

Affinity 141

Chapter 141 - Abnormal Bunnies!

'I knew it would still be intact.' Grey thought staring at the garden in front of him.

It was almost just as he left it, only, there were more fruits and plants present.

'Wow! There are quite a lot of fruits here.' Void said looking at the garden.

Although, he wasn't too interested in them since the essence they contain isn't much. But, he wouldn't mind taking a few, they look delicious!

"Yeah." Grey nodded.

'So, what's protecting this place?' Void couldn't help but ask.

From how confident Grey sounded when he was speaking about the garden's protectors, it meant he knew what it was, and also how strong it was.

An awkward expression suddenly showed up on Grey's face when he recalled his past experience with the bunnies.

"Bunnies." Grey said in a low voice.

'Bunnies?' Void asked just to be sure he heard correctly.

"Yeah, bunnies." Grey nodded seriously.

Had it been when he was still in the Arcane Plane, he wouldn't have dared to come here. Even though the bunnies couldn't kill him, they could still seriously hurt him.

Being familiar with the place, he didn't rush in, rather, he sent out a light attack on the ground.

Boom!

The sound reverberated throughout the garden, soon, what Grey was waiting for started appearing.

Pop! Pop! Pop!

More than twenty bunnies appeared within a second of the blast, with more still popping out of the ground as the seconds went by.

'Damn! That's a lot of bunnies.' Void was dumbstruck by the sheer number of bunnies.

Although his attack power was insanely high, he wouldn't want to go through the hassle of going against such high numbers. And, more bunnies were still popping out. Now he knew why Grey was so confident that this place would still be intact.

Who could defeat these guys?

"Oh! There's an increase in their average stage, and also in their numbers." Grey suddenly realized that there was not only an increase in their strength, their overall number also saw an increase.

The first time he encountered them, he was sure they weren't this many, and the average stage of the bunnies was the Seventh stage of the Arcane Plane, now, the average stage was the Eighth stage of the Arcane Plane. And of the three bunnies that were in the Ninth stage of the Arcane Plane, two had already broken through to the Origin Plane.

The most shocking thing was that the leader of the bunnies was still in the Ninth stage of the Arcane Plane. Grey couldn't help but wonder how it still managed to keep its position as the leader since two were already stronger than it was.

Unlike the first time, Grey ensured he wasn't surrounded by the bunnies. Staring at the leader, he saw it hopping forward from the group.

When it got to the forefront, it looked at Grey, and a look of surprise flashed across its face, clearly, it still recognized the human who had come to disturb their peace once again. A smirk appeared on its face.

Squeak, Squeak

The bunny leader made some squeaking sounds.

"Wait, is it trying to talk to me?" Grey was taken aback by its weird behavior.

According to its arrogant nature, it would have ordered its army to attack immediately.

"Hmm, maybe it's scared after realizing how much my strength has improved." He added.

'No, if I'm not wrong, it's mocking you.' Void spoke after some time.

"You can understand them?" Grey asked, stunned by what Void said.

'Yeah, you should know animals understand each other. We have a universal language, and also specie-based languages. Also, the bunny is cursing at your family.' Void said looking at Grey.

"Oh! I forgot." Grey scratched his head in an embarrassed manner.

He completely forgot about this.

'*Sigh* I really need to think more carefully before asking some questions.' He thought.

The part where animals understand each other was general knowledge, so he naturally knew about it, but due to their situation, he forgot about it. Because Void had been speaking to him since he hatched, he sometimes forgets the fact that Void was an animal.

"Wait! It's cursing my family?" Grey suddenly remembered the other half of Void's statement.

'Yeah, and it's quite good at cursing, if I may add. It should be on the same level as that friend of yours.' Void said.

When Grey heard this, he naturally knew who Void was talking about, other than Klaus, he didn't have any other friend that's as good at cursing.

"F.u.c.k! I knew it, that damn bunny is no good." Grey cursed.

'Shit! That's it! I can take it when you're cursing at him, but what did I ever do to you?' Void yelled angrily and disappeared from Grey's shoulder.

Boom!

The next scene shocked Grey to no end. Void who suddenly appeared and attacked out of nowhere was unable to hit his target. The bunny, for some strange reason, plunged into the ground the moment Void attacked.

"How did it sense him?" Grey was astounded.

From how quickly the bunny escaped, it was easy to figure out it was able to sense Void. Grey had been trying to sense Void previously, but he had always been too late. Yet, a bunny at the Ninth stage of the Arcane Plane was able to sense him easily, and also escaped so quickly.

'This bunny isn't normal!'

This was the only thought in both Grey and Void's minds. How could a normal bunny be this s.e.n.s.i.t.i.v.e?

To confirm his thoughts, he once again disappeared and sent out another attack aiming at another bunny.

The attack was once struck the ground. Just like the first bunny, this one also sensed Void and escaped into the ground.

"Shit! They all aren't normal!" Grey exclaimed.

'What the hell!' Void was stunned by what was happening.

'Are these even bunnies?'

Given the speed and unpredictability of Void's attacks, Grey felt it was almost impossible for some in the Fifth stage or even in the Sixth stage of the Origin Plane to block it, not to mention of escaping it. Yet, these bunnies at the Arcane Plane were escaping it so leisurely.

Just as Void was about to unleash another attack, Grey quickly stopped him.

"Don't destroy the garden! I came here for it." He quickly said stopping Void from attacking any further.

'How are you gonna get it from this sea of bunnies?' Void asked.

Other than attacking them, there's naturally no other way to acquire the fruits and plants.

"Don't worry, we'll attack them, just, not here." Grey smiled.

The bunny leader that escaped into the ground previously suddenly popped out and looked at both human and cat in disdain.

'Damn! I swear I'll kill that bunny!' Void declared.

"Yeah, it's pretty annoying." Grey added.

Now he knew why most of their enemies wanted to kill Klaus first.

Squeal!

The bunny squealed, stretching out its right paw like it did the first time Grey came here. The sea of bunny followed the command of their leader and charged at Grey and Void.

Even though Grey was in the Second stage of the Origin Plane, he still couldn't help but feel a chill run down his spine. He hadn't gotten to the level where numbers wouldn't bother him, yet.

Without wasting any time, he turned around and started running. Before coming here, he had prepared a place where he would trap the bunnies.

When the bunny leader saw Grey escaping, a look of contempt appeared on its face.

—

'To think you prepared this because of those bunnies.' Void said while staring at the ground of the huge compound they just entered.

The building in the compound was already almost destroyed, so there was nothing inside other than the big space.

"Yeah, I already knew how they act. This time, I must clean that place dry!" Grey declared before entering the compound.

Before heading to the garden, he had created some small-scale arrays all over this compound. After creating the arrays, he made a huge array that hid the other ones.

While he was running here, he didn't forget to create inscriptions as well.

After getting inside the compound, Grey looked around warily, he wanted the bunnies to think he was scared.

After some seconds went by, he heard the normal squeal of the bunny leader.

But surprisingly, it stopped at the front of the compound, not entering. It looked around warily, only after it didn't sense anything before it squealed like a commander once again, only, it didn't enter the compound.

For some odd reasons, it felt danger, so it didn't dare to enter the compound. Although it was arrogant, it was scared of death.

'Why isn't it coming in?' Void asked when he saw the bunny leader staying outside.

"I don't know." Grey said looking at the bunny leader thoughtfully.

'Could it be that it sensed it?'

Chapter 142 - Two-Faced Bunny

Grey was shocked by the fact that even though the bunny leader sent its army into the compound, it refused to enter. Not just it, but the other two bunnies at the Origin Plane also stood at its side like guards, refusing to go inside as well.

'So, are we killing them all?' Void asked preparing himself to attack.

"Of course not. The only one I really want dead is the leader. I think I'll kill three more for dinner." Grey replied.

He didn't plan on killing all the bunnies, he wasn't a blood-thirsty fiend, so killing all of them didn't cross his mind.

Currently, over two hundred bunnies had flocked into the compound. Inside a three hundred and fifty square meters compound where the building took up almost one hundred meters, there was little room for over two hundred bunnies, with each bunny being over one meter respectively. The compound suddenly looked small compared to when it was empty.

'I'll use the arrays to trap them here, then empty the garden.' Grey thought.

He wasn't too bothered about the three bunnies that were outside the compound, as long as he could keep these ones here, then the threat was already removed. Those two at the Origin Plane couldn't defeat him, even if there were five of them, he was still very confident in his abilities.

Since things had already gotten to this stage, there's no point in delaying any further. Grey quickly made some weird hand gestures, and a small array could be seen forming above his hands, after it completely formed, he struck the ground with it.

Squeal!

The bunny leader squealed loudly when it saw this, and for the first time, panic was seen on its face with its nose twitching continuously.

The bunnies which were about to attack Grey stopped on hearing their leader's order, and they immediately turned tails and tried to escape out of the compound.

"Oh! You're quite alert, but it's already too late." Grey chuckled lightly.

Buzz! Buzz!

With buzzing sounds ringing in the compound, the transparent glass-like wall appeared, forming a semi-circle around the entire compound.

A few bunnies managed to escape before the glass-like wall came up though, but looking at their entire numbers, they didn't really make much of a difference.

Grey couldn't create a single array this large, all he could do was use the help of multiple small arrays and merge them together. The disadvantage of this was that once a single array was destroyed, the entire thing will crumble.

'Well, guess there's no use for these anymore.' Grey thought while dismissing the two inscriptions he created while he was running here.

The moment he activated the array, he immediately left the compound with Void, now, instead of facing hundreds of bunnies, all he had to face was just over six bunnies.

Squeak, Squeak

The previously smug-looking bunny leader made some squeaking sounds putting both hands together and making its already huge eyes turn bigger, except, in a cute way.

"Huh! What's it doing?" Grey couldn't help but ask.

'It's...begging.' Void said, dazed by how quickly the bunny changed.

Some minutes ago, it was cursing them and their entire family, it even chased them for almost three minutes, but the second it saw things were stacked against it, it quickly started begging.

"What?!" Grey exclaimed in surprise, not expecting the always proud and arrogant bunny to actually beg.

'It quite cute with its big round eyes, fluffy white hair, twitching nose... No, no, it's not cute!'

This was an evil bunny! A two-faced bunny!

He attacked immediately without giving the bunnies any chances, but he was left speechless when the two bunnies at the Origin Plane used the wind element to block his attack.

The impact sent them flying, but the bunny leader was still in his previous spot, only this time, it looked to be on its knees.

"I'm actually starting to feel a little sympathy towards it." Grey said when he saw how seriously it was pleading with him.

'I'm not.' Void said and attacked.

Boom!

Boom!

'What's that?' Void who just sent out an attack asked in surprise.

Boom!

The rhythmic sound continued echoing out. It was just like the sound of a giant taking one step at a time.

"Something big is coming." Grey's expression turned serious.

After Grey and Void's attention had turned to where the sound was coming from, a smirk formed on the face of the bunny leader, clearly, it knew what was coming.

The sound was surprisingly coming from the south, and that was the direction they came from, it was also where the garden was located.

'Uhhh... Should we leave?' Void enquired.

From how loud the footsteps were, it was easy for them to guess whatever was coming their way was something big. Although size isn't might, in a place like this, anything this big has to be powerful. The reason they thought this way was simple, if a creature here is big but isn't strong, then it would have already been killed and eaten by the stronger beasts.

"Not now, I'll like to see what is coming, and... Wait, where's the bunny?" Grey's attention was previously mostly placed on where the sound was coming from, so he failed to realize the bunny had somehow sneakily escaped.

The fact that the bunny leader could escape right under his nose amazed him, even though what was coming drew most of his attention, he wasn't that stupid to not keep track of the bunny, yet, it still escaped.

Of all the bunnies present, only the leader escaped.

'Damn! I can easily fight against opponents two stages ahead of me and even kill them, yet I can't seem to be able to defeat a bunny that's still in the Arcane Plane. Either this bunny is too incredible, or those people I thought were geniuses are nothing more than rags.' Grey felt a little dejected over his repeated failure against a bunny.

With the bunny gone, it felt like staying here was meaningless, but he was still left annoyed since he couldn't even take a single thing from the garden.

The beast was coming from that direction, so going that way was out of the question. It felt like his entire trip was a waste of time, and he even made such a time-consuming array, yet he couldn't fulfill the purpose he created it.

"We should retreat to a safe distance." Grey agreed to Void's suggestion of leaving this place, only, he was curious about what was coming here.

One minute later, the beast making the loud step appeared in Grey and Void's view. The beast was surprisingly not walking, but...hopping.

Coming towards the compound was a huge seven meters tall bunny, and perched on its shoulder was a smaller one-meter bunny that had a smug expression.

'Isn't that the leader of the bunnies?' Void asked when he saw the bunnies.

"Yeah." Grey nodded.

'Wow! That's a huge bunny!' Void exclaimed.

"Such a large reinforcement. But, when did it call it?" Grey was stumped by this question.

'Doesn't this mean that it was only pleading to delay time? Shit! The bunny's something else!' Grey felt even more dejected.

Just when he thought maybe he had something against the bunny, he found out the bunny was only buying time.

"*Sigh* I give up, we should head over to the building with the book. If I see that bunny's face any longer, I might attack." Grey sighed before leaving, heading towards the west.

Just as he turned around.

Ka-cha!

The sound of his array breaking rang out, he turned around only to see a strange occurrence. The bunny leader that was perched on the huge bunny's shoulder had its right paw raised, the back of the paw was facing Grey, and the bunny was surprisingly able to keep only the middle finger straight, folding the other four.

'What's it doing?' Void asked.

"Showing us its middle finger." Grey replied with a sour face.

'Oh! What's the meaning?' Void asked curiously.

Although he acts smart sometimes, one has to remember it hasn't been up to a week he was born yet, so he didn't know everything.

"F.u.c.k you." Grey replied.

'Damn! What did I do to you? I only asked the meaning of what it was doing!' Void said a little annoyed.

"Yeah, f.u.c.k you." Grey said again.

'If you don't want to tell me the meaning you can just say it outright.' Void said angrily.

"It's f.u.c.k... Oh... I'm sorry, my bad. The meaning of what it did is f.u.c.k you." Grey suddenly realized why Void was getting annoyed.

'Hmph!' Void snorted, still feeling a little annoyed.

Grey apologized again before continuing their journey, he knew he was the one at fault since he didn't explain it properly, so he didn't really hassle over it.

Their shadow soon disappeared into the thick forest.

Chapter 143 - The Crowned Prince

"Hmm, most of the books here are already destroyed." Grey said while picking up a book from the ground.

When he saw this place on the map, he thought maybe he might be able to get a piece of useful information from the place, but unfortunately, none of the available books were good. Most of them were already completely destroyed.

"*Sigh* Such a waste of time." He shook his head in disappointment.

Had he known this would be the result of this trip, he wouldn't have wasted his time, first, he was played with by that damn bunny, now, he couldn't even find anything good here.

'But isn't this to be expected, since they had already found this place for a long time now, it's normal that they had already cleaned it up. We should leave, there's still a lot of places to explore.' Void suggested.

"Yeah." Grey nodded.

After contemplating for some time, Grey decided that they should continue heading west. Looking at the map, he never noticed compared to the other parts, the western part had lesser landmarks. This meant that it was the side least explored by the people who made the map.

They left the building and soon started heading deeper into the trial land.

Meanwhile, somewhere in the Azure empire.

Quinn's family compound, at a hidden room.

"Things are going to plan, even if we don't obtain the treasure this time, we should be able to take charge of the Qilin empire first." A middle-aged man spoke.

The middle-aged man was none other than Quinn's father, other than him, there are two more men in the room. Both men looked to be in their seventies, but their real age is far from that. They were surprisingly identical twins.

"Oh really?" One of the old men asked curiously.

"Yes. Remember I told you I managed to brainwash a young prince of the Qilin empire twelve years ago?" Quinn's father asked.

Both old men fell silent for some time before nodding.

"He is the current Crown Prince of the Qilin empire. And from the message I received from him, the war between both empires would start soon." Quinn's father said.

"Hmm, I recalled you said there were two Princes ahead of him. What happened to them?" The second old man asked.

The voices of both men were also unexpectedly the same, if one isn't present, one would think other than Quinn's father, there was only one person present here.

"I helped him get rid of the obstacles. Now, he's the only one who is eligible to take the position as the next emperor." Quinn's father said.

"With him helping us on the inside, taking over would be easier. You've done well" The old man who spoke earlier said clearly pleased by the middle-aged man's work.

"Thank you, uncle. Father, I'll be leaving now." The middle-aged man bowed preparing to leave the room.

"What about the pawns placed on the other empires?" The old man Quinn's father called father said.

"They are all currently placed in high positions in the empires. One of them is trying to urge the emperor of the Azure empire to declare war on the Qilin empire, while the others are ensuring the other empires wouldn't get involved in the war." Quinn's father turned around to reply.

"Okay, once the war starts, all our hidden power will come forth." The old man who was called uncle said.

The family planned to start a war between the Qilin and Azure empires, while slowly taking control of the major powers in each empire. Before both empires would realize what was happening, more than half of their powers would be controlled by them.

Two months later.

At the gate of the Lunar Academy.

"What are you doing here?" An angry voice asked a refined-looking elegantly dressed young man standing outside the Academy's gate.

"Is this how you welcome an old friend?" The refined-looking young man asked with a soft smile, not at all offended by how he was welcomed.

"Hmph! Our friendship ended years ago." The owner of the angry voice snorted.

"Blake, at least show some respect for your Crown Prince." The refined-looking young man said, still wearing the same soft smile.

The first speaker was surprisingly Blake, the head instructor of the Lunar Academy, but the identity of the refined-looking young man threw the few guards present at the gate off their feet. They had never seen the Crowned Prince of the Qilin empire before, but they also never expected to see him like this.

Being the future emperor, they expected he would always move with an entourage, being carried around like the king he was meant to be, but, other than dressing elegantly and looking a little handsome, although not at the level of Blake, they didn't feel anything special about him.

"What are you doing here?" Blake asked not showing any respect for the Crown Prince.

"I see you're still angered by what happened the last time, I've already apologized. You know there was nothing I could do at that time." The Crowned Prince said taking a step into the Academy's compound.

"That didn't answer my question." Blake said blocking the path of the Crown Prince.

"I'm here to see instructor Delia, I heard she was injured previously. But I had been too busy to come to check on her." The Crown Prince stated his reason for coming.

"She's fine now, you can leave if that's the only reason you came here." Blake's angry face contorted even more when he heard the Crown Prince speaking about Delia.

"Okay, fine, that's not the only reason I'm here. I'm actually here to seek the guidance of Instructor Chris." The Crown Prince said still smiling softly.

The more Blake looked at the Crown Prince's smiling face, the angrier he got.

"First, Senior Chris is not an instructor in this Academy, second, he doesn't welcome uninvited guests." Blake said.

"If he knows I'm the one here, he'll come out and see me." The Crown Prince refused to give in.

"Even if the emperor comes here personally, if senior Chris doesn't want to see him, there's nothing he can do." Blake was trying his best not to explode in anger and attack the Crown Prince.

"Well, you see, I'll be staying here for a while since I have some business here. It'll be best if Senior Chris can spare a few minutes to entertain this little one." The Crown Prince said not bothering about how Blake was acting and walked straight into the Academy's compound.

Blake stared at the back of the Crown Prince and a hint of worry flashed through his eyes. He knew the reason for the Crown Prince's visit wasn't ordinary.

At Oliver's Office.

"He's most likely here to confirm if Senior Chris is around." Blake said a little anxiously.

"Hmm, they're?even more eager than we thought. There's still no news of his whereabouts?" Oliver asked rubbing his aching head.

"No, Teacher." Blake replied sadly.

He had been searching for Chris's whereabouts for over two months now, but there had been no news of him. It was like he just disappeared into thin air.

"Okay, I'll go see the Crown Prince and see why he's here." Oliver said.

After saying that, Oliver stood up from his seat and walked towards the door.

"You should keep an eye on him while he's here." He ordered before leaving.

Blake nodded and also left the office.

One week went by with the Crown Prince not moving as much as a muscle.

What left Blake annoyed was that he spent all his time with Delia. Not being able to contain his anger, he went over to meet the Crowned Prince.

"When do you plan on leaving?" Blake asked the Crowned Prince who was speaking with Delia.

"No time soon." The Crowned Prince answered offhandedly.

"You're not welcomed here." Blake said.

"This is my empire, I can stay wherever I want." The Crowned Prince said not bothered by Blake.

He was already used to the way Blake speaks to him, so he didn't feel annoyed or irritated by it.

"In case you've forgotten, you're still a prince, not the emperor." Blake looked at him after managing to calm himself.

"That's the Crowned Prince to you." The Crowned Prince retorted.

"You know what? It's been a long time we sparred." Blake responded.

"Yeah, I really enjoyed beating you up." The Crowned Prince chuckled.

"Heh! You wish." Blake laughed lightly.

'I'll beat him up every day till he leaves this place.' Blake thought.

Since the Crowned Prince was searching for entertainment, he didn't mind entertaining him. In fact, he'll entertain him every single day!

His plan was simple, beat up the Crowned Prince until he leaves the Academy voluntarily. He was already tired of seeing his smiling face repeatedly, if he had the opportunity, he'll beat him up until he loses a few teeth.

Delia looked at Blake and couldn't help but let out a small smile. She could sense he was jealous because she was spending time with the Crowned Prince. Although she didn't want to spend time with him, she couldn't refuse it when the Crowned Prince summoned her since, unlike Blake, she couldn't disrespect him.

Chapter 144 - Blake vs The Crowned Prince

At an open field behind the Lunar Academy.

"Are you sure you want to do this old friend?" The Crowned Prince asked with a chuckle standing on the small earthen platform he created for the battle.

Unlike normal earth, this one had a silvery color and was much stronger. If someone at the Peak of the Origin Plane struck it with their full strength, it wouldn't be damaged, not even a crack would appear. But in front of someone as strong as Blake, it wouldn't last long.

"Heh!" Blake smirked as a response.

If not for the fact that he didn't want it to look like he assaulted the Crowned Prince, he would have already attacked him by now.

"Okay, just to be clear, I won't go easy on you just because we are friends." The Crowned Prince said while stretching his arms.

"We were friends, not anymore. I've been waiting for so long for this day." Blake said with an evil grin appearing on his face.

"Oh, why didn't you come to find me in the Capital, you know I'm always there." The Crowned Prince smiled lightly.

The truth was, although he was angry at the Crowned Prince, the main reason he was finding trouble with the Crowned Prince was that he felt disgusted by what he and his father were currently doing.

He was friends with the Crowned Prince when he was younger, so he knew him all too well. The Crowned Prince is a cunning evil snake, he would wear a smile while slowly killing off his family.

"Enough nonsense." Blake said preparing to attack.

Seeing that Blake was about to attack, the Crowned Prince shut his mouth and also prepared himself. Since he's quite familiar with Blake, he knew he would attack him even if he wasn't ready.

Buzz!

Lightning danced all around Blake's body as well as within a meter of his body.

"Ah...the lightning element. So...beautiful." The Crowned Prince looked at the lightning and a glint flashed past his eyes.

Earth slowly revolved around the Crowned Prince with an armor gradually covering up his entire upper body leaving just his head open.

Swoosh!

Bang!

A huge earthen fist appeared and clashed with the bolt of lightning. Causing a loud banging sound.

Blake appeared once again, but this time he was mid-air staring at the Crowned Prince with listless eyes. He naturally didn't expect to take out the Crowned Prince with just this attack.

The Crowned Prince looked at Blake who was mid-air and his smiling face slowly turned serious.

"*Sigh* My friend, you're still so powerful. No wonder none of those morons at the Starlight Academy could stop you." He sighed, remembering what he heard about Blake charging over to Starlight Academy to cause a ruckus because of a woman.

'I must say, she isn't bad.' He thought looking at Delia.

Other than appreciating her beauty, he didn't have any other thoughts towards her. Unlike other people his age who wanted to frequently enjoy the p.l.e.a.s.u.r.e of being with a woman, he knew otherwise. There were bigger things he had to do, he couldn't waste his time fulfilling l.u.s.tful d.e.s.i.r.es.

"I'd have killed that fool if not for the intervention of the principal." Blake said icily.

When he remembered the man who attacked Delia, his anger shot upwards once again.

Watching from the side were Oliver and Delia.

"They're both strong." Delia said looking at the ongoing battle.

"Yeah. But you should know they've not gone all out, else, this wall of yours wouldn't be standing." Oliver said looking at the transparent ice wall Delia used to isolate this place from the Academy.

Oliver suggested this since he didn't want to cause panic in the Academy. If the sound of the battle between Blake and the Crowned Prince were to be heard by the students, no one knew what the students would say.

Delia smiled lightly when she heard this, of course, she knew if the battle turned serious, even standing this close wouldn't be good for her.

"Who do you think will win?" Delia asked while watching the battle.

"I don't really know the full extent of the Crowned Prince's powers so I can't really say for sure, but, I think your boyfriend will win." Oliver said with a smile.

"Yeah, me too." Delia nodded.

"He's not my boyfriend." She pouted.

"Okay, so does that mean he'll lose?" Oliver enquired with a light laugh.

"Of course not, he'll definitely win." Delia said seriously.

"Why are you so confident he wouldn't lose?" Oliver asked curiously.

"Because... I believe in him. Also, he said amongst his peers, he was undefeatable" Delia replied.

"He told you that?" Oliver asked with an odd expression flashing on his face which he quickly hid.

"Yeah. You're his teacher, so you should know. Or could it be that he was lying?" Delia asked raising a brow.

"No, amongst his peers, he truly was invincible." Oliver replied lying through his teeth.

He was so professional when lying that even he wanted to believe himself.

'Invincible my foot!' He thought.

But he wouldn't tell Delia that when Blake was younger, he was a scared, anti-social, bullied young boy. That would sully the image he had managed to build for himself. Most of his peers at that time still felt

strange whenever they hear about Blake's current actions, they never once expected he would turn out to be such a hot-tempered person later on.

After exchanging moves for over a minute.

Blake stopped mid-air and looked at the Crowned Prince.

"Still acting like a turtle." Blake said looking at the multiple defenses the Crowned Prince had set up.

The fight still hadn't gotten serious yet. Blake was still holding back, while all the Crowned Prince was doing was defending while attacking once an opportunity presents itself.

He was a clever person and knew Blake was only looking for a way to beat him up, so he didn't want things to get too serious. Although, he was still very confident in his abilities.

"Okay, we should stop playing around. Why don't we take things seriously this time around?" The Crowned Prince asked.

"I thought you'd never ask." Blake smiled.

Thang!

Swoosh!

The arrow shot straight at the Crowned Prince with lightning-quick speed.

'F.u.c.k! I love this element, just as much as I hate facing someone wielding it.' The Crowned Prince scurried to set up a defensive wall.

Nine six meters thick walls appeared in front of him, each separated by two meters.

Bam! Crash! Crack!

The lightning arrow went through the first four walls like a hot knife through butter. One has to remember this was a wall that could stop an all-out attack of a Peak Origin Plane Elementalist, yet, three couldn't even stop a single attack.

The arrow didn't stop after passing through the first three walls, it went on the fourth one with its momentum still at its peak. After it went through the fourth one, it slowed down a little, but the fifth, sixth and seventh one couldn't stop it.

It continued to the eighth one, but its speed had reduced greatly. Yet, even after being disrupted by the previous seven walls, it still forced its way past the eighth wall and it soon slowly started penetrating the ninth wall.

In the end, only the arrowhead managed to appear on the other side of the wall, but it couldn't move an inch and just stayed put.

"*Phew* That had me scared for a minute." The Crowned Prince breathed out a sigh of relief.

"Hey, buddy! This all you got?" He asked Blake who was still floating mid-air.

Blake only smirked as a response.

When he saw Blake's smirk, he suddenly remembered something and quickly retreated.

"Shit! I hate this guy." He cursed as he retreated.

But alas, he realized it too late.

'Explode' Blake said internally.

Boom!

The arrowhead which was the only thing visible on the wall exploded out, causing a massive white light to cover the area of the battle.

"Does he plan on killing him?" Delia couldn't help but ask when she saw the powerful explosion.

"Haha, of course not. Do you think Blake is foolish enough to kill the Crowned Prince here? Besides, even if he wants to kill him, it wouldn't be this easy." Oliver laughed while dispersing the impact of the attack that was coming in their direction.

"Yeah, you're right about that." Delia nodded remembering this was only a spar.

She had always known Blake was strong, but she never expected him to be this strong. This was the first time she was seeing Blake fight, and she couldn't hide the shock and awe in her eyes. The most shocking thing was that Blake was still holding back.

How strong would he be if he really went all out?

This question ran through her mind over and over again making her heart beat faster and faster.

Chapter 145 - Blake vs The Crowned Prince II

"Cough...cough...cough, Blake do you plan on killing me?" The Crowned Prince coughed while walking out of the dust after the explosion had settled down.

"Heh! Stop pretending, you should know we're just getting started." Blake smirked looking at the dust-covered Crowned Prince.

"*Sigh* My friend, why don't we stop here?" The Crowned Prince asked with a soft smile.

"What? Are you scared?" Blake asked mockingly.

"Not a chance, I just don't want to beat you up." The Crowned Prince chuckled lightly.

"You see, I want to beat you up." Blake shrugged and attacked once again.

The Crowned Prince quickly sent out an attack, blocking the attack Blake sent towards him.

Boom!

Both attacks collided sending out a huge shockwave.

The Crowned Prince being an Earth Elementalist preferred staying on the ground while fighting, since he's much more comfortable there. But since Blake had already taken to the sky, he also had to fly up, else he would be at a disadvantage.

"*Sigh* I miss the days when we used to fight on the ground." The Crowned Prince said while appearing mid-air.

"Those days are long gone." Blake attacked once again.

With both fighters flashing through the air sending out multiple attacks, it was impossible for low leveled Elementalists to keep track of their movements, especially Blake's. Even for a Lightning Elementalist, his speed was unbelievable.

Another two minutes went by with none of them gaining the upper hand.

'I hate this element.' The Crowned Prince complained.

What he hated the most about the lightning element was its speed, this was also what he loved about it. When he was younger, he hoped he would awaken the lightning element, but alas, when he went for the test, he awakened the earth element.

For the past two minutes that the battle was ongoing, he couldn't get a clear view of Blake due to his speed, but being a master in the art of defense, he had been able to block most of Blake's attacks while also counter-attacking.

But cracks had already started appearing on some parts of his armor after suffering from a few hits.

"Wow! He's fast!" Delia exclaimed while watching the battle.

Her eyes could barely keep up with Blake's movements. There were even times where all she sees is a blur, before she could see the figure properly, it had already disappeared.

"He's a Lightning Elementalist, he's meant to be fast." Oliver said, not surprised by Blake's speed.

He even felt he could go faster.

'I'll have a little talk with him after this battle. Looks like he's been slacking off lately.' He thought.

But he knew in the entirety of the Academy, if Blake said he was the second fastest person, no one would dare say they were first. Well, except for Chris, but Oliver wasn't counting him as part of the Academy.

Most of the time he just goofs off, then when he gets bored, he'll go out as a representative for the test, and would rarely bring back any new students. But when he does, they all turned out to be extraordinary.

He had been friends with him for a long time and didn't really know much about his background. He also knew the only reason Chris was staying in the Academy was because of him, and he was grateful for that.

When the previous emperor was still on the throne, he invited Chris over wanting to make him an official, but he refused without a second thought, the emperor even went as far as promising to make him the second highest ranking individual in the empire being below only the emperor, but he still refused.

"I heard you wanted to challenge him to a battle, are you still confident in defeating him?" Oliver asked looking at Delia.

"Hmph! Give me another three years, no wait, five years, and I'll surpass him." Delia said confidently.

"Hehe, and what would he be doing in those five years?" Oliver chuckled.

"He..." Delia paused, not knowing what to say.

Due to how strong Blake was, and since he was a head instructor, she forgot the fact that he was still young and would continue growing in strength.

'If he's this powerful now, how powerful would he be in five years time?' She asked herself while in a daze.

Oliver smiled as a response before focusing his attention back on the battle that was going on mid-air.

'The Crowned Prince isn't as simple as he looks.' He narrowed his eyes.

He had been watching the battle since it started, and could tell the Crowned Prince was just as strong as Blake, the only reason he was at a disadvantage was because of Blake's insane speed. If he were facing off against some other head instructor, then he would've won the battle already.

He also realized that since the battle started, almost every time the Crowned Prince counter-attacked, it was successful. How precise must one's timing be to have such a high success rate? Especially when facing someone this fast?

'He's like a patient hunter, waiting for the perfect time to strike.' He thought.

There had been cases where even he felt the Crowned Prince had won the battle, but Blake's speed would help him avoid the attack.

'I hate this element.' Blake complained.

Although his attack power was strong, due to the high defensive properties of the earth element, it has managed to block them. The only way he can break it is to use a high leveled attack, but whenever he does, the Crowned Prince would also bring out a high leveled defensive technique making his effort useless.

Although there are times where he had struck the Crowned Prince, the effect isn't as high as he wanted since the Crowned Prince's defense would take out most of its power.

"Hey, how about a close-ranged battle?" He suggested.

"Hmm, okay." The Crowned Prince agreed to it.

'It's been so long I had a heart-racing battle.' He thought.

This was the main reason he agreed to spar with Blake, being the Crowned Prince, even if people fought against him, they would hold back in fear of hurting him, either that, or his opponents weren't strong enough. But he was friends with Blake, so he naturally knew he was just as strong as he was, if not even stronger.

And given the anger Blake had towards him, there was no way he would hold back. He knew why Blake hadn't used his full strength was because they didn't want to alarm the people in the Academy, or a battle between two Overlord Plane Elementalists could easily destroy a city, much less an Academy.

Blake stretched out both hands open his palms wide, the second he closed them, two lightning swords formed on them. Each reaching one meter in length. Holding them by the lightning-formed hilt, he pointed it at the Crowned Prince.

"Damn! I never get tired of seeing this trick." The Crowned Prince laughed and created an earthen spear.

In close combat, he preferred using the spear. Although he rarely gets the chance to use it, he still practices with it, so he's quite good with it.

Swoosh! Crash!

Blake disappeared from his previous spot and appeared close to the Crowned Prince slicing his lightning swords at his side.

The Crowned Prince blocked with his spear pushing him back. This was the advantage of the earth element, its pure brute strength!

After pushing him back, he thrust his spear at Blake's shoulder with unexpected speed.

Blake used his sword to deflect the thrust of the spear by hitting its side.

Before long, they had exchanged more than fifty moves with no one obtaining the upper hand still.

"Looks like their strength is on the same level." Delia spoke after seeing that even after trying multiple fighting styles, none of them has been able to gain the upper hand.

"Not just that, but they are too familiar with each other hence they could guess what the next move of the opponent would be." Oliver added.

Of all the people in Blake's generation, for the first time in Oliver's life, the Crowned Prince was the only one who could fight him to a draw. This alone made him think highly of the Crowned Prince.

'*Sigh* If only he and his father isn't trying to take control of all the Academies, then he wouldn't be a bad ally.' He thought.

"You see, you still can't defeat me." The Crowned Prince said while panting heavily.

Blake looked at him while also trying to catch his breath.

"Hmph! It's only because I'm holding back, or else, you wouldn't be standing." Blake snorted, not pleased with the draw.

They soon fell into silence staring at each other.

"You know what?" The Crowned Prince suddenly said after a moment of silence.

Blake raised a brow looking at the Crowned Prince.

"I did come back that day, it's just that I was too late. I'm sorry for leaving that day." The Crowned Prince said in a low apologetic tone.

His armor and spear disappeared. And he turned around to leave.

After flying some meters, he turned around and smiled.

"Also, I hope we never get to fight against each other."

Chapter 146 - It's Shiny!

The Crowned Prince flew towards the ice wall, he stopped and looked at Delia, only to see her staring at Blake. With no other option, he created a hole in it which he used to leave the area, heading back to the Academy.

Blake remained mid-air staring at the Crowned Prince, he knew there was a hidden meaning to what the Crowned Prince told him before he left.

'Looks like he's giving me a heads up. But he should have already known there's no way we would accept to be their puppets.' He thought before landing close to Oliver and Delia.

Being lost in thoughts, he failed to realize that she was staring at him intensely, only after a while did he sense it.

"Huh! Is there something on my face?" He asked while touching his face.

"What? No!" The dazed Delia asked showing confusion, before answering.

"Oh! Then why were you staring that hard? Wait, could it be that you want to imprint my impeccable appearance in your memory forever?" Blake asked with a cheeky smile.

"You wish." Delia rolled her eyes before removing her ice wall.

They soon started bickering while slowly making their way to the Academy.

Looking at Blake and Delia bickering, Oliver chuckled lightly and told Blake to come to see and see him when he was done before leaving the duo.

Some hours later, at Oliver's office.

"The Crowned Prince is something." Oliver said after dropping the book he was reading.

Seeing that Blake was looking around, Oliver guessed the reason and smiled lightly.

"What do you think we should do?" He asked in a serious tone placing both hands underneath his chin.

"About?" Blake turned his attention back to Oliver.

"The emperor's motive. With Chris nowhere to be found, fighting against them is suicide." Oliver said.

"I...don't know." Blake paused before answering slowly with furrowed brows.

He too was confused about the whole issue.

"Once the kids get back from the trial land, I've decided to step down as the mayor of Lunar City as well as the principal of the Academy." Oliver said looking at Blake without any changes in his expression.

This move looks cowardly, but it's actually the best decision. Klaus and Blake are his only family, he wouldn't foolishly give his life away while putting theirs in danger just because he wanted to go against the emperor.

He had invested a lot of his time in both the City and the Academy, but the life of his son and student mattered more. Besides, even though Chris is powerful, he's just one man. He didn't expect him to go against the entire empire because of him.

Blake knew since Oliver has made this decision, there's no turning back.

"I'll step down as well." He said not angry by his Teacher's decision.

Oliver looked at him and sighed. He had previously thought of making Blake the next Principal, but given the current situation, there's no use in doing that. What he wanted to do right now was to keep a good distance away from the emperor and his people, this was why he also wanted to step down from his position as Mayor.

"What about Senior Chris?" Blake asked.

"Stop worrying about him. If he comes back after we've left, he would be able to find us." Oliver responded.

"Okay, Teacher." Blake stood up and walked towards the door.

On getting to the door, he stopped.

"Should I inform the Crowned Prince, so he can leave?" He turned around to inquire.

"There's no need for that. I'll head over to the Capital in two days time." Oliver said before picking up the book he was reading.

"Okay." Blake bowed and left.

'I promised your mother I'll never put you in harm's way. I just hope they'll let us be.' Oliver thought with a sad look appearing on his face when he remembered his late wife.

The sad look was quickly replaced by a smile before turning into a worried expression.

'I hope that little rascal is alright.' He thought.

At the trial land.

A young man could be seen running at the fastest speed he could muster through a forest. On his shoulder was a strikingly black cat, staring behind them with a hint of worry.

'Run faster!' A small voice sounded in the youth's head.

'I can't go any faster! Shit! Why did you go and steal their treasure?!' The young man asked angrily, only, his voice was only heard inside the head of the small cat.

'It was shiny!' The small voice replied.

'F.u.c.k you! Return it!' The young man ordered.

'No! It's mine!' The small voice replied.

'Damn it! Get off my shoulder so they'll chase after you.' The young man tried to push the cat off of his shoulder but missed.

The cat disappeared from the left shoulder, appearing on the right shoulder within a second.

'Damn it! I shouldn't have allowed you to come with me. You have the space element, aren't you faster than I am?' The young man asked slightly frustrated.

'I can't travel long distances with it, yet. Also, you should know how exhausting it is using your elemental essence constantly.' The small voice said while the cat dodged the hand coming its way.

'Damn you! Of course I know, I've been using mine for almost thirty minutes now.' The young man cursed while trying to catch the cat which had appeared on his left shoulder.

He threw his left hand towards his right shoulder while his right hand towards his left shoulder.

The cat disappeared from the left shoulder, and appeared on the right one, only to be caught by the waiting hand.

'Hahaha, got you! If you don't want to return it, run in the other direction.' The young man said after managing to catch the cat.

'F.u.c.k you! How can you betray me?!' The small voice yelled out.

'Betray your head! Don't run in my direction. F.u.c.k!' The young man yelled when he saw the cat coming his way.

And for some weird reasons, his speed was faster than the first time.

'Stop! Where are you going?!' The small voice screamed as the cat disappeared appearing closer to the young man.

'Somewhere without you!' The young man replied.

'Okay, but take me with you!' The small voice said.

'How would the place be without you if I take you along, stupid cat!' The young man replied.

The young man and the cat were obviously Grey and Void. Behind them was a horde of angry looking giant white ape, each ape had a silver horn at the middle of their heads with silver lightning snakes dancing around their bodies as they gave chase.

Of all the apes, five of them were more eye catching because instead of having silver horns, they had purple. Purple lightning danced around their snow white hairs.

One of the five purple horned monkeys roared and sent out a lightning bolt towards the running Grey.

Boom!

"F.u.c.k! I wasn't the one who stole your treasure!" Grey yelled out after dodging the lightning coming his way.

'Don't try to explain, they'll still chase after you anyway.' Void said while capitalizing on the small time Grey slowed down and jumped on his shoulder.

'Damn you! Return their treasure to them.' Grey yelled at Void.

'No! I believe we can escape this chase!' Void said confidently.

'Yes, if you return their treasure.' Grey said.

'How can you be so cowardly? I thought you enjoyed fighting, why don't you take out that one that almost blasted you?' Void said, not forgetting to take a glance behind them.

After training for two months, Grey had already reached the Fourth stage of the Origin Plane. He felt a little dejected about it when he thought about how quickly he advanced from the First stage to the Second stage, but then again, he knew had he not acquired those treasures, there was no way his strength would have increased that fast.

And compared to others, the essence he needs for each breakthrough was humongous, so he was happy he managed to advance two stages in two months, this should be the speed of a few others as well, so his speed wasn't that bad.

He had ventured deeper into the trial land and had faced multiple beasts as well as humans. He also encountered Jonas on one occasion, but they didn't speak. Other than that, he has faced off against some youths from the Azure empire, killing those who tried to kill him.

Of the eight he encountered, only two were left alive, and the reason for that was because they didn't try to kill him. Even though the Qilin empire was enemies with the Azure empire, it didn't mean he'll kill every one of them.

So far, for the last two months, he could say his journey had been quite enjoyable. And just when he thought his luck was changing for the better, Void stole the treasure of these Horned Lightning Apes.

He initially went to their territory in search of a plant, according to a book he read, where ever there are Horned Lightning Apes, a lightning attribute plant would be present.

But who knew Void would go crazy and steal their treasure, he had always known Void loved shiny things, but he didn't expect it to be this bad. He could be said to be obsessed with them!

Chapter 147 - Unfortunate Group

'Come on Void, return it.' Grey pleaded while dodging another attack.

Boom!

The lightning struck a tree ahead of them, creating a hole in it.

'No, I want it.' Void refused once again.

'Shit! At this rate, either they catch up, or we run into the territory of a far stronger beast.' Grey cursed.

'Don't worry, they can't catch up.' Void comforted.

'Of course, I'm worried! Why wouldn't I be worried?! I'm being chased by a horde of Horned Lightning Apes! Is that something not to be worried about?' Grey asked a couple of questions in quick successions.

The five Purple Horned Lightning Apes were around the Fourth to the Sixth stage of the Origin Plane, while the Silver Horned Lightning Apes were around the First to Third stage.

How could he fight against them? Fighting against them was nothing more than suicide!

If he met either one of the five Purple Horned Lightning Apes alone, then he would be able to deal with it. Other than the one in the Sixth stage, the others weren't much of a problem. Even that one in the Sixth stage wasn't much of a problem, only, it would require more of an effort compared to the rest.

Roar!

The leading Purple Horned Lightning Ape roared and sent out another attack.

Swoosh!

The lightning bolt shot through the air aiming for Grey who was a couple of meters away.

Bang!

Split!

After being hit by the lightning, the tree split into two horizontally, with the larger part falling in the direction Grey was coming from.

"Damn it!" Grey cursed when he saw the tree falling towards him at a fast speed.

With no other option, he dodged to the side as fast as he could, but that slight delay allowed the strongest one of the Purple Horned Lightning Apes to shorten the gap between them to a mere three meters.

Realizing that the strongest Ape had closed the gap between them, Grey was forced to send out a fireball while running. Stopping to fight it was stupid, all he could do was delay it with his attack, so he could gain more ground.

The horn on the head of the Purple Horned Lightning Ape lit up when it saw the fireball Grey sent its way before it sent out a lightning ball that crashed into the fireball Grey sent its way.

Boom!

Both attacks collided sending out a huge shockwave.

'Phew' Grey breathed out heavily when he saw he had managed to distance himself from the Ape once again.

'You're attacking next time.' He said to Void.

'Okay.' Void nodded.

He knew if he rejected to do this, then Grey would definitely search for a way to throw him out.

Roar!

The Purple Horned Lightning Ape roared angrily when it saw that the distance it had managed to close down, was increased further than the previous time.

With red eyes, it charged towards the human and the cat. For it, since Void was with Grey, then they were together, and all it wanted to do to them was to pound them till they turned into a meat paste.

The other Purple Horned Lightning Apes caught up with the first one, while the Silver Horned Lightning Apes was just a few meters away.

The Apes continued their chase, while Grey and Void ran like their lives depended on it. Well, Grey was the one doing all the running, all Void was doing was lying around leisurely. After being given the task of attacking by Grey, he would occasionally send out attacks whenever he notices the Apes were getting closer.

This further increased the rage of the Apes, they all felt the cat was a hateful creature. Once they catch up to them, they'll make sure the cat suffers more. After pounding it into a meat paste, they'll burn the meat paste with their lightning. They wanted the cat to die with no remains, if they were given an opportunity, not even its ashes would be left.

If Void were to find out about the plans the Apes had for him, he'll laugh it up while cursing at their entire ancestry. Did they think they'll ever catch them?

Some distance away from where the chase was currently taking place, a group of youths could be seen together, they all had sour expressions with a few having minor injuries.

"How can we be so unlucky? This is the sixth time this week we have been attacked by those mongrels." One of the youths complained with frustration very evident in his voice.

"Yeah I know, it's like they're toying with us." Another one said through gritted teeth.

"Hmph! Only a fool would leave an enemy alive. I'll have my revenge, surely." A more composed youth amongst them said.

The others looked at him and nodded. This group was none other than the Twelfth Prince's group. After that battle when Alan and Damian saved them, they had managed to keep all their members alive and had been having a pretty good time.

The Twelfth Prince had broken through to the Third stage of the Origin Plane, not just him, but two others have also broken through to that stage, one of them was Neil, while the other was also a student from the Royal Academy.

After facing multiple challenges and coming out on top of most of them, they felt pretty great. They had even eliminated a few youths from the Azure empire, but their luck ran out when they accidentally crossed paths with a group from the Azure empire which had two youths in the Fourth stage of the Origin Plane.

Not just that, but there were also three in the Third stage, making life hard for the Twelfth Prince's group.

For the past one week, the group from the Azure empire had been tormenting them by attacking them repeatedly. What was more frustrating was that they were stronger than the Twelfth Prince's group, yet, they hadn't killed any of them, rather, they would show up unexpectedly and launch an attack on them.

Being stronger and more prepared, they always gained the upper hand in the battles and would leave right after hurting a few of the people in the Twelfth Prince's group. It was like the Twelfth Prince's group were their entertainment, and once they were bored, they would attack.

On numerous occasions, after being attacked, the Twelfth Prince's had tried escaping, but no matter where they go, the group from the Azure empire still ends up finding them.

They all felt the group was following them closely.

Rustle!

"Who's there?" Neil turned towards the direction the noise came from while preparing to attack.

He was currently very edgy because of what he had gone through during the week. Not just him, but the others were just as tense as he was.

Going through something like this could make almost anyone lose their cool. What made matters worse was that they did not know if the next time the group from the Azure empire attacked, they'd take their lives. So none of them were calm, not even the Twelfth Prince.

They felt like prisoners that could be executed at any given time.

"Hehe, don't tell me you've forgotten about us so soon. I mean, we only left a couple of minutes ago, so it's impossible that you've forgotten about us." A peal of playful laughter rang out from behind a tree twelve meters away, and a youth almost two meters tall walked out, with others following behind him.

The Twelfth Prince's group was currently in an open field that had grasses half a meter tall, it was almost impossible to see the ground because of the grass.

"Haha, maybe we hit them too hard and messed up their heads." A youth following behind the first youth laughed out loud, making those around him laugh as well.

"Oh! If that's the case, why don't we beat them again? That should be able to rearrange their heads, right?" A crisp voice belonging to a young lady sounded out.

The moment the Twelfth Prince and his group heard the voice of the young lady, they shivered uncontrollably. To them, the voice didn't belong to a young lady, but a demon. But, they couldn't help but be grateful to this demon.

Had it not been for her suggesting they had fun with them, then her group would have already killed them by now. Even though being toyed with isn't fun, it was better than being dead. Living one more day meant, there was still hope for them to escape their present predicament.

Chapter 148 - Possible Helpers?

The Twelfth Prince's group looked at the stunning young lady with dread visible in their eyes. Of the two people in the Fourth stage of the Origin Plane, she was the strongest.

They still couldn't comprehend why she would have such a thought process, but since it has kept them alive, they weren't complaining about it. Even though they felt they were the most unfortunate group in the trial land, they were still better than those who had died, right?

"Why are they back so soon?" The youth from the Starlight Academy asked the others softly.

According to how the group from the Azure empire usually operated, after beating them up, they would give them a day or so to rest and recover before coming back, but now, it hadn't even been up to an hour, and they're back. Judging from their expressions, it looks like maybe they've come to a decision to end them this time.

"I don't know, but hopefully they'll leave soon after finishing their work." The youth who previously complained about the assault said.

He might have complained when the group wasn't here, but since they were here, he didn't dare to. Being the weaker party, he had already accepted his fate, besides, it wasn't like this was the first time he was bullied. Getting used to being bullied is something only the brave and determined can do, that was his motto back then.

Currently, he felt after some time, the others would get used to it as well and move on with their lives. Well, that was under the premise that they weren't killed this time.

The youth from the Starlight Academy looked at him weirdly and refrained from replying. If he were to answer the youth, then there's a chance they might start quarreling amidst their current predicament.

It wasn't like they were as carefree as Klaus and Reynolds were, who would be able to quarrel even when they were outnumbered.

"After a long deliberation, we have decided it's time to stop these games." The tall youth said coldly while staring at the Twelfth Prince's group.

When the Twelfth Prince and the rest of his group heard this statement, their hearts sank. And for the first time in the lives of most of them, they wanted to beg to continue being beaten.

'Please, continue beating us!'

This was what they prayed for currently.

"Just in case you all don't understand what that means, it means we're tired of our current toys and want to get rid of them. And, you all are the toys." Another youth said while laughing.

Although most of them were still below twenty years of age, they had already gotten used to killing. Some of them could even kill entire families without blinking an eye, this was a world of Elementalists, a world ruled by the strong. If you don't want to be stepped on or abused, then you have to strive to grow stronger, by any means necessary.

'I knew the reason they came back wasn't good.' The youth from the Starlight Academy thought feeling a little depressed.

"Hmph! If you think you can kill us, I'm afraid you're greatly mistaken." The Twelfth Prince snorted coldly with the deep-seethed pride of a prince showing forth.

Since the group had already decided to kill them, then there is no use being courteous with them anymore. Even though he didn't want to die, it didn't mean that he'll turn into a coward when faced with death. He was a Prince of the Qilin empire, how could he bow to mere citizens of the Azure empire.

Given the severity of the upcoming battle, the Twelfth Prince knew that if he didn't rile up the others, then their deaths would come sooner. Although, being a Wind Elementalist, there's a slim chance he might be able to escape if the opportunity presents itself.

"Hehehe, I like feisty toys. I'll be the one killing him." The girl giggled while positioning herself in front of the Twelfth Prince, looking at him with playful eyes.

The group from the Qilin empire had more numbers compared to their opponents, but the difference in individual strength made things difficult for them.

The group from the Azure empire were five in numbers, with two being in the Fourth stage of the Origin Plane, and the other three being in the Third stage. Of the three in the Third stage, one was a Dual Elementalist whose strength almost rivaled that of the two in the Fourth stage.

While the Twelfth Prince's group had seven people, with three being in the Third stage of the Origin Plane, and the rest being in the Second stage.

Boom!

An attack was unleashed unexpectedly.

A youth was sent flying by the unexpected attack, while the other tried to defend but was pushed back.

The youth sent flying was one of the Third stage Origin Plane Elementalist from the Azure empire.

Surprisingly, the Twelfth Prince's group were the first ones to attack.

Being taken unaware, the group from the Azure empire were momentarily stunned by the sudden attack and fell on the defensive with one of them sustaining an injury.

Never in their wildest dreams did they think that this group from the Qilin empire would be the first to attack.

All the while that they had been attacking them, they had always been the ones who attacked while the Twelfth Prince's group defended, yet when it came to the most important fight, they were the ones on the defensive. It was an ironic situation from their point of view.

"Yes!" Neil exclaimed and went straight for the injured youth.

During the short period the group from the Azure empire was spouting nonsense, the Twelfth Prince told him to attack them while they were still picking opponents.

He initially thought the plan wouldn't be successful, but surprisingly, the youths from the Azure empire were dumber than they look.

Seeing that one of their opponents had been injured, the momentum of the Twelfth Prince's group shot through the roof and they felt, maybe, just maybe, they could escape this alive.

What the Twelfth Prince did showed he truly was worthy of being the leader of the group, and also being a prince trained in the art of war.

The only unfortunate thing about the plan was that the youth attacked didn't die, and the injuries he sustained weren't life-threatening. But it had decreased his strength significantly.

At the forest.

The chase was still ongoing with Grey cursing at Void repeatedly. If Void had not stolen their treasure, they wouldn't have been in such a position.

Bang!

Another attack landed close to him.

"Cough...cough... Damn it! These things are relentless." Grey coughed out while dashing out of the dust that rose from the blast.

Being too occupied with escaping, he couldn't create inscriptions, and even if he did, since he couldn't turn around to face the Apes, he couldn't get a clean hit. One has to remember, he was the one escaping, not the other way around.

'Huh! There's a battle going on up ahead.' Void said after sensing ripples in the space caused by the impact of the battle going on.

Being a Space Elementalist, he was naturally very s.e.n.s.i.t.i.v.e to the space around him, especially within half a kilometer radius. It was just like the sensory ability Grey had from the wind and the earth element. Only, the range of Void's sensory ability was far better than that of Grey.

'Between humans?' Grey asked the question he felt was most important.

If the battle was between humans, then he wouldn't mind bringing his escorts behind him to the party. With more people around, the Apes would instinctively attack them as well, especially if he acted like they were together.

But if the battle was between two or more beasts, he would have to take a detour so as not to incite their wrath. He was already being chased by one group, if another group were to start chasing him, then he wouldn't know what to do anymore.

'Yes .' Void replied after a brief wait to confirm if the fighters were humans or not.

'Phew, thankfully we have helpers now.' Grey breathed out a sigh of relief.

Now all he wanted to do was take the Apes towards the people, so they could help him stop them while he makes a break for it. In short, he wanted to use them.

Despite the fact that the Apes couldn't catch up with him if he continued running, being chased for so long was quite tiring.

'But, what if they're my friends?' He thought.

If the people fighting were his friends, then, it would be difficult since he couldn't make the Apes attack just one group.

The best case scenario was that he wasn't acquainted with any of the people fighting, that way he could just dump the Apes at them, while the worst case scenario was that they were people he knew. He hoped for the former while also preparing a plan in case it was the latter.

With everything in place, he darted towards where the battle was going on.

Chapter 149 - Such A Destructive Element

Back at the field.

The battle between the Twelfth Prince's group and the group from the Azure empire had slowly started taking a turn. Unlike the rough start they had, the group from the Azure empire was slowly gaining the upper hand now.

Boom!

Crash!

A human figure crashed through the field leveling the tall grasses in the process. After sliding across a distance of almost ten meters from where it crashed, the figure stopped.

Looking closer, the figure was Neil from the Twelfth Prince's group. After their initial sneak attack at the start of the battle, they only managed to hold the upper hand for about three minutes or so before the group from the Azure empire gradually started turning the tide of the battle. Currently, other than the youth injured at the start of the battle from the sneak attack, the others from the Azure empire were doing fine.

Neil was presently fighting against one of the two people in the Fourth stage of the Origin Plane in the group from the Azure empire.

Spit!

He spat out the bits of grass that got into his mouth during the crash. Placing one leg in front of him while the other was in a kneeling position, he raised his head to observe the ongoing battle, but seeing how things were going, he couldn't help but feel a little bitter inside.

He was barely hanging on against his opponent, while the Twelfth Prince was being suppressed by the young lady who was the other person in the Fourth stage, and as for the other youth from the Royal Academy who was in the Third stage, he too was also being suppressed by the Dual Elementalist in the Third stage from the Azure empire.

Since his strength saw a decline, he wasn't as strong as he previously was, so fighting against two people was a little more than he could handle.

His companions who were fighting against a single opponent would occasionally lend him a helping hand when they were chanced. They knew if the youth were to die, then they might not be the ones doing the killing, rather, it would be the other way around. But their opponents also being aware of this was trying hard to ensure they don't get the chance to help him.

The Twelfth Prince's group knew if the injured youth could be taken out of the picture, then their chances of survival would increase exponentially. Because once the injured youth was dead, then the two who were fighting against him would join hands with the others to suppress their opponents. So, there was no way they'd allow the others to help him.

As things stand, taking out the injured youth was their best shot at survival, either that or maybe someone would come to their aid just like the last time they were stuck in such a situation.

"Heh! What are you looking at?" The tall youth asked mockingly while walking closer to Neil.

Neil wiped the side of his mouth while hurriedly standing on his feet, gazing ferociously at his opponent. He knew he wasn't his match, and escaping from his hands was quite difficult, but not impossible. But he had to tie him down so his companions could kill the injured youth.

Unlike the other battles, this was a battle between two Water Elementalists. But since the tall youth had the advantage of being a stage ahead of Neil, his attack power was stronger.

Neil's elemental grade was blue, but since he couldn't even fight the tall youth to a draw, it meant his elemental grade was also blue.

"You think they can kill him? Hehe, even if they can, you wouldn't live long enough to see it." The tall youth smirked and unleashed another attack.

Neil created an ice wall to block the attack, but it shattered when the tall youth's attack landed on it.

Seeing his defense destroyed, he hastily sent out an attack towards the weakened strike coming his way.

Boom!

Both strikes collided sending out a chilling shockwave as both attackers used ice instead of water.

Being closer to the strike, the impact of the attacks pushed him back, he only managed to gain his footing after moving four meters backward. Looking behind him, a strange thought suddenly came into his head, if things continued in this manner, then he might get a chance to escape.

Since the battle started, the tall youth had blasted him a good distance away from their initial position, and he was presently only a hundred meters away from the forest. He wouldn't mind it if the tall youth continued blasting him in this direction, that way, in case things didn't work out with the duo, he would have a chance at escaping.

"Kekeke, to think you were hiding your strength previously." The young lady giggled coquettishly while battling with the Twelfth Prince.

Bam!

'Even after using almost ninety percent of my strength, I'm still no match for her.' The Twelfth Prince thought while dodging her attack.

During the first time he fought against this group, he concealed some of his strength in case things didn't work out for his group, he would be able to unleash his greatest movement technique and escape.

Being a Wind Elementalist, he naturally placed more emphasis on speed, so even though the situation doesn't look too good for him, he still had some confidence in escaping. He even had a secret technique that could raise his speed to a terrifying level that even those three stages ahead of him wouldn't be able to keep up with him.

It's just, because of the price he'd have to pay to use it, he would only use it as a last resort. Besides, given their luck so far since they entered the trial land, they had been able to pull through most of the challenges that came their way, so he was still hopeful that maybe things would turn for the better.

They even had a chance to do that now since if the duo could kill the injured youth, then they would be able to counter-kill their opponents.

The young lady fighting against the Twelfth Prince was a Fire Elementalist, seeing that the Twelfth Prince was dodging most of her attacks, her fiery temper soon started taking over.

"Hmph! Dodge this." She said coldly while unleashing a large-scale attack.

Unlike her previous attacks, this one covered a twenty meters radius around the Twelfth Prince.

'Damn it!' The Twelfth Prince cursed, not expecting his opponent to make use of this method just so she could strike him.

Being forced to defend, he created a tornado around himself, using it to fend off the fire coming his way. But doing that not only protected him but also gave his opponent a target to attack since he wasn't moving anymore.

Swoosh!

A large flaming sword sliced in the direction of the tornado, easily cutting through it from the top to the bottom, slicing apart the Twelfth Prince's protective cover.

The second the tornado was cut apart, the Twelfth Prince was revealed to the young lady who followed up the flaming sword with fire arrows heading straight at the Twelfth Prince.

'Why do I always get the troublesome opponents?' The Twelfth Prince complained while setting up a windshield to block the arrows coming his way.

Boom! Bam!

Multiple arrows struck the shield as well as the surrounding places where the shield didn't cover, causing a large area to be covered in smoke.

Of all the battles, the area where the Twelfth Prince's battle was going on was more glaring due to it losing more grasses. Although there were other Fire Elementalists in the two groups, none was as destructive as the young lady was.

The Twelfth Prince was currently caught in the middle of the smoke after managing to fend off the arrows coming his way. He covered himself with a wind sphere that slowly grew bigger and exploded sending airwaves in all directions thereby clearing the surrounding air of the smoke.

"Such a destructive element." The Twelfth Prince said looking at the once serene field that has been destroyed by the young lady's attack.

He had never liked fire, he didn't know why though. Even though it's among the strongest elements in terms of attack power, he still didn't like.

"I hate people who only evades. Fight properly!" The young lady yelled angrily with fire raging all around her.

"I'm a Wind Ele... Wait, why am I even bothering to explain to you?" The Twelfth Prince who was about to explain the reason for his fighting style paused and asked.

He truly wasn't obligated to explain the reason for the way he fights to her.

"Because you're afraid." The young lady laughed and continued her attack.

The Twelfth Prince quickly evaded the attack once again while also counter-attacking.

Chapter 150 - What Did He Do?!

While the battle was still ongoing, Grey appeared from the forest on the southern side of the field.

He quickly analyzed the situation to know what to do. It didn't take up to a second before he recognized the Twelfth Prince.

'Ah, to think it's them. If I leave the Apes with them and by chance any of them successfully escapes, then that's me creating an enemy I can't fight against.' He thought while looking at the Twelfth Prince.

He was short on time so he had to make a decision as soon as possible since the Apes were only a few seconds away from him. When he was getting close to this place, he managed to increase the distance between himself and the Apes, so he would be able to think properly when he saw the people who were battling.

Since he knew the Twelfth Prince, taking the Apes in their direction was out of the picture. But he didn't worry since he had already come up with a plan in case he knew any of those fighting.

"I got it!" He yelled attracting the attention of both groups who were still in a heated battle, while also making sure that the Apes who were following behind him would hear it from their location.

Hearing the yell, everyone fighting subconsciously turned around to look at who was speaking. Given the current situation of the battle, each group was hoping it was someone they were acquainted with.

Both groups immediately separated and came back to their groups. They didn't know if the person coming was a friend or a foe, so getting together with their team was the best decision.

'What are you doing?' Void asked Grey with a confused expression.

'When we get there, jump into the hands of that young lady.' Grey ordered.

'What?!' Void asked stunned.

'Just do it, or else you won't get a meal for a week.' Grey threatened, he didn't have much time so he couldn't tell Void what his plan was. But he knew Void would be able to figure it out soon.

'You don't have to take it that serious, of course I'll do it.' Having no other option, Void could only grudgingly accept. He didn't know what Grey was planning, but he could tell it was nothing good for the group he was targeting. Other than that, there was no way he would allow himself to miss a meal for a week.

Being with Grey these past two months, what he enjoyed more than attacking him when he was training was his cooking. He hadn't been in contact with many people, but he was almost certain there were only a few people who was as good as Grey when it came to cooking.

"Do you know him?" The young lady asked those in her group when she saw Grey coming towards them excitedly.

They all shook their heads signifying they didn't know who he was.

On the side of the Twelfth Prince's group, the Twelfth Prince was the first one to recognize Grey and couldn't help but feel that his behavior was slightly suspicious. Grey was from the Qilin empire, so he saw no reason why he was heading towards the people from the Azure empire with an excited expression.

'Could it be that he was originally from the Azure empire?' He asked himself still not understanding why Grey was heading in the direction of the group from the Azure empire.

Although he didn't have any close relations with Grey, he didn't dare to believe Grey was from the Azure empire, or else they would be dead if he joined the group from the Azure empire in this battle.

Just as he was about to step forward and question Grey, he saw Grey signaling him with his eyes to stay back. He was naturally smart and quickly told the others to keep their distance, although he wasn't friends with Grey, he decided to trust him once, it wasn't like he had any other choices anyway. Even though both groups had separated, it didn't mean the group from the Azure empire still couldn't attack them.

Everything happened within a couple of seconds and the others still haven't been able to comprehend what was going on, some of them even had confused faces while staring at the running Grey.

"Here!" Grey said throwing a stone in the direction of the tall youth, making sure the timing of the throw was perfect.

If the youth caught the stone too fast, then the Apes wouldn't see him catching it, while if it was too slow, then the Apes would easily figure out what he threw towards them was a stone and not their treasure.

The tall youth subconsciously caught the stone Grey threw his way.

The moment he caught the stone was the same time the Purple Horned Lightning Apes came out of the forest. The Apes didn't see what the tall youth caught, but judging from the direction his hands were facing when he caught it, they figured it was the human they were chasing who threw it towards him.

Being in the Origin Plane, they were naturally smarter than beasts in lower Planes. Only a freak like Void could be said to be smarter than they were.

The leading Purple Horned Ape roared angrily thinking that their treasure had been given to the tall youth and charged towards them.

While Grey on the other hand had hidden behind the tall youth and Void could be seen on the arms of the young lady who had a dazed expression looking at the strange black cat that suddenly jumped into her arms.

The roar brought everyone back to their senses.

The Twelfth Prince quickly retreated with his group when they saw the Apes coming.

'How the hell did he manage to run under the pressure of being chased by such beasts?'

This was the question running through the minds of everyone. They all knew that these Apes were one of the little Lightning attributes beasts, so they were naturally very fast, yet, Grey managed to run away from the angry looking Apes, not just that, but he still managed to create such a good distance between them.

None of them present here was confident in being able to repeat that feat.

'No wonder he went in their direction, he's trying to draw the beasts to them.' The Twelfth Prince finally figured out why Grey went towards the other group.

He wasn't trying to help the group from the Azure empire, rather, he came to deliver their doom to them!

"Oh my God! What did he do?!" Neil exclaimed subconsciously while shaking from fright.

He was already feeling Grey was someone extraordinary to be able to run while being chased by the Purple Horned Lightning Apes, even though they were five, he knew he couldn't escape from them. But never in his wildest dreams did he think the Purple Horned Lightning Apes weren't the only ones chasing him, instead, it was an entire horde of Apes.