

Affinity 1381

Chapter 1381 What Are You Up To?

Grey looked at her strangely, there were multiple Phoenixes present, yet she was asking him where it was.

He soon realized she was asking for his opponent, "Defeated. It wasn't much of a hassle."

"You defeated a Phoenix so soon?" The young lady asked.

"Yes, is there something wrong with doing that? Mind you, I did not in any way steal it, it turned into particles." Grey explained.

He thought she was asking these questions due to Klaus' statement prior to the battle.

Klaus spoke of taking them away, so not seeing one, Grey thought the young lady felt he had taken it away.

She looked at Grey but didn't know what to say. The fact that it only took less than five minutes for Grey to defeat a grade eight opponent was shocking. One has to know that grade eight powerhouses are the top tier powerhouses in the entire Continent. Yet Grey was able to defeat one in less than five minutes, it was a shocking thing to think about.

'A grade nine. He's a grade nine.'

A realization dawned on the young lady and she lost her ability to breathe for a few seconds. She lost composure and took another look at Grey.

To be certain, she asked again, "The opponent you fought was on the same stage as you, right?"

"Well, they're all fighting opponents in the same stage as themselves, so yeah, the Phoenix I fought was on the same stage as myself." Grey didn't understand the reason behind her questions, he raised a brow and asked, "Is something wrong?"

"No, nothing." The young lady shook her head. She couldn't wait to rush back to the Faction and report her findings to the Elders and Faction Leaders.

A grade nine expert appeared, and he was so young as well. This was a chance for them to strike a good relationship with him.

She took a look at Grey's friends, and her eyes widened. All of them displayed abilities stronger than their peers. The Phoenixes they were fighting were all in a difficult position. They could barely keep up with their attacks. At the current pace, she knew they would be able to defeat the Phoenixes in no time.

Klaus and Reynolds in particular seemed to be on the verge of defeating their opponents.

'I'm no match for them.' The young lady felt her usual pride sink.

She has always held herself in high esteem due to her exceptional abilities, but Grey and his friends crushed her confidence with their abilities.

Grey was out of this world, that was all she could say. His friends, they were bordering between the very peak of the world and wanting to become out of the world, just like their friend.

"How did such figures exist?" She muttered in shock.

She was the only one who knew the strength of these Phoenixes. Her chances against one in the same stage was very low, but due to being from the Faction, and also highly valued and favored, she was given a few items in case she couldn't win on her own. Well, the Faction Leader knew she couldn't win, hence the reason he gave the item to her.

Seven Phoenixes appeared and faced each of the seven new people that just arrived.

The young lady looked at Grey who was standing there, waiting for his friends in an idle manner and didn't know what to feel. He was like a shooting star, drawing all the attention to himself.

Grey stopped bothering with her and focused on trying to get to Void. If Void was successful, he wanted to tell him to take a few more for him, if he wasn't, he wanted to reprimand him.

Void didn't reply him no matter what he said.

'Damn it!'

Klaus' laughter soon rang out, attracting Grey's attention.

"You silly bird, daring to go toe to toe with your daddy. Did you think I wouldn't defeat you?" Klaus asked after piercing his thin blade into the body of the Phoenix.

The Phoenix started to freeze, soon turning into an ice sculpture. It shattered and the particles came out, rushing into Klaus' body.

When Klaus sensed it, he smiled and said, "Good stuff. How can we get more?"

Grey saw his expression and knew he had the same thoughts as Void. Luckily, Klaus didn't have the space element, if not, he would've left this place already.

Seeing his eyes move to Reynolds and Alice's Phoenixes, Grey said, "Don't even dare."

"Relax, I'm not that greedy to take away good stuff from my friends." Klaus said nonchalantly, his attention turned to those from the group of seven.

"You're not allowed to interfere, it's their business. Don't cause any trouble for us." Grey was forced to warn Klaus.

Klaus chuckled and looked away. He walked over to Grey and whispered, "Where's Void?"

"He's still fighting." Grey replied.

"Who are you lying to? I saw him appear beside you, and you two were talking." Klaus glared at Grey, he added, "Fill me in on it or I expose you."

"Expose me for what?"

"I don't know, whatever you're doing?"

"How are you going to expose me when you don't even know what I'm doing?"

"Don't try me."

"I'm not in a mood for this. Once the others are done we're leaving. I still have to find the array formation."

"Come on." Klaus was disheartened when he saw that Grey wasn't willing to tell him anything, "Do I at least get some benefits from it?"

"Move away." Grey pushed Klaus away from him.

Reynolds soon defeated his opponent, and after a few more minutes, Alice was done with her opponent as well.

"That was testing. I wish they were a little stronger, I feel I would've been able to break through if I had fought a little longer with them, but under pressure." Alice said with a look of regret.

She absorbed the particles, but it wasn't enough to satisfy her hunger to grow stronger quicker.

"Let's go. There's nothing for us here."

Chapter 1382 Locating The Secret Cave

Outside the volcano.

The middle-aged man could barely believe his eyes. They already knew this was the case, but seeing it was quite unbelievable. Four grade nine geniuses, all four are friends.

Just how powerful is their background that they were able to create such elite figures. These were geniuses whose names would go on to shake the continent in the next ten years or so, as long as they didn't die prematurely, they were all bound to become famous.

"They've all completed the trial in such a short time." One Elder commented.

The others nodded. Grey and his friends managed to achieve something they didn't think they would see in their lifetime. As much as the Elders were flabbergasted, they were also extremely envious of the force that had the trio. From their fighting techniques, it was clear that they were all from different forces. They only managed to become friends through one way or the other.

How the four became friends is none of their business, but the fact that they were all grade nine geniuses was beyond imagination.

"How can we form ties with them?" An Elder asked.

"We first need to know where they're from. If we can pay them a visit some time in the future, they will certainly remember us. Also, they should be indebted to us since we let them use our trial to grow. Even if they wouldn't grow much, they still can't deny the fact that they got some things from this place." An Elder made mention of the benefits the group had already benefited.

They didn't have to pay anything to get these, so it could be said to be a way of building ties with them.

"You're right. We've given them the privilege of using our volcano. Even seeing the Phoenixes and absorbing them is an honor for anyone, no matter how talented they are." Another Elder said.

"We'll see how they act after they come out." The middle-aged man said.

He agreed with what the Elder said, but he wanted to ensure that they didn't rush this. They had to be very delicate with this issue. The discussions of the Elders and the middle-aged man had been kept away from the ears of the few people who didn't enter the volcano.

The last part wasn't visible to others, only the Elders and the middle-aged man. Only they were able to see Grey and his friends battle with the Phoenixes.

Seeing the group walking further, one of the Elders raised an alarm.

"Where are they going?"

"Huh?"

The middle-aged man and the others were taken aback and looked at the group of four. Contrary to what they expected, they weren't heading towards the bright light that would take them out of the volcano, rather, they were headed in another direction.

The expression of the middle-aged man and the Elders changed drastically.

"How did he find it?" The middle-aged man was shaken.

Grey wasn't headed out of the volcano, rather, he was heading towards what seemed to be a waterfall, but instead of water, lava was what was falling off the place.

Only those who knew this place knew of the secret passage there. But Grey was heading there as if he knew about it before entering. They knew certain Grey didn't have any idea of this place before coming here, they saw the curiosity in his eyes. Nevertheless, his current performance was starting to make them doubt if he truly had zero knowledge about this place.

Knowing there was a passage there was one thing, being confident enough to know that the lava wouldn't hinder him was another thing.

They all froze as they watched Grey's group stand in front of the lava. From how Grey was walking around, and his thoughtful expression, they knew he didn't know how to pass the place.

They heaved a sigh of relief when they saw this, but their relief didn't last for long. The reason for this was because Grey used an inscription to attack the lava. Seeing his attack disappear into it, he created multiple inscriptions and attacked simultaneously with them. An opening showed up and the group bolted through it before it closed up.

This told the Elders and middle-aged man that he didn't know it was safe to pass through. But this didn't change the fact that he had passed through.

"Is he truly going to be able to study the array?" One of them was short of words.

The middle-aged man didn't know what to say.

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Inside the volcano.

Grey was able to sense this place thanks to Void. Although Void didn't speak to him, he was still able to sense his general location. Following him, he found out he was somewhere behind the lava.

After getting through, what he had been waiting for came into view. An intricate array appeared before his eyes.

The array was on the same level as the ones he saw in the secret realm.

'Damn! I thought it wouldn't be this difficult.' He complained internally.

He quickly got to work after seeing the array. An entire cave was filled with array lines, and he knew this wasn't the complete array, but the core. If he could understand this, he didn't need to worry about the other part of the formation, he could use this to create it himself.

Klaus looked around, sensing the array, he looked away. He didn't want to burn his brain cells. This wasn't for him, and he wasn't going to pretend it was.

"Don't you know where we can get more of that good stuff?" He asked.

"I'm studying, don't bother me. You can explore the cave. If you find anything good, it's your luck." Grey chased them away.

When they saw his current state, they knew nothing would be able to get Grey from this place. Other than the Faction Leader or Elders of the Phoenix Faction, anyone

weaker than him wouldn't be able to get him to move.

Chapter 1383 Looking For A Rematch

Klaus and the others left Grey to go ahead with his study as they started to explore the cave. The cave was quite large, and they could see a few passages. They knew if they headed in that direction, they would be able to see a few things.

"Should we go that way?" Klaus asked.

"It's best we stay put." Alice said, "We just absorbed some good stuff, we can use it to strengthen ourselves."

"Besides, he's the only one who can ensure our safety. If we move recklessly and he isn't there, we might get in a whole lot of trouble." She added.

Reynolds nodded to her words.

Klaus sighed, "You guys... forget it. Let's wait for him."

"If only Void were here." He muttered after seating begrudgingly.

He wasn't into staying idle, but Alice was right. Grey was the only one who could teleport them out of this place in case of any danger, and he was presently studying the array he was also interested in. So instead of causing him any trouble, it was best he stayed put and watched him. There were a few things he could still do before Grey was done.

On the other side of the lava waterfall.

The young lady and her group finished the trial after over thirty minutes. She was the only one able to defeat her opponent, the others were beaten. Even though they lost, they still gained some benefits from the Phoenixes.

She didn't recall seeing Grey and his friends leaving this place.

"Where could they have gone to?" She asked.

No one from her group could answer. They were all engrossed in their battles and couldn't keep an eye on Grey and his friends as they left.

"We should head out, there's nothing here. I think they've gone out." Someone said.

The young lady looked towards the volcano with a skeptical look, but didn't think too much about it. She felt maybe she was overthinking it. There was a good chance the group of four had walked out of this place already.

"Let's go out." She said and took the lead.

While they were leaving, no one else had managed to get to this stage.

Walking through the portal, they appeared outside the volcano.

Seeing the people staring at them, they all felt a sense of pride. They all got to the last stage, and that was an amazing achievement.

The young lady however was searching for someone, someone he couldn't find in the crowd.

Most of the people who entered the volcano had come out after not being able to advance to the next rounds. At least ninety percent of the people that entered the volcano were out, only a few were still trying to get past the stages.

Some of them would eventually give up, while a few would be able to get to the next stage with sheer tenacity. Those who can break through their limits will experience a short growth spurt that will see them advance at a faster pace for a short period.

Seeing that neither Grey, nor any of his friends were present, she walked over to the middle-aged man and the other Elders who were seated in a secluded place.

She bowed to them, and seeing all their attention on the screen where she just stepped out, she knew the only other thing of interest there was the lava.

"Uncle, did he go through that lava?" She asked.

"You guessed right, he managed to pass through." The middle-aged man replied.

"But... how can he pass through? That place is very dangerous." The young lady found it hard to believe.

"Your Teacher will explain more about it. For now, you can join the others. We will reward the few who weren't able to get to the last stage." The middle-aged man said.

The last stage was the main reward, for Fire Elementalists, it was a holy trove for them as it will make them grow quickly. But anyone who didn't get to the last stage will be rewarded according to their performances.

Although it looked like the Phoenix Faction were losing, in truth, they were gaining a lot. Being able to create ties with so many young geniuses was a very important part of their Faction.

These young geniuses will grow to feel indebted to them and will in most cases come to their aid if needed.

This was a ploy to get more people to not only join the Faction, but also avoid having any issues with them.

Imagine offending a powerful Faction that has ties across the world. Just the thought of that was frightening. Only someone with a death warrant would want to have a feud with such a Faction.

The Phoenix Faction was so smart with this move that they ensured it was only done once every fifty years. This will give the geniuses time to grow, and some would even send their offsprings to this place.

The middle-aged man addressed the young group and started handing out rewards. He looked around and saw a figure missing. It was Flint, the young genius of the Old man. He was on the verge of getting to that last trial.

The middle-aged man felt it was good for Flint if he managed to get to the last trial. He would be able to increase his strength. His only concern is that, if Grey were to step out and Flint tries to attack him again, he would be in serious trouble.

Flint is known for his unyielding attitude, after almost always being on top, and then getting bested by Grey with a single attack he would want a rematch.

Grey was stronger, but Flint would not believe this. The middle-aged man was very certain of this.

'I wonder how he would react if he was beaten again.'

The middle-aged man thought of something and shook his head. The Old man who was Flint's Teacher had a bad temper and might come for Grey if he heard that he beat up his precious student.

Chapter 1384 Ploy To Create Ties

'Speaking of the devil.'

The middle-aged man looked in the direction of the large door leading to the Hall, and an Old man could be seen walking into the place. There was nothing special about the man from a glance, however, anyone powerful enough could sense the hidden strength in the seemingly harmless body of the Old man.

The Old man didn't draw any attention as he appeared, he silently walked into the Hall, disappearing into the crowd. The next time he came to view, he was seated with the Elders of the Phoenix Faction.

"Flint is still inside?" The Old man inquired about his student.

One of the Elders pointed at one screen, and Flint could be seen trying to cross the lava.

"I knew he would make it this far." The Old man didn't seem surprised that his student made it that far.

In truth, other than the group of seven, only Grey's group managed to make it to the last level. The group of seven had the advantage of being from the Faction, and the young lady was given a few things that helped them through their journey. The fact that Flint could make it this far on his own showed that he was a top genius. In the entire Phoenix Faction, only the young lady who was the leader of the group of seven could achieve such a feat without any help.

leader of the group of seven could achieve such a feat without any help.

"Did anyone else make it to that level?" The Old man asked.

When the Elders wanted to speak, the Old man added, "With the exception of your Faction's people."

The Old man knew the Elders of the Phoenix Faction wanted to use the chance to brag about their members already passing that stage, so he didn't give them the chance. As long as his student is the only one who gets to this level, he has all the bragging rights.

"Well... a group of four made it to this level. They completed it in a short time too." One of the Elders said, one could almost hear the gloating in his voice.

The Old man was taken aback when he heard this.

He knew that for anyone to get through this stage, said person needs to be at least a grade eight genius. Then being able to complete it in a short time meant that person must be a grade nine genius.

"Stop joking around, I know you don't want me to brag about my student's superior ability. But don't you think saying four kids passed it in such a short time is a bit too much?" The Old man found the Elder's words hard to believe.

If the Elder had said one person, he would've not argued since the possibility, although slim, is not impossible. But four friends? Impossible!

He would never believe such lies. To the Old man, this Elder was spewing lies.

The middle-aged man came in at this time. He overheard the entire conversation and said, "They're not lying. There truly is a group of four who passed this stage in less than ten minutes."

"They must have helped each other." The Old man said.

"I wish that was the case." The middle-aged man shook his head.

He, too, found it hard to believe, but he saw it with his own eyes, there was no way he could doubt that. What was worse was that Grey was currently seated in the cave, the core area of the formation.

He recalled Grey didn't want to enter the trial from the start, but after seeing and hearing about the array, his interest was piqued and he entered. The reason the middle-aged man could not chase him out was due to the fact that he told Grey he would be able to see the array if he entered. When he said this, he didn't believe Grey would be able to get to the last level, much less able to locate the array.

He started to worry when he saw how easy it was for Grey to get through each stage. He was thrilled at the thought of a grade nine genius appearing, and then once again, he was scared by the possibility of the Firelord's formation being figured out by a kid.

The Old man was short of words. He knew the middle-aged man well, and knew he wouldn't joke about such an event.

"Where are the kids, I'd like to see them." The Old man asked, looking around, trying to see if he would be able to fish them out on his own. Such outstanding individuals wouldn't be hard to pick out.

"They're still inside." The middle-aged man said.

"What are they doing inside? Haven't they completed the last level already?" The Old man was confused.

The middle-aged man explained, "One of them wanted to see the array. I didn't think they would be able to get to that level. So I told him he could see it if he entered the trial."

"In my defense, I didn't know they were grade nine geniuses at that time. After all, it's not written on their faces." The middle-aged man dropped his head.

The Old man processed what he just heard and burst out laughing. He couldn't believe the Phoenix Faction's most revered array was being studied by a total stranger.

"You really messed up. I wonder what that fellow will say when he finds out about this." The Old man laughed as he spoke.

"My brother will let it slide. It's not like this is an array that can be understood in a few days. Creating a tie with such geniuses at the expense of the formation isn't too bad." The middle-aged man said, even though his expression said otherwise.

"Why's your face black if you know he won't say anything?" The Old man asked with a laugh.

"What are you even doing here?" The middle-aged man felt annoyed that the Old man was poking fun at him.

"The Phoenix Faction is my benefactor. You guys tied me down to your Faction, just as you're planning to do to those kids. But unlike me, I believe they're already allied with powerful forces." The Old man shrugged.

He wasn't a member of the Phoenix Faction, but he had a very close relationship with them.

"Oh right, one of them beat up your precious student." The middle-aged man said with a smile.

The Old man raised a brow, "What?!"

"With a single punch. He sent Flint flying." An Elder said, emphasizing on the single punch.

The Old man's expression darkened, "I will like to see which force they are from for they to dare bully my student."

The Old man's reaction was as the others expected. He was erratic and a few times, he acted on impulse. Although he is old, he reacts to things however he likes.

Take nothing away from him, the reason he acts this way is not due to having the backing of the Phoenix Faction, but he was a powerful expert in his own right. A grade seven expert in his stage. Such a powerhouse isn't someone anyone wants to mess with.

Just like the Old man, Flint was also a grade seven powerhouse, this gave the Old man inexplicable joy. Now, he was hearing his precious student was bullied? He will never accept it.

While they were speaking, Flint had gone past the lava and was about to face off against the Phoenix.

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Inside the volcano.

"A Phoenix. Teacher did say I would see one if I came here." Flint said.

"According to what I know, it's a grade eight expert on the same stage as me."

"Can I defeat a grade eight opponent?"

Flint was excited. He had never gotten the chance to fight against anyone who was in grade eight before. The only person he had fought with who was strong was the young lady leading the group of seven, and she was a grade seven genius, just like himself. Their spars occasionally end in draws. The few times he had lost against her was due to him either not taking it seriously or he was distracted.

"I want to see if I can fight it."

Flint charged at the Phoenix, attacking it.

On the other side of the lava waterfall.

Grey, who had his eyes closed for over one hour, finally opened them.

His expression was serious, "This will take a while."

"Does that mean we're going to stay here longer?" Klaus asked, he was frustrated.

"Nope. I've gotten the entire drawing in my head. I'll slowly decipher it on my own time." Grey shook his head.

"Good, let's go." Klaus said.

"I don't think they will allow us to pry into their secrets. The fact that we've been allowed to stay here and not leave is already showing benevolence, let's not take advantage of their kindness." Grey didn't agree to them exploring the place.

Besides, Void was back and according to Void, going past those tunnels was dangerous. Void wasn't able to get anything, he was noticed the moment he showed up and had to leave immediately.

Chapter 1385 Sharp Senses

"So we're leaving just like that?" Klaus asked, stunned at Grey's words.

"Pretty much." Grey nodded, seeing Klaus' reaction, he added, "Do you think you can take something from a place even Void couldn't?"

"Valid reason, let's go." Klaus didn't argue any further after hearing this.

Who was he kidding? Getting something from a place Void wasn't able to? It was impossible even in his dream, much less in real life. It was best they left now.

Grey shook his head when he saw this. Klaus might be troublesome, but he always tries to ensure he doesn't purposely cause trouble with people that were too strong for him or those around him to handle.

Thinking about it, Klaus had a knack for being troublesome, yet, he has never in any way offended anyone above their league.

'Is he doing it on purpose?' Grey took a glance at Klaus who was leading the group out of the volcano.

He followed Grey's method and attacked continuously, and after creating a hole, they jumped out of the cave.

The second they came out of the cave, they saw Flint getting beat up by the Phoenix.

"A show, we should watch." Klaus brought out a chair and took a seat. It was no regular chair, but a throne.

This throne has been in his possession since his they left the Azure Continent. He shared it with Reynolds a few times, but now, it was his.

"You still have this?" Grey was short of words.

"Of course! It's quite exquisite. I haven't seen any throne on the same level as this since I came here." Klaus responded, he pouted and said, "I'm pretty disappointed at them. They couldn't even create a throne with the remains of a Dragon or something. Given the powerhouses present, I'm ashamed of them."

Grey looked at Flint's figure and recalled their previous encounter.

"He's the guy who tried to attack me." He said softly.

"He's not bad then, being able to get to this stage shows that he's quite powerful." Alice said.

"Yes, but he's too proud. He will lose to the Phoenix. Tenacity can not make up for his weakness in such battles, it will only get him killed." Grey said.

"Stop talking like an old man, you're no older than he is." Klaus said after hearing Grey's words.

Grey shrugged, he didn't mind Klaus calling him an old man. But the fact remained that Flint is not as strong as the Phoenix. It's understandable if it's a life and death battle, but in a position like this, it is not only a waste of time, but there is also the risk of getting seriously injured.

Flint noticed the eyes on him, but he didn't have the chance to look in that direction. He was fully oppressed by the Phoenix, any lapse in concentration and he might get seriously injured. This is something he was all too aware of, so he kept his focus. Besides, anyone who appears here wouldn't want to attack him. His safety was guaranteed here, as long as he didn't attack anyone like the last time he attacked Grey.

He continued fighting with the Phoenix, trying to make sure he wasn't defeated.

A few minutes later, he could only give up. The Phoenix was too powerful, and he wasn't strong enough. For some reason, the array is aware from the moment anyone gives up on the battle as the Phoenix stopped fighting the second he gave up. It went back to sleep and disappeared.

Some essence from the place the Phoenix disappeared floated into the body of Flint.

Flint knew this was the ultimate reward here, so he carefully absorbed it.

After absorbing it, he turned around. Seeing Klaus seated on a throne, and then Grey seated on an ice throne.

Klaus didn't want them to look out of place, so he created ice thrones for the other three. Although his golden throne was more attractive, it didn't take away the beauty of the ice thrones which looked like they were made from crystals.

Klaus started applauding when Flint turned to look at them.

Grey's eyes twitched when he heard Klaus clapping.

"Fuck!" Flint exclaimed uncontrollably.

It was like he was a showman performing for Grey and his friends. What annoyed him isn't the fact that Klaus was seated on a throne, or the fact that he was clapping, well, it did annoy him, but not as much as seeing Grey's nonchalant face as he sat on the ice throne, staring at him.

"You angered him." Reynolds commented.

"We better get going." Grey stood up and walked in the direction of the portal leading outside the volcano.

"Where do you think you're going?" Flint asked, he was incensed.

"Out." Grey didn't stop as he replied.

Flint wanted to make a move but then he felt the temperature drop, his gaze turned to Klaus he had a grin on his face.

"I wouldn't do that if I were you."

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Outside the volcano.

The Old man was furious. He watched the whole ordeal, from Grey and his friends appearing, to them sitting on a throne. The throne Klaus seated on was better than all the chairs he had ever taken a seat on, he was hundreds of years old, yet he had never seated on such a luxurious seat.

"I'll kill that brat!" The Old man said.

From Klaus' actions, he felt he was the leader of the group. Klaus was the one who had the demeanor of a top talent. He felt he was the one who attacked his student. Seeing his student show anger towards Grey, he assessed the situation. However, he still felt like killing Klaus.

Klaus made a jest of his precious student, this could not be allowed.

"Old man, don't make any rash moves when they come out. This is the Phoenix Faction, until we know the full extent of their backgrounds, you can not make any silly moves."

For the first time, the usual nonchalance on the expression and demeanor of the middle-aged man changed, a touch of seriousness came in. They might be a top Faction in the Southern Continent, but they aren't willing to offend multiple top Factions all because this Old man's ego was stepped on.

"Never tell me what to do." The atmosphere became tense with the Old man's response. It was clear that he was not in a good mood.

The middle-aged man felt a headache, he couldn't help but wonder why Klaus would even have any interest in taking out a throne to watch someone else fight. He was already done there, what's the point in staying there to watch. What was worse was that he not only watched, but he applauded after the show was over. Any genius would feel insulted if someone their age treated them in such a manner. Much less a grade seven genius of Flint's caliber.

Flint will not take this lying. His Teacher was not taking it lying, much less Flint himself.

The middle-aged man knew he was going to have to settle this as soon as they came out, if not, it might escalate beyond this. With the Old man's personality, he will never let this slide.

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Inside the Volcano.

Flint looked at Klaus, he was also at the Peak of the Venerable Plane, so he was by no means intimidated by Klaus' show of power.

"An ice user dares to show off in front of me?" His body blazed with flames.

Flint was a Fire Elementalist, and he felt he was superior to anyone using the water element. In a volcano, he had all the advantages.

Klaus laughed when he saw this, "Did he hurt your little ego when he beat you up?"

"He attacked without warning, he's no match for me in a true fight." Flint snorted.

To be fair, he didn't expect Grey to attack with such force, so he didn't really put up a strong defense. He was stunned when the strike hit him.

"In a 'true fight' as you call it, you'd be dead." Klaus laughed and walked toward the portal as well.

There was no point in speaking with people like Flint, he will never admit to being inferior.

Reynolds and Alice followed behind him as they left the place.

Flint walked right behind them, he was going to show Grey who was better.

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Outside the volcano.

A light appeared and Grey was the first to step out. Klaus and the other two followed behind him before Flint stepped out.

The second they all appeared, Grey sensed hostility and looked straight at the eyes of the Old man.

The middle-aged man was shocked at Grey's senses. The Old man was hostile, but only top experts could sense it. The fact that Grey was able to sense it the second he stepped out of the volcano was amazing.

Grey squinted his eyes, and just as he was about to speak, Flint spoke up.

"I'm challenging you to a duel."

Chapter 1386 Afraid To Lose?

Grey turned his attention away from the Old man and looked at Flint, his gaze lingering on his body before shaking his head, "You're not my match. Don't embarrass yourself."

Grey's reply was even more insulting than if he accepted and beat Flint up. Flint would have no problem with that, but Grey outrightly saying he was not his match was the most humiliating he had ever gone through.

"You..."

"To be sincere, you're no match for me as well. Why don't you fight with Rey? He's the weakest. If not for the fact that Alice's cultivation stage is two stages lower than yours, she would've beaten you up too." Klaus stepped in front of Grey and pointed at Reynolds.

Of all of them, Alice was the only one who couldn't use strength belonging to a Peak Venerable. Well, their term of Peak Venerable was someone that had the same strength as them. Anyone below grade five couldn't defeat Alice even though she wasn't at the Peak of the Venerable Plane.

Grey saying it was already humiliating, Klaus not just saying it, but also adding to it made it more embarrassing for Flint. The veins on his head bulged out as he was on the verge of losing his temper.

"Because he attacked me when I wasn't prepared, he thinks he's better than me?" Flint was furious, "I want to challenge him, if he has the guts he should accept it. After I'm done with him, I'll beat you up as well."

"You do have a point, why don't we do this. You start with Reynolds, if you're successful in your attempt, I'll give you all the time you need to rest before you fight with me, alright?" Klaus asked with a smile.

Klaus' expression showed that he didn't take Flint's words seriously.

Grey chuckled when he saw Klaus' antics. He knew Klaus was only doing all this as a means to relieve his boredom.

"I'm stronger than you, why does he have to fight me first when you're clearly the weakest?" Reynolds asked, annoyed at the fact that Klaus was demeaning him in front of others.

"What do you mean? You've always been the weakest, now shut up and beat him up. Don't embarrass us." Klaus waved Reynolds off.

Lightning danced on Reynolds' body as he replied, "I'm more interested in beating you up."

Klaus' expression changed and he moved closer to Grey, "Stop acting like you're not raring to go. Well, here's a free meal."

Klaus' attitude startled those watching.

Due to Flint challenging Grey the moment he appeared, everyone present watched them, without even bothering about anything else. The fact that Grey replied in such a manner, and that Klaus said Flint was not also his match was exciting. All these geniuses knew of Flint's fame, so seeing these guys speaking to him in such a manner, they were excited at the battle that was about to ensue.

The middle-aged man stepped in to act as the peacemaker.

"There will be no fighting in our Hall..." He looked at the duo, the eyes of everyone dulled, but they brightened with his next statement, "We have an arena for disputes like this."

The Old man at the side didn't have a good impression on, the reason for this was because he knew, if what the middle-aged man and the other Elders said was true, then his student truly was no match for the group of four. However, telling his student this will damage his confidence and pride.

'Who says a grade seven can't beat a grade nine?'

This was the question in his head as he scoffed. He believed in his student, as long as he was intentional, he had a great chance of winning.

Battling a al Beast that doesn't have a consciousness is different from battling an Elementalist. One couldn't come up with plans when fighting against a stronger opponent, the other could.

Everyone in the Hall moved to the arena area. The youths were excited at the battle that was going to take place, while the Elders all looked on with interest.

Grey didn't head to the platform, he didn't see any reason in doing that.

Flint stood on the platform and pointed at Grey, "I'm challenging you to a duel. Not anyone else, just you."

"You attacked me while we were in the volcano, I want to have my revenge."

Grey looked at Flint, a little amused as he replied, "I only retaliated to your attack. If you want to blame me for your incompetence, then you have no hope."

Flint felt even more irritated by Grey's words. He was about to speak when a deep voice was heard across the arena.

"Boy, you're challenged by someone, as an Elementalist, you should honor this challenge."

Grey looked straight at the Old man. This caught not only the Old man off guard, but all the Elders as well. Grey was able to pinpoint where the voice came from accurately.

"I forfeit. Can I leave now?" Grey spoke up coolly.

The Old man was stumped when he heard this, he couldn't believe his ears. Grey just said he forfeit the battle.

'What sort of genius is this? Being able to fight a grade eight Phoenix but is afraid of entangling with him?'

The Old man wasn't the only one with this thought in his head, the middle-aged man, the Elders, and even the young lady from the group of seven was shocked at the fact that Grey refused.

The young lady saw the exchange between the two while they were in the volcano and knew Flint would definitely try to seek revenge. He never expected Grey was so nonchalant towards things like these.

Flint and even worse reaction to this. The more Grey refused to fight with him, the more he wanted the fight so bad.

"Are you afraid you'll lose?" He asked through gritted teeth.

"No, I just don't want to hurt your soft ego." Grey's answer was one that infuriated Flint when more.

Chapter 1387 Deadly Speed

Flint flew into rage due to Grey's words. Grey could care less about his feelings, he would not agree to satisfy the ego of this person before him.

"Klaus, if you're looking to play, he's right there. I'm not interested in all this." Grey whispered to Klaus.

Those close to them didn't hear this, neither did Flint, but the Old man and the Elders heard his words clearly.

The Old man grabbed the armrest on the chair he was sitting on and it cracked under the pressure.

The middle-aged man saw this and was left speechless by Grey's attitude. Grey was proud, and it was clear that he didn't have any intention of fighting with Flint.

Seeing the middle-aged man on the verge of losing his temper, he stood up and vanished, appearing on the platform a few seconds later.

"Defeat him, and I'll let you in on a secret about the formation." His words felt like the soothing spring to Grey's ears, it warmed his heart, and he felt a cool breeze blow through his hair.

Grey's figure appeared on the platform silently.

"I'm here, give it your best shot." Grey said to Flint.

Flint was even more angered by the fact that Grey was promised something before he stepped up. He was not angered by the fact that he was promised something before he appeared, he was angered at the confidence Grey portrayed. The fact that he didn't even think twice before appearing on the platform meant that he was certain of his victory.

'I will make sure you regret your decision.' He concluded inside.

He positioned himself, ready for the battle.

"Don't spend too much time, remember we have more places to visit."

Klaus' voice came from the stand.

Flint was furious when he heard this, but then he calmed down. He knew not to get emotional before any battle, and even during the times he gets emotional, he wants to ensure he channeled into his battle, using it to fuel his attack power.

Grey looked at Flint's calm demeanor and was impressed. Given the words he had said so far, as well as Klaus' words, he expected him to be on the verge of losing control. To be honest, the reason he didn't want to fight was because he didn't see any point in doing that.

He had already tested Flint's strength and knew he was not on his level. He might be strong, but not strong enough to fight him on his own.

He thought Flint knew this as well, but from the looks of it, it seems he misunderstood what happened during their first exchange.

'Did he misunderstand or does he not just want to accept it?' Grey thought.

This was a valid thought process. Anyone with a good brain should already see the difference between them after their first exchange, but Flint seems to have fried his brain and believed he could fight with him even after being overpowered with a casual attack.

The duo prepared to fight. The middle-aged man called the fight. He told them the normal rules of not killing their opponents and then left them alone on the platform.

Flint didn't speak and attacked as soon as the man said they could fight.

Grey didn't waste any time either, after all, Klaus told him to hurry up.

Grey took a step and vanished, he appeared behind Flint and attacked.

Flint was already aware of his ability with the space element, so he was prepared for something like this. His first attack was actually a bait, his intention was for Grey to attack from behind him.

As soon as Grey appeared, the entire area around Flint turned into an inferno. The flames covered both of them and he turned around to attack with a swipe of his leg.

Grey didn't shake, even with the appearance of the flames, he grabbed Flint's leg, his expression the same.

After grabbing hold of Flint's leg, he pushed him back with a simple movement.

The inferno moved with Flint.

Grey's unused appearance was seen by everyone, and a few of the youths gasped. They couldn't believe Flint's powerful domain was dealt with so easily by Grey.

Grey didn't even show any signs of discomfort while he was inside the domain, he only grabbed Flint's leg and pushed him away.

Flint didn't seem too surprised, he knew Grey was going to be an easy opponent, but he was confident in his abilities.

He rushed forward once again, and unleashed an attack.

This time, Grey didn't dodge, two palms made of the earth element appeared and did a clap, stopping Flint's attack that was coming towards him.

Grey finally decided to make a move after blocking this, his figure started to fade.

Those with keen eyes saw another figure of Grey standing close to Flint. A pale blue flaming lotus exploded in that direction. The explosion took place before Grey's figure faded off completely.

"An afterimage!"

A few shocked shouts came from the crowd.

Flint's figure shot out of the explosion, closely followed by a figure covered in red lightning.

Grey decided to make use of his red lightning since it made him faster compared to the normal silver lightning.

He soon caught up with Flint who was mid-air and attacked.

Flint was sent crashing into the ground. Even though he blocked the attack, the impact was beyond his comprehension.

His back hit the ground, and after the first bounce, before he could regain clarity, he saw Grey, who was covered with red lightning standing close to him.

An earth pillar sent him up, and Grey appeared above him.

Grey stomped on his stomach. The force of the stomp sent him through the pillar that was over ten meters high in the sky.

Flint's figure slammed into the platform with a loud bang.

Everyone present was shocked at what just happened. Grey moved with deadly speed that only those above the Venerable Plane was able to keep up with his speed.

Chapter 1388 Sometimes It's Best To Let Go

The entire arena was deathly silent, no one spoke a word. Klaus and Reynolds' chattering was the only sound that was heard.

Grey was standing on one side of the arena, not bothered with the dust cloud that his attack on Flint just caused. He looked in the direction of the Old man, he could see not only shock in his eyes, but there was an unbridled rage in them. It was almost as if he wanted to get down to the arena and beat Grey up himself.

'Why's he so edgy? I wonder what his relationship with this guy is. He seems to hate me. Could he be a necromancer?'

A lot of questions ran through Grey's head as he saw the man's face. The man could barely hide his rage. The only reason Grey wasn't afraid was not because of the fact that the powerhouses from the Phoenix Faction were present, it was due to the fact that even though he was sensing some sort of hostility from the Old man, there was not even a single atom of killing intent.

His senses was very sharp and he was certain that there was no way the Old man could hide his killing intent from him. As long as the intent was directed at him, he was sure he would sense it.

'Such a strange Old man.'

If the Old man was hearing Grey's thoughts, he would've told him he wanted to beat him up a long time ago, and would've beaten him up too!

"Oh." Grey looked in the direction of the dust cloud that was in the arena. It had not died down, but a chain made of flames shot at Grey with breakneck speed, wrapping around his leg.

The chain was tugged from the other side, but Grey didn't move an inch. He stood on the same spot while the fire chain passed through his leg.

The chain phased through his leg which took most of the people present by surprise.

Grey had shown his unbelievable speed, now he was showcasing an astonishing technique.

'How can he be defeated?!'

Most of the youths present were at a loss for words. Grey's speed already made him a fearsome opponent to have, now he also had this ability too. Having just one of either could elevate an Elementalist's fighting ability to a terrifying level, yet Grey had two. It was a bit unfair just thinking about it.

Grey naturally didn't know what was going through the heads of the people present, all he wanted to do was to get this over with.

The Old man heaved a sigh of relief when he saw a reaction from Flint. He didn't want Flint to be defeated so easily. As long as Flint is able to put up a fight against a grade nine genius, then he was also not too far behind. He might even be able to get to the stage of a grade eight genius.

At that time, he would become a fearsome powerhouse in a few years.

Elemental Venerables are already distinguished powerhouses since they were already very close to the top. Most Venerables could assume posts of Elders in some Factions. A Peak Venerable could even create a Faction of his own. So in respect to their societal level, they were already powerhouses in the eyes of a lot of people. There have been countless geniuses that weren't able to get past the Sage Plane. Some of them even ended in the Elemental Venerable Plane due to not being able to awaken their domains.

His student has already awakened his domain, was a Peak Venerable, and could also break through to the Sovereign Plane in a short time. In short, he has a top talent in his hands, but watching said talent being overwhelmed by a random stranger wasn't pleasing.

The dust cloud died down and Flint's figure came to view, he was standing shakily, but it was clear that he was still able to fight.

His clothes had been destroyed to some extent, but it was still okay since only his upper body was open.

He looked at Grey's eyes, "Again, you use such cunning methods. Fight me face to face."

"Being smart is a bonus skill to have. If I'm not as strong as you say, yet I'm always able to defeat you due to my cunningness, that's also an attribute of my abilities." Grey didn't deny Flint's words, he didn't see any reason to.

Flint didn't want to accept the fact that he wasn't as strong as Grey, and Grey could care less if he agreed or not.

"Fine, so we go blow for blow." Flint's eyes were red, he was blazing with rage. He wanted to take Grey down, especially with his Teacher watching. He didn't want to let his Teacher down.

Grey saw the rage and determination in Flint's eyes and couldn't help but shake his head, muttering, "Sometimes it's best to let go."

Flint sent out an attack, and this time, Grey didn't dodge it, rather, he blew it away with an even stronger attack.

After doing that, he moved closer to Flint and attacked, forcing him to block the attack.

Flint blocked the attack, but he was pushed back due to the sheer pressure from the impact.

Flint couldn't believe his eyes, he was trying his best, but it was as clear as day that he was not on the same level as Grey. Even though he didn't want to believe it, he found it hard to believe that there was someone that is so superior to him.

He tried attacking once again, but Grey blocked the attack with an earth wall. The wall had cracks, but it didn't fall apart from his attack.

Grey took a step and the platform shook. It was like a giant was stepping on the platform. He took another step closer to Flint and the gravity changed.

Flint found it impossible to keep himself standing as a powerful pressure was forcing him to the ground.

Chapter 1389 A Dilemma

The middle-aged man looked at the platform and muttered, "An earth domain."

The Old man nodded as well. Grey's earth domain had the ability to change the gravity of the region around him. This was a very powerful domain to possess. Most of the domains of Earth Elementalists tend to include visual appearances of different rock shards, but Grey was different, it made use of gravity.

The earth element is generally known for its defensive ability and also heaviness. There are a few people who could increase their weight, making a regular punch deadlier than an elemental attack.

"I don't think this is his only domain." The middle-aged man said.

They've seen Grey use multiple elements, mainly the fire and space element. Although they've seen him use both the lightning and earth element, they expected him to have a domain with his dominant element, which was either his fire or space element. The fact that he was showing the domain of his earth element when he rarely uses it meant that he had a domain in either his space or fire element.

If they knew he didn't have two, but four domains, they would drag their hairs out.

Grey had already awakened four domains, and with the exception of the water domain which was awakened thanks to the Dragon blood essence, his fire, lightning, and even earth domains all seem to have special features.

His fire domain could toggle between hot and cold. His lightning could go from silver to red, depending on the one he chooses to use, and his earth domain, thanks to the technique he learned from the Old Turtle, as well as the blood essence he got from the King Tortoise a while back, it had a few changes.

On the platform, Flint was doing his best not to drop to the ground. His eyes showed determination as he roared out, letting out flames from his body.

His entire body was ablaze as he resisted the gravity. He attacked Grey even while in this state.

Any attack that got close to Grey was blocked by an earth wall. The wall wasn't like the usual earth as the color had changed.

"His earth can turn to crystal?" The Old man felt his mouth twitch. Even someone as old as himself felt inferior to Grey.

Grey had red lightning, blue flames, and now his earth has gotten to the stage when it comes out as crystal. What else could he do?

The middle-aged man chuckled with a shake of his head. At this moment, he didn't even know if he was impressed or jealous. Grey's performances so far have been nothing short of mouthwatering.

'How can one person be so talented?'

This was the question revolving around the heads of almost all the Elders present there. All the youths didn't even know what to think, their heads were practically empty. Grey had made them go dumb.

Flint didn't have any reaction when he saw this, his roar increased and he used a powerful technique, one even stronger than anything he had ever used.

The attack struck the crystal wall and the wall cracked. Another attack hit it almost immediately and it fell apart.

Grey was forced back a few steps, and Flint used the opportunity to retreat from the range of Grey's gravity domain.

He was breathing heavily, trying to catch his breath. Resisting the gravity domain took immense strength and effort. If not for his willpower, he would've crumbled under the pressure.

He looked at Grey once again, this time with a complicated gaze.

"It's okay to give up." A voice sounded in his ear.

He raised his head to take a look at his Teacher who nodded at him. He was all too familiar with that voice, it was the voice who trained him from when he was little till date.

He had always trained hard, never given up on anything thanks to the teachings of his Teacher. He followed his Teacher's words and became the genius he is today, and for the first time in his life, his Teacher told him 'it was okay to give up'.

During his early days, if he was told a day like this would come, he would never believe it.

He steeled his mind and turned to Grey, the look on his face only grew stronger. His determination grew stronger.

'Even Teacher doesn't have any hope I will be victorious. I will prove Teacher wrong, I will prove all of them wrong!'

Flint was brimming with renewed vigor.

When the Old man saw this, sadness crept into his eyes, and his gaze toward Grey turned chilly. The reason for the sadness was that his student got to this stage for the wrong person.

If his student was moved to this extent while facing anyone below grade nine, it would've been great news for him since his student might be able to enter the eighth grade, but he was fighting someone like Grey, even if he entered the eighth grade, it was useless.

What is annoying is the fact that as long as he isn't victorious, he wouldn't be able to sustain that grade and will fall back to grade seven, forever unable to enter that grade once again.

"Why now?"

Even the middle-aged man felt pity for Flint. Against anyone else, a draw would keep him in this grade forever, but a defeat would devastate him, forcing him back to the seventh grade. That was not even the risky part, the risky part is that he might fall a grade lower than his original grade.

Grey looked at Flint and was a little taken aback. He sighed in annoyance.

'What a load of crap. If I beat him now there's a good chance he will never get to the level he's about to show. But not beating him will make him arrogant.'

Grey knew what was happening and how devastating it could be to some geniuses. However, he didn't want to be a stepping stone for others. Nevertheless, he knew there was a war coming and the stronger humans were, the higher their chances of winning.

Chapter 1390 Giving In

Grey saw the worry in the faces of the Old man and the middle-aged man. They knew Flint was no match for Grey, but they never thought the battle against Grey would stimulate Flint to this extent. If he had just improved by a little, it would've been okay. But losing such a talent, at this level was going to be heartbreaking for the Old man, and also humans in general.

Grey could only shake his head as he muttered, "One person less wouldn't change the dynamic of the battle."

The thought of not defeating Flint was thrown away, there was no way he was going to let Flint win in such a manner. But he also felt it would be better if Flint was allowed to break through.

'Just stay on your own and you'll be good.' Grey was praying fervently for Flint not to try to make any moves on him. As long as Flint stayed on his own and completed his breakthrough, he would advance, even if Grey beats him.

However, things like these are always so simple. First off, Flint was in the middle of a battle and would most likely attack once he felt confident enough. This was the reason Grey fell into a dilemma.

If he tried to tell Flint to break through first before fighting him, Flint would believe Grey was looking down on him again, given his pride and would attack.

Grey thought about it and suddenly sat down, seemingly as if comprehending something, he whispered to Flint, "When I'm done comprehending this, we will continue our battle."

Flint found Grey's words baffling, but he didn't try to attack. Others would call him names if he dared to attack someone in the midst of a breakthrough. With no other choice, he was forced to complete his breakthrough. Although a battle would make it better, there was no way to fight now.

The Old man and the middle-aged man heaved a sigh of relief, but then there was also a hint of pity. Since Flint could not fight Grey while in the midst of this, he couldn't advance to a good stage. He might've become a grade eight expert, but there wasn't much difference in his strength.

Fighting Grey at that time was the perfect way to sharpen his new strength, but since he can't fight, his strength wouldn't soar as it was supposed to due to the increase in grade.

'It's better than being knocked back or even going lower after getting beaten.'

Both the Old and middle-aged men came to the same conclusion. This was for the best, and Grey's thought process was quite different since he was able to think of such a way that would not really change the outcome of the battle, but it would still somewhat benefit Flint.

'This kid is smart, very smart for his age.' The Old man squinted his eyes.

It only took a minute and Grey noticed it was fine to attack Flint now. He stopped his pretense and asked to continue the fight.

Flint was in high spirits, he could feel the increase in his strength, the sudden surge in his elemental essence. He attacked, and he felt this attack was on another level.

Grey saw the attack and took a step forward, unleashing an attack of his own. The two attacks collided, and to the shock of everyone present, the outcome was still the same. Flint was pushed back from the impact while Grey took another step forward.

Flint, who was in high spirits felt like he a bucket of cold water was poured on his body. His expression changed when he realized even with the increase, he was still no match for Grey.

With a single attack, Grey showed him the difference between them, while also doing it with relative ease. It was evident Grey wasn't even trying too hard, he was just fighting as if there was no other option.

Flint steeled his heart, he was going to continue. He wouldn't stop the fight unless he was defeated. There was still a chance for him to emerge victorious from the battle, all he needs to do is to stay calm.

Grey naturally didn't have any of these thoughts, he took another step, and it was as if a giant was stepping on Flint's heart. With each step Grey takes, he felt his heart skip a beat. Grey was too strong, and at this rate, he would eventually accept the fact that he was not on the same level as Grey. But how could he?

Grey shook his head when he saw the series of emotions flashing through the face of Flint. This was a good resolve to have, but certain times, it was better to give up.

Grey knew for a fact that if he were in the same position as Flint, he would've given up a long time ago. There's no shame in admitting that someone is better than you. Flint even got a little upgrade, that was the best scenario.

Grey had faded multiple situations where he had to lower his head down for others due to not being strong enough to challenge them. When he first came to the Aurora Continent, he was used by others,

Sylvia included for their personal gains. He knew resisting was futile, so he gave up and decided to follow them. Since these people didn't have the intention of killing him, then he would do as they want.

Now he was stronger than Sylvia, after a few years. If he had been stubborn and got on Sylvia's bad side, there's no guarantee that she wouldn't have killed him. It was that simple, the strongest person has the right to do whatever they want.

Flint's eyes glowed with fierce determination and he charged at the incoming Grey, even if he were to lose, he would not lose with his head down.

"Good spirit!" The Old man praised from the side.

The middle-aged man was also impressed by the spirit of Flint. Unfortunately, his spirit is not enough to fight against someone as powerful as Grey.

The middle-aged man was getting a feeling that there's a possibility that even a grade nine expert might not be on the same level as Grey.

Grey was literally fighting against someone who was in the eighth grade, effortlessly. If Grey were to show his full strength, it's unknown if Flint would be able to take a single attack.

What the middle-aged man found odd was that he didn't know the strength gap between a grade nine expert and a grade eight one. A grade eight expert rarely appears, much less a grade nine one like Grey and his friends.

'I think I should urge that little girl to challenge the Water Elementalist.'

The middle-aged man wants to see how Klaus would perform to know how he would classify Grey. Personally, he felt Grey was superior to a regular grade nine expert, and the only way to find out is by seeing the strength of another grade nine expert.

'Could his advantage have to do with having multiple elements? With more things at his disposal, he will naturally be far more dangerous.'

Multiple thoughts raced through the head of the middle-aged man, but he didn't know his answer. His eyes moved to the face of the young lady who was the leader of the group of seven, he had no choice, he would have to force her into challenging Klaus.

The chances of her getting defeated was very high, but this will also give him a general idea of how a grade nine expert was.

'Is there a grade higher than nine?'

While the middle-aged man was thinking about all these, Grey was unleashing some attacks on Flint.

Flint tried to best to match up to Grey, but the difference in strength only became more evident as the battle intensified. Before long, it was no longer a battle between too people, but it was just a case of how long Flint could withstand Grey's seige.

Grey was too strong, that was obvious, but Flint being able to last this long while being at a disadvantage from the start showed how powerful he was as well. It was unfortunate he had to face someone like Grey who was above his league.

Boom! Bam!

Flint's figure was sent flying multiple times, but he still kept coming back. A few more times and he could barely stand on his own.

Grey walked over to him and said, "You're strong. Not on my level, but strong compared to most I've seen."

Flint almost wanted to feel like it was an insult, but seeing Grey's expression, he knew it was some sort of compliment.

"I'll accept my defeat today, but this will not be our last battle. I'll come back once I've grown stronger, and I will defeat you." Flint replied.

Grey shrugged with his usual nonchalance, there was no point in speaking any further. Flint was not on the same level as he is, and even in a year or two, he still wouldn't be in the same level as him.