unable to get anything from it which was a little frustrating, especially after seeing just how good they were with their own eyes.

Grey was the only one who didn't show any signs of reluctance after leaving the tomb, but the others didn't suspect anything since from the start he didn't even bother with any of the flowers, rather, he urged them to leave the place.

If Grey hadn't been as sharp as he was, Sylvia's brother would most likely have been hurt by now, or even worse, killed.

The path before them was still as long as the previous ones, and they didn't have any choice other than walking it.

They didn't dare to rush through the path since it was unknown what dangers lay ahead, all they could do was cautiously walk through while ensuring their safety.

Sylvia's brother was standing closer to Grey now since he had saved his life twice. He knew what he should do if he wanted to guarantee his safety in this pyramid.

Grey was the only one who was walking ahead with a blank expression, with the help of Void, he knew the areas that possessed the best treasures, the only drawback was that with top treasures came danger. The better the treasure the more dangerous he felt it would be.

This was something that had been happening for a long time now, and everyone present was aware of how the world works. But none of them is willing to give up on the opportunity that has presented itself before them, Grey included. Unless he knew it was a certain death situation if he went for a treasure, he would never back down.

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"Not again."

Brax complained when they arrived at another intersection, this time, there were four paths.

Elaris unconsciously took a glance at Grey and to her surprise, he was already walking towards the last path on the left. He didn't even pause to take a glance at the other three paths, he just walked straight into the path.

"Dammit..." She muttered through clenched teeth, but she still followed him.

She had seen how powerful he was, and even though she didn't want to admit it, she saw him as an equal. She felt the only reason Grey was powerful was due to his unpredictability. Having multiple elements and being able to unleash such powerful explosive attacks with his fists was something that set him apart from others. Nevertheless, she didn't think she would lose against him.

The only reason she was following him was to make sure all five of them who entered this place came out alive. If Grey were to encounter something he couldn't handle, Sylvia's brother would undoubtedly die, and that wasn't something she wanted to see.

Grey heard the grumbling Elaris, but he couldn't care less. He wasn't forcing them to follow him. From the start, he didn't even want her to be in the squad.

Elaris was more annoyed at the fact that Grey wasn't even giving her any face. He was acting like she didn't exist, something that had never happened before.

For someone who has grown accustomed to always getting attention from those around her, it was a new feeling being treated in such a manner by Grey. Even her Teacher didn't treat her in such a way.

While she was still being pissed about what Grey was doing. They soon walked into an underground stream.

Grey was standing before the stream, he placed one of his fingers inside as if he was testing something. He removed it just as quickly as he put it inside.

The others only saw a ripple on the surface of the water, other than Grey, no one else knew what happened.

'There's no way we can defeat it inside the water. It's in its best environment.' Grey felt a headache when he thought about what they had to face.

A powerful al Beast was lurking in the underground stream, one that possessed frightening attack power. When in the water, it's a fearsome beast to battle against.



"There's a treasure inside the water." Elaris pointed at the shiny object that was lying deep in the water.

Even with how dark it was, and the depth of the stream, it still couldn't hide the gleam of such a tremendous treasure.

"And something is waiting to kill you the moment you attempt to take it." Grey said, bringing the others back to reality.

Yes, there was a treasure lying there, but there was also something in the water that would not hesitate to take their lives.

"How many?" Elaris asked Grey.

"Three, all at the Peak of the Seventh Rank." Grey answered her question, which came as a surprise to her.

"I can deal with one, although troublesome, but not impossible. With your strength I know you can too, the others shouldn't have any problems with taking care of the last one." Grey didn't bother with Elaris' reaction as he gave the order in which they would be able to take what lay in the depth of the stream.

Elaris pouted as she didn't like the fact that Grey was the one giving the orders, but there was nothing she could do about it. Grey was the one who checked the water and knew how many opponents they had to face.

Other than herself and Grey, Brax, and Victor were also at the Peak of the Elemental Venerable Plane. They would have an even easier time than them when dealing with the beast hiding in the water.

Tens of lightning arrows appeared in the sky and shot into the water.

Grey wanted to see if he could force out the beasts inside.

His attack paid off as a large creature jumped out of the stream, its exceptionally large figure and green scales running through its entire body would make anyone doubt if they could ever break through its defense.

"Not again." Grey felt like crying.

#### Chapter 1333 Journey To The Center Of The Pyramid

Grey groaned coldly while staring at the beast in front of him. It was none other than a Crocodile, of all the things he has come to hate amongst all Beasts, it was types like these that had such strong defenses.

Take the Scorpion for example, it isn't that the superiority in strength was large, but its defense was just too powerful that it took such a large group of people to take it down.

Now that he has to fight one on his own, all he felt was pain.

The good news now was that of the three beasts he sensed inside the water, only this Crocodile had shown itself which might be a bonus for them. If they could kill it with their numbers advantage before the other two stepped out, they would've already established a good position for themselves in the battle.

The Crocodile stared at the intruders coldly and contrary to what they expected, it didn't attack, instead, it tried to communicate with them.

'Leave this place, I'm in no mood to fight anyone.'

The voice of the Crocodile echoed in their ears.

Grey studied the Crocodile and almost burst out laughing, a small part of its tail had been gnawed off. The place was so small that it was almost impossible to notice, but with Grey's keen eyes, and a little hint from Void, he was able to see it.

When he saw the Crocodile, he asked if Void wanted to eat it, and Void said he had already tasted it and didn't like how it tasted.

The Crocodile expressed its desire not to engage in any form of battle at the same moment which made Grey almost laugh out loud. The Crocodile looked traumatized by the experience it had with Void.

"Do you think that thing can benefit any of us?" Grey pointed at the shiny object.

Void didn't take it, which meant it most likely wasn't a shiny object, it might be good, but not what he wanted.

The Crocodile was irritated by Grey's words, and just when it was about to snap, Grey whispered so only it could hear.

"My cat doesn't think you taste good, but I'm a very good cook, I can make you taste good. All I need to do is call him back."

The moment the Crocodile heard those words, its large body shivered.

Grey was astounded, he couldn't believe Void, the small cat that could barely fit into his palm, left such a large creature in such a state.

'Size truly doesn't matter.'

The Crocodile looked at Grey and the others and indicated to Victor before saying to Grey.

'It's not something that will be of use to most people, but it might help extend his life force.'

Grey's pupils contracted when he heard this. He wasn't close to Victor, but he never thought he would have an issue with his life force.

Victor didn't look like someone who had a problem with his life force, and he didn't look to be over forty, so Grey never really thought there would be an issue with him.

"Then bring it." Grey said to the Crocodile.

The Crocodile didn't delay and brought it over to them.

Grey took it and tossed it to Victor who couldn't believe his eyes.

They could all sense the item oozing with life force.

"We have no use for this, but it might be of use for you." Grey left those words before turning his attention to the Crocodile.

Since it was willing to communicate, he was quite curious as to how it got into this place.

Due to the long process it took them to get into this place, he didn't think it was that easy for anyone to bring in a al Beast in their free time unless it was the person who created it in the first place.

'I've been here all my life.'

This was the answer Grey got, something he wasn't hoping to get. No matter what he asked, the Crocodile didn't show any signs of knowing the answers.

Grey could only give up and leave with the others. There was no need to stay behind, and since the Crocodile let them leave in peace, it was for the best.

The group of five passed through the underground stream before heading into another path.

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While the humans were having a relatively easy time passing through each obstacle, it wasn't so easy for the Giants. They've faced different dangerous situations, but the rewards have been massive as well.

The leader had ensured that nothing happened to the others. Of course, he couldn't always save them, but he made sure none of them suffered attacks that could kill them or fatally wound them.

They were also heading deeper into the pyramid, just like Grey and the others.

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Time went by and before they knew it, they've been stuck in the pyramid for over two days, in search of the center of the pyramid. They all knew the best treasures lay there, but locating it in these maze-like paths was no easy feat.

Void was the one leading the humans, and if not for the continuous good items they would occasionally get, Elaris would've been irritated by the fact that Grey was just randomly jumping from one path to another without even thinking.

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"At this rate we might never be able to leave this place." Sylvia's brother spoke up when the group appeared at a Hall. This Hall wasn't like the tomb, but this wasn't the first of its kind they had seen these past days.

"We can. But with the treasures still present, I don't think there's any use in us rushing." Grey didn't feel any pressure.

"What if the Giants beat us to the center, what then?" Elaris asked.

"We go home. We don't always have to win in such tussles." Grey was unbothered.

He knew there was no way in hell the Giants would get to the middle first before Void, so he wasn't afraid. The worst that could happen was that he would have to beg Void for a few treasures when he gets there before them and take everything.

#### Chapter 1334 Hidden Enemy

Void was slowly edging closer to the center of the pyramid, the same could be said for Grey and his group who were following behind him.

The Giants were also advancing closer to the center of the pyramid.

After two more days, Grey and his group got to a door Grey believed led to the center of the pyramid, the reason for this thought, well let's say a black little cat found it difficult to get past the door.

Void had been stuck there for a while now and led Grey right to him. When Grey and his entourage were almost there, he hid in the void. With his impeccable hiding skills, other than Grey, no one else would be able to sense his presence.

"This should lead to the center of the pyramid, or at least to a new area." Grey said.

He had grown tired of seeing the same long empty paths.

Elaris looked at the door, "How do we open it?" She asked curiously.

Grey looked at it, he had been studying the ruin marks he was seeing on the path and had gotten a little understanding of them. Unfortunately, it was not enough for the door that was in front of them.

"I have no idea. Maybe we should attempt the same method as we used in entering this place. Who knows, it might work." He suggested.

"I was thinking the same thing." Brax agreed with Grey's words.

Compared to the first time, he was more relaxed, after gaining a few treasures thanks to following behind Grey, he was more than elated. This had been the most fruitful journey he had ever had.

He cut open his arm and the second the blood got close to the door, it lit up and ruin marks appeared. The door shook softly before going quiet.

The light only came up for barely a second before going off.

"Looks like it will work." Sylvia's brother spoke up.

The others nodded and followed Brax. Other than Grey, the rest of them were giving their blood in hopes the door would open soon enough and they get the chance to acquire different treasures.

In no time, the door had drunk enough blood and it started to rumble loudly.

After shaking for almost a minute, while still violently sucking the blood from the bodies of the four who were feeding it, it started to slowly open up.

Just as the door was opening, Grey felt a sharp sense of danger and without hesitation, he set up all his defenses, even making use of his dragon scales, not caring if the others would see him in that form.

Bang!

A powerful attack struck his back, leaving a large wound in it.

Everyone present was shocked when they saw Grey's bloodied figure shooting past them and crashing into the door which just opened.

The rest of them didn't need any warning before rushing through the door and cutting off the supply of blood.

The place they appeared in wasn't like the other places they've been visiting, this place was like a different world. They were on a small hill, but that hill presently had a newly formed crater, and a bloodied figure could be seen inside of it.

Grey wasn't moving, but they could tell that he was alive.

Void's figure appeared beside Grey and before anyone could get close, he shut off the space while tossing all the healing tonics he had with him at Grey.

Grey's injury was severe, even with the help of setting up all the defenses he could make use of, he was still left in such a sorry state. This goes to show just how powerful the assailant was.

Sylvia's brother and the others only saw a glimpse of Void's figure before the place was sealed and started giving off a fierce white glow.

With Void present, Grey also made use of his light element to help hasten the healing process. He didn't know what was hidden here, if he were attacked now, he would be in danger.

It took over ten minutes, but no one left the place.

Grey finally stood up and couldn't help but cuss at whoever attacked him.

The attack power was well over what someone at the Peak of the Elemental Venerable Plane could make use of. If he even used the best form of his fusion orb, he wouldn't be able to unleash such a powerful attack.

Void removed the seal from the area while standing on Grey's shoulder.

Grey took a glance at everyone present, his face slightly pale.

"Did anyone see who did it?" He asked.



They all shook their heads. At the time Grey was attacked, he was the one furthest from the door when they were giving it blood, and since all their attention was on the door, they didn't get the chance to know who attacked Grey.

Even when they could've looked behind, they were worried at the fact that Grey, the person with the best defense, could barely block the attack.

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While they were inside trying to figure out who attacked.

A voice could be heard in the passageway.

"How did he survive that attack?!"

"Even a First stage Sovereign will find it hard to survive, especially given the proximity."

"You have to hand it to the kid, his senses are very sharp."

"There's nothing good about him. I want him dead. He took what's mine, I need them."

There was not just one voice, but multiple voices. However, there was malice in one of them. The owner was the one who attacked Grey.

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If Grey were to see who attacked him, even with his current state, he would want to fight the person to the death. He hated being sneaked up on, especially by such a powerful figure.

"I'll kill you, just you wait." Grey said through gritted teeth while looking at the door that led into this place. He wasn't even in the mood to check out the place.

## Chapter 1335 Five Pillars

Elaris and the others looked at Grey, and their eyes turned to the small cat that was on his shoulder. No one saw it with him when he was coming in, only when he was injured a few minutes ago did the cat suddenly appear.

"Since when did you have that?" Elaris asked, pointing at Void who was on his shoulder.

"He has always been with me." Grey replied casually.

Without having to worry about who attacked him now, he turned his attention to the place he was in. He could sense a good amount of elemental particles, it was almost on the same level as his Chaos Space.

Of course, he hadn't ventured to the deepest part of each element's region, and for a long time now, he hadn't even bothered with it. His grades were increasing, and there was no need to bother too much about it.

Grey's armor repaired itself with the abundance of essence in the area, fixing the destroyed part on the back and fixing up Grey's clothes once again.

Seeing that Grey was alright, another person asked Grey a question he expected to come.

"How do you have scales?" Brax was the one who asked, his body posture showed that he was prepared to attack.

Grey chuckled and asked, "You haven't seen or heard of people being able to show some attributes of al Beasts?"

He wasn't worried he would be attacked, even if they dared to attack him, he wasn't worried. He might be hurt, but he could still escape with his speed.

"We know of the Vaergahl Family, but not of others." Victor answered.

"Don't keep yourself limited, you'll find out things aren't that difficult to achieve." Grey advised before adding, "Oh, keep this to yourself so as not to attract too much attention. I don't want people bothering me."

Grey was unbothered by the way they were looking at him, rather, he was now fully interested in the hill they were standing on.

There was a sky above them, and he could feel the breeze on his face, but he also knew they weren't in the outside world and were still in the pyramid. This wasn't even a special place created in the pyramid, it was part of the pyramid just like the underground stream and other Halls.

Grey looked towards the top of the hill and saw stone carvings that stretched to the sky.

He walked closer to the stone carvings. There were markings on it that looked similar to the ones he saw on the door and also on the paths.

The markings were even more intricate than ruins and the only form of understanding he has got from his observations over the past few days is that they were a form of writing and not casually drawn arrays. It was as if the writings were trying to tell him a story, but he hadn't been able to comprehend the meaning behind them so he was lost.

The more simulations he made in his head about the writings and drawings he made, the more he felt it was just too complex.

It was as if he was trying to understand everything about the world in one go, this was how this thing felt to him.

What he found a bit annoying was the fact that he hadn't seen anything that could be of help to him in his endeavor. He was studying blind and coming up with assumptions on his own which might be completely wrong.

He placed his palm on the carvings on the stones, but other than the coldness from the stone he didn't feel anything.

"Where's this place?" Sylvia's brother asked.

The stones looked very mysterious, and he could also sense an odd aura from them. The stones looked like they were the pillars keeping the world afloat. This was the feeling he got while staring at them.

"It's al." Elaris exclaimed softly as she worked close to the stones. She ran her fingers across the surface of the stone, the coldness sent a chill down her spine.

Brax and Victor looked around, and in this entire place, other than the extraordinary abundance of essence, all that was in sight were these large stones that stretched into the sky.

They all walked closer to it and tried to feel it.

The stone didn't seem to be made from ordinary rock, but from a material none of them had ever seen.

Grey tried to manipulate the stone, but to his surprise, there wasn't any form of reaction from it.

"Not under the earth element?" He was a bit confused.

He repeatedly tapped it and increased his force as time went on, trying to see if he could cause any form of destruction to it. But the stone didn't budge, it was as if Grey wasn't trying to destroy it.

'This thing is strange, stop hitting it.' Void stopped Grey from hitting it any further.

Grey, who was already preparing to use all his strength, stopped attacking it. He knew Void had a great intuition, so he didn't dare to continue.

There were five stones that were in different positions, four making a square while the last one was in the middle.

Grey walked away from the one he was studying and walked towards the one that was in the middle. Attacking it was no use, so the best thing he could do was at least study it and try to see if he could decipher the marks on it.

He started to look at each mark, trying to see if they had a meaning while flying into the sky, heading higher as he looked through each mark.

While looking at the marks, he was making a mental note of each, drawing them in his head, trying to see if all of them were drawn out and whether he could get something useful from them. The higher he went, the more intricate he felt the marks were.

A strange feeling started to grow in him. Unknown to him, the more mental marks he was drawing that were in correlation with this one, a dime glow was starting to appear on his body and those markings were slowly appearing on his body.

#### Chapter 1336 Cracking The Secret Behind The Pillars

As Grey went higher, the symbols appearing on his body became more noticeable, not just to himself but to the others.

"What's happening with him?" Victor asked, amazed that Grey had made the stones show some kind of reaction after such a short time interacting with it.

Grey was also amazed at what was happening, and he never thought his casual attempt to comprehend the marks would produce such an effect.

'I wonder what this means...' He thought to himself but didn't dwell too long on it. After all, he wasn't even halfway through the marks on the stones.

The others watched as Grey continued to ascend higher, the marks on his body glowing brighter and brighter.

Brax decided to copy what Grey was doing and started circling the stone he was previously studying. He looked at each mark diligently while slowly ascending. Unfortunately for him, Grey wasn't casually staring at the patterns; he was making mental notes of them in his head, which might have resonated with the stone, causing the phenomenon they were all witnessing.

Elaris looked at Grey with her bright eyes, curious about what he was feeling now.

While the others were wondering what Grey felt from the glow on his body, he also wondered what the light and marks represented. He hadn't felt any changes since the marks started showing on his body, which he felt was odd.

Void was the only one who didn't react, and he couldn't care less about what was happening to Grey. His eyes were set on what was hidden beneath the stones.

The pillars might be precious to others, but not to him. He came here from the start because of the treasures hiding underneath these pillars, and from the looks of it, only Grey could break the seal blocking his path, successfully.

Grey continued with what he was doing while the others could only watch without being able to do anything.

After a few minutes, Grey was at the peak of the pillar. He was expecting some sort of reaction from the pillar, but to his shock, the pillar only gave off the same lights on his body.

'What the hell?' He complained internally.

After carefully studying the marks and with the sudden glow on his body and the pillar, he thought something magnificent would happen when he was done with it. Who knew the pillar would only give off a light and nothing would happen?

"A waste of time..." He muttered to himself before looking at the top of the other four pillars.

His eyes shone with delight, and he chuckled softly, giving a self-deprecating laugh, "I can't believe I missed it. After all my years learning arrays, I still missed something so easy."

Now that he was looking at the pillars from above, he got the catch of what was happening. It was a simple array. Of course, with how it was from the start, it was tough for anyone to realize it was an array, especially when there was a sudden reaction when he was taking mental notes of the marks on the pillar.

In all sincerity, he was expecting something to happen. Only now did he get the hang of what he needed to do before anything will happen.

Grey started the same process on the other four with one lit pillar. It was useless to tell Elaris and the others since they weren't arraymasters.

Elaris and the others gave him space to continue with whatever he was doing.

It took a little longer than he thought, but in the end, all five pillars were brightly lit after just over thirty minutes.

When the last pillar fully lit up, the other pillars reacted to it. All five pillars sent a bright light into the sky, before merging.

The light in the sky soon descended, stopping at the central pillar and creating a small passage large enough for humans to walk through.

Before anyone could react, Void was already gone. Other than Grey, no one else sensed the quick movement of Void.

"Fuck!" Grey cursed out again due to Void rushing into the place before him.

After cursing out, he didn't waste any time and charged in, right behind Void. He would not let Void benefit so much from his hard work. Void barely did anything!

He couldn't take away the fact that without Void, they wouldn't have been able to locate this place, and even if they did, it wouldn't have been with such ease.

Nevertheless, knowing how greedy Void can get, he didn't dare to give him too much time alone in there; the chances of him wiping the place clean before they entered were very high.

Elaris wanted to ask Grey how he knew how to open it, but then she heard Grey cussing and rushing into the opening. She looked at the disappearing figure of Grey, unsure of what to feel about his actions.

"Let's go."

She went after him, reminding the others not to slack behind.

Brax and Victor also rushed in, leaving only Sylvia's brother behind.

He found Grey's behavior strange, but since he wasn't close to Grey, he didn't speak about it and entered through the opening behind the others.

If they knew there was a little thieving cat on the verge of stealing all the treasures they might grab from this place, they wouldn't be moving as slowly as they were.

....

Inside the passage.

A small black dot shot through the place with lightning speed.

Behind it was a far larger shadow moving just as fast, if not even a bit faster.

'Void!'



'What?'

'Slow down.'

'No.'

'Damn it, Void, if you take everything, I'll kill you!'

Grey and Void continued exchanging words as they headed deeper into the place.

Void was following his sharp senses, while Grey was following Void. The duo didn't even take a glance at their surroundings. If they did, they wouldn't be in such haste to get to the treasure.

Elaris and the others weren't as brash as the duo, and the sight before them made them feel a cold chill run down their spines.

#### Chapter 1337 Remarkable But Proud

On the side of the path were corpses, and all of them looked very lifelike. To a certain extent, these corpses could be said to be staring at them.

The feeling they got from the corpses was one of dread. It was as if their souls were being stared at by a supreme being they couldn't hide from.

Grey and Void, who were at the forefront, got most of the attention from the corpses, and after a few seconds, they sensed the eyes of the people watching them from the side. Void paused when he saw the people staring at them, and without hesitation, he vanished, hiding in Grey's storage space.

Unlike Void, Grey didn't have anywhere to hide. He felt these weren't just corpses, even though they were apparently dead.

He stopped his movements and waited for the others to get to where he was standing. Other than staring, the corpses weren't making any movements, making Grey sigh in relief. He knew they might've been in danger if the corpses had made other movements.

"What do you think they are?" Sylvia's brother asked, a little worried at how intensely the corpses were watching them.

"Dead, that's what they are." Elaris regained her composure and replied. She had studied the corpses; other than moving their eyes in their direction, they weren't doing anything else.

Grey, who was ahead of them, had also come to this conclusion, but he decided since Void was with him, there was no use in leaving the others behind. Although it looked strange, he wasn't the type that would take all the treasures and leave nothing for the others. The only reason he rushed in was to stop Void from taking everything.

"You're no longer rushing to take everything?" Elaris asked with a mocking smile before adding, "Don't tell me you're scared of dead people."

Grey didn't bother with her and turned his attention to the path before him. He could sense some danger in front of him, but he was confident it was something he would be able to deal with.

Since he was already ahead of them, he continued leading the way.

Elaris scoffed and followed behind him, ensuring a reasonable distance between them. She wanted Grey to be the one to deal with all the troubles that would later surface.

'Being greedy comes with a cost.'

She felt the only reason Grey stopped was because he realized the danger ahead of them and didn't want to deal with it alone.

Elaris wasn't the only one with such thoughts. Sylvia's brother had the same opinion about Grey. After all, he rushed in the moment it was open, only pausing after getting far away. He only felt Grey would wait for them because he wanted their help to resolve the problem.

"You want me to solve the problem for you? Heh! You must be dreaming." Grey chuckled and advanced calmly.

He knew his actions were wrong, but the fact that Elaris wanted to take advantage of him was something he would not let happen. Since he wanted to act smart, he didn't mind playing with her.

Before long, the danger he sensed ahead appeared. It wasn't something that was difficult for him to handle, but he wanted Elaris and her group to suffer, except for Sylvia's brother.

A large Bull was blocking the path ahead, and it was at the Peak of the Seventh Rank.

When it caught sight of Grey, it charged at him.

Grey didn't flinch, and with a soft movement, he dodged the Bull, tapping it on the side.

The Bull suddenly disappeared, and Sylvia's brother was on the spot the Bull was previously standing on. Grey had his hand across his shoulder with a soft smile on his face.

The Bull, on the other hand, appeared on the spot where Sylvia's brother was previously standing.

Its sudden appearance shocked the group, especially Elaris. But then she recalled there was someone proficient with the space element in the group; the person was ahead of them.

'Such a hateful fellow.' Elaris cursed internally and immediately acted, forcing the Bull to go behind them.

She was the strongest and acted first. Luckily, Sylvia's brother stood behind them, so it wasn't hard for them to negate it when it turned around.

She sent the Bull flying, but with its sturdy skin, it didn't feel any pain from the attack. It opened its mouth, and a fiery light shot at the group.

Grey made a move this time. He didn't want it to seem like he was trying to have any sort of conflict with Elaris and the others.

He appeared before them, and his blue flames rose, shielding the others from the attack of the Bull.

The Bull charged forward when it saw its attack wasn't effective.

Grey was standing composed when the Bull was within fifteen meters of him, he took a step forward, planting his right foot on the ground.

The charging Bull suddenly felt its large body pulled by an irresistible force. Due to the suddenness of the attack, it could not defend against it even though it possessed tremendous strength.

The Bull fell to the ground, and Grey used the earth element to imprison it. With its entire body held down, it was unable to break free. If it had been standing, then the chances of breaking free would've been high, but in a situation like this, it was almost impossible to escape from Grey's clutches.

"You guys alright?" He asked after incapacitating the Bull.

"You're the one who sent the Bull here. I wonder if you want us to be alright." Elaris said.

Grey refusing to take her with him at first, and then his unwillingness to help her with the mark gave her a wrong impression of him. Yes, she wasn't going to deny that Grey was remarkable, but she also felt he was prideful.

Grey wanted to speak, but refrained. He didn't have the time to argue with her. He shook his head and walked closer to Sylvia's brother, who was still where Grey left him.

## Chapter 1338 White Bones

Grey led the group, with Void directing him on where to go. The treasure was getting closer and closer, and Void could sense it.

The others followed behind Grey. Elaris was still annoyed that Grey sent the Bull in their direction.

As they went deeper into the place, they soon got to a door. Grey saw the same signs on them, but this time, they didn't need to do anything. All Grey did was push it, and it opened for them to step in.

The door led to a large room. Multiple tables were standing in direction locations in the room, and items were on each table.

Grey was dumbstruck at the sheer number of top-tier treasures he was seeing. Not just Grey, even Elaris, who was from a top Faction, was also left speechless by what she saw.

Void appeared once again, his eyes lighting up as he saw the things laid there on the table.

Before anyone could move, he was the first to make a move. He went for a golden ring lying on the floor close to one of the tables.

Grey's head almost exploded when he saw this. There was no way Void would take a useless ring when there were countless treasures here. He immediately went after him.

The others didn't mind Void going after the ring. After all, it was on the ground. If not for Void rushing there, they wouldn't notice it.

The others all went for different treasures. There were quite a lot of treasures there that attracted their attention, and they couldn't wait to take it. With Grey and Void going after the ring they deemed useless, there were fewer contenders for the treasures they picked.

Over twenty tables were in the room, and all twenty of them had a top treasure on top of them, from elemental weapons to rare al Beasts' cores and rare flowers.

All kinds of treasures lay on the tables, and they were all up for grabs.

Grey caught up to Void and stretched to pick up the ring. Void was faster, and with his smaller build, he maneuvered right through Grey's fingers and took the ring from his grasp.

"Fuck! Void, give it back." Grey said, a little annoyed.

Void naturally didn't pay any heed to his words. He opened his tiny mouth and swallowed the ring with a satisfied smile on his face.

Veins appeared on the side of Grey's head. He knew since Void had already kept it, it was almost impossible to take it from him. What was worse was that he didn't know what was inside the ring, so even if Void decides to trick him later, there was no way he would be able to know if it was a trick.

"Greedy little cat." He said through gritted teeth before moving to another treasure. There was no need to bother about the ring and its contents, he knew there was no hope.

Void laughed in satisfaction. He, too, went after another treasure.

The others had already taken their first choice of treasures and were going after the next ones. Seeing Grey and Void going at the treasures, they were flabbergasted. In a second, each of them had cleaned five tables. One has to know that some of these items weren't easy to take from these tables, but Void was directly going past while Grey acted like he wasn't being repelled.

It was a shocking yet annoying sight to behold. Unlike Grey and Void, they needed some time to break through some of the table's defenses.

Grey stopped after they ransacked ten tables, but Void didn't have any plans of stopping. He moved quickly, rushing for the next table.

Grey acted quickly, stopping Void from taking anything more.

'Enough, do you want them to hate us?'

'It's not like they like you in the first place. What's the point of letting them have any? We all know that the treasures are taken by those who can acquire them. They might get upset, but there's nothing they can do. Do they want to blame you for their uselessness?'

Grey paused when he heard Void's words. To be honest, Void's words were logical. It was common knowledge that treasures were taken by the capable. If one can't even move as fast as the other, then they would lose out.

He still stopped Void from taking anything else. Of course, he didn't care about what Elaris and the others thought of him, but it wouldn't be nice if he took everything and left nothing for them.

Void grunted but disappeared when he saw that Grey wasn't giving him an inch. He already had enough, so there was no use arguing over if he should get more or not.

Grey was satisfied when he saw this.

Elaris and the others heaved a sigh of relief when they saw Grey stop Void from taking anything else. Seeing that Void was just as fast as Grey, if not even faster, they knew the chances of them catching him was almost zero.

The other four didn't waste too much time and started to go through the other things. In no time all the tables were cleaned and every single treasure was taken out.

"Alright, we better get going."

Since they've collected everything, Grey saw no point in them staying there.

Elaris and the others had the same thought as well. As they headed toward the door, Grey felt a cold chill down his spine and hurriedly retreated, dragging Sylvia's brother with him.

Boom!

A small explosion happened on the spot he was previously standing.

Elaris and the other two were a tad slower, but they managed to escape from the impact of the explosion.

They couldn't help but take a look at Grey once again. His reaction speed and sensitivity to danger was way higher than theirs, Elaris included which was a little shocking.

Grey squinted his eyes and looked at the cause of the explosion, his eyes widened when he was greeted by pearly white bones. It was the bones from a palm.

Chapter 1339 That's Just The First Part

"Kid, you have something of mine, return it."

An eerie voice came from the dust, and the full skeleton came to view. Its greenish flamy eyes struck fear into the eyes of everyone who stared at them for too long.

Grey was able to recognize the skeleton in an instant and his expression fell. He never thought the skeleton would come after him. In his defense, the flowers were there for the taking.

"This is troublesome." He caressed his head softly.

"I've been hunting you for a while, where are my flowers?" The skeleton asked coldly.

"I have no idea what you're talking about. But I have some flowers with me, I don't know if they're yours." Grey replied with an innocent expression.

The eyes of the skeleton flared up when it heard Grey's words.



"Kid, don't try to act smart with me. I've seen it all." The Skeleton was not having Grey's smart play.

Grey saw their situation and given the space in the room he couldn't help but feel slightly annoyed. If he were alone, he wouldn't be afraid to fight with the skeleton, but with others here, he didn't want them to get hurt.

Not just that, but the others wouldn't want to help him when they wouldn't be getting anything out of it.

'Void... wanna help out? I'll give you one flower.' Grey asked Void for help.

Void didn't reply to him.

'Fine, two flowers.' He increased the offer.

Void finally spoke up, 'It's too strong. Give up on them.'

Grey was taken aback by Void's words. From his usual experience with Void, he didn't take Void for someone who was scared of a battle, but from the looks of it, Void was afraid of getting into a battle with this skeleton even with Grey assisting him.

'Tough.' Grey thought to himself before bringing out all eight flowers.

When the others saw the flowers with Grey, they were beyond shocked. Of all of them, Grey was the first to leave the room, yet he managed to take all eight flowers.

One thing worth noting was that the flowers had all lost a bit of essence compared to how they were the first time they saw them.

"What did you do to them?!" The Skeleton was irate.

"Nothing I swear. When I took them I accidentally absorbed a bit of them, I didn't even expect it to happen." Grey explained.

Even though the flowers were in his spatial storage, he was still able to absorb some of their essences. When he tried to, he realized how easy it was for him to, and before he knew it, he had absorbed quite a bit of essence from all eight flowers.

The Skeleton looked at Grey, shocked. The only thought in its head was how Grey was able to absorb all eight elemental essences from the flowers.

"Oh, my cat has some elements that I don't have, so he absorbed some too." Grey threw some of the blame to Void. He knew it would be dangerous if the Skeleton knew he could use all eight elements.

"Kid, you will have to compensate me." The Skeleton said.

Grey heaved a sigh of relief when he saw this. Since the Skeleton was ready to speak to them in a calm manner, then they would be able to agree on something. From the looks of it, the Skeleton didn't want to get into a fight with them which Grey felt was logical.

The Skeleton might be strong, but there were more people present and its strength was only at the Peak. It might be able to take on two of them, but with all of them combined, the chances were slim.

Grey thought about it and brought out an orb.

When the Skeleton saw it, its eyes lit up. This was exactly what it wanted. Something that has a large amount of essence in it. The orb Grey brought out fitted perfectly in this description.

Over the years, Grey had acquired quite a lot of treasures, this orb being one of them. He didn't have any use for it, so it was okay to hand it over to the Skeleton as compensation for using the essence in its flower.

After tossing it over to the Skeleton, who took it quickly, he prepared to leave with the others.

"Did I say you're free to go?" The Skeleton asked with an amused voice.

Grey halted in his steps, unsure of what the Skeleton wanted even after he had given him the orb.

"I'm only taking that compensation for the essence you removed from the flowers." The Skeleton laughed, it added slowly, "Now I need you all to compensate me with your lives."

"I know you're strong, but don't think you can defeat all of us." Elaris was the one who spoke up this time.

She might've been shocked with the fact that Grey was able to take the flowers, but it didn't mean she wouldn't unite with him now that the Skeleton wanted to kill them.

Grey was very powerful, that was something she had already seen from the last time Grey acted. The fact that Grey gave up the flowers and even offered more showed that he knew he wasn't a match for the Skeleton. She, too, had assessed the situation and realized even the two of them might not be able to stop this Skeleton from doing whatever it wanted.

"You might want to bring out your cat." The Skeleton looked at them and said to Grey with an amused voice.

Grey's expression turned serious. He never expected the Skeleton to know Void was currently with him. Yes, he spoke about him, but since he wasn't here, it was easy for the Skeleton to assume that he wasn't close by. However, the Skeleton looked him in the eyes and told him to bring Void out, it meant it knew Void was close by.

Brax and Victor walked closer to them when they saw the tension. Sylvia's brother was the only one left behind them.

#### Chapter 1340 Battling The Skeleton

The Skeleton watched them as they gathered, not fazed with the increasing strength of the group.

"Ready?" It asked with a playful voice.

Grey's expression was serious when he sensed the strength of the Skeleton. Now he understood why Void was avoiding a battle with it. Its strength was obviously above the Elemental Venerable Plane. Although its cultivation stage was at the very Peak of the Elemental Venerable Plane, the aura it was giving off was way higher than that.

"It's strong, our best bet is to retreat while fighting." Grey whispered to the others, who nodded in agreement.

They could all feel the pressure the Skeleton was putting on them, and from how carefree the Skeleton was, it wasn't even trying to show off. This meant once it was serious, its aura would be higher than what it is at the moment.

Grey took the lead, his blue flames shooting towards the Skeleton.

The Skeleton opened its palm and its white bones expanded, it soon covered the flames coming its way, extinguishing it with a simple wave.

The wave of its hand didn't only extinguish Grey's flames, but sent a powerful gust at him, forcing him to retreat.

The others who were behind him also moved back due to the power behind the gust.

"Is that all you have? If it is, you should give up now and not waste my time." The Skeleton looked at the group who just regained their balance from its previous attack.

Grey didn't worry about what the Skeleton was saying, he made sure Void was still hidden, hoping to use him at a critical moment.

The Skeleton might be aware of Void's presence, but without Void appearing, there was nothing it could do. If the battle got to an intense state, then there was a good chance it might forget about Void. If this were to happen, then Void would be able to play a crucial role in the battle.

Elaris took a step forward, and an ice spear appeared. The cold radiating from the ice was so intense that even those standing close to her couldn't help but shiver.

Grey was the only one unmoved, he opened his eyes and looked straight into the eyes of the Skeleton. His eyes glowed with a pale blue light.

The Skeleton's fiery eyes locked onto him, and when this happened, the Skeleton was slightly taken aback.

This was the opportunity Elaris needed. She unleashed her attack, sending it forward with tremendous speed.

The Skeleton regained its senses, but the spear was already in front of its head, on the verge of penetrating it.

"Hmph!"

A cold snort shattered the ice spear that was in front of the Skeleton.

The snort was from the Skeleton, it was the one who used a snort to destroy the ice spear.

Grey knew it wasn't done by a spear, when he spread out his spiritual consciousness, he noticed the change around the essence close to the Skeleton.

'He can manipulate the essence of the world? Or... does this have something to do with his domain?'

These were the two questions in Grey's mind. The former was difficult to accept, but the latter was very believable.

If the Skeleton released its domain silently, it would be able to destroy the ice spear within a second.

Grey didn't stay idle, with the ice spear destroyed, he attacked.

With a flash, a lightning bolt struck the Skeleton, forcing it back a step.

The attack was too fast, no one saw it coming, even the Skeleton.

Brax and Victor each took a step forward and attacked. They were both Earth Elementalists.

A large boulder dropped on the spot the Skeleton was standing. But it was destroyed in a second.

After the boulder was destroyed by the Skeleton, an earth hammer came from the side, slamming into the Skeleton.

The Skeleton stretched out its palms and held the hammer.

The jammer was more than five times its size, but the hammer wasn't able to make it move an inch.

Brax, seeing this attacked too, using another hammer from the side, with the hopes of crushing the Skeleton in the middle.

The expected result didn't come, rather, the Skeleton used one hand to stop Victor's hammer, spreading his other arm apart to stop Brax's hammer.

Another lightning bolt struck the Skeleton while it was in this position.

Not just a lightning bolt, but multiple ice arrows bombarded the place the Skeleton was standing.

**Boom!**

A large explosion rang out, raising a dust cloud on the place the Skeleton was standing.

The group looked on, they were well aware that wouldn't be enough to cause any harm to the Skeleton. And just like they predicted, when the dust cloud subsided, they saw the Skeleton covered with a glowing transparent blue dome. Their hearts sank when they saw this.

"I must applaud your effort, it was quite thrilling. But it ends here."

The light dome shielding the Skeleton started to expand, moving very fast.

'Don't let it touch you.'

Void's voice echoed in Grey's head.

Grey didn't need Void to remind him about this, he could sense how dangerous the light coming was.

He focused and used his fusion orb, sending two at the light.

The light coming paused, and a slight crack was seen on it.

Grey's eyes brightened when he saw this. He retreated and attacked it once again. He could only create two fusion orbs at a time, and while creating them simultaneously, they wouldn't have the strength of his strongest fusion orb, but each was still very destructive.

When the Skeleton saw this, its eyes glowed with a mysterious light. The previous blue fires which were in the place of its eyes turned pitch black.

The aura in the room changed drastically and Grey noticed the elemental particles in the area were being controlled by the Skeleton. If this continued, he wouldn't be able to complete the next set of fusion orb, and will most likely not be able to break through this light coming their way.