

Affinity 1511

Chapter 1511 Actions Have Consequences

Reynolds didn't only keep the body of the Griffin in his storage ring, but he also ensured that he went back to the essence mine to recover his strength.

After a day or two, he was back to his original strength. And he could feel that he was closer to the Peak of the Venerable stage. At the rate at which things are going, he will be able to get to the Peak without having to involve himself in any other battle. This was what he wanted. Although fighting to achieve the Peak of the Venerable Plane was a great method, it was also very dangerous and could end his life if he wasn't careful. Since he had already gotten to this stage, there was no point in fighting again. He should be able to get to the Peak within the next week or so.

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Grey and Klaus didn't have any idea what Reynolds was going through at the moment, all they had in their heads was the scenarios they had to go through while following Kyle and also their plans for the Gnome world. Grey had been using his free time to spy on the Seventh Prince of the Gnome world.

Over the course of their journey, Kyle had finally gotten to the Seventh stage, eventually getting to the Late stage of the Venerable Plane. His next aim was the Peak of the Venerable Plane. For now, he didn't have any thoughts of the Sovereign Plane.

The Sovereign Plane looks accessible once one gets to the Peak of the Venerable Plane, but if one looks at it properly, it isn't so easy to attain. Only those who manage to get past the Peak of the Venerable Plane and the Pseudo-sovereign stage can eventually get to the Sovereign Plane.

Kyle was lucky to have friends like Grey and Klaus who wouldn't mind hanging out with them and even lending him a hand for him to achieve the next cultivation stage, but not everyone was this lucky and they had to depend on themselves like Grey and his friends did.

Grey and Klaus continued following Kyle as he tried to increase his cultivation stage. While he was doing that, Grey and Klaus were focused on how to get into the Gnome world without having to worry about any sort of issues. The Gnome world was different from the Aurora Continent so they naturally had to be prepared for going to the Gnome world.

Kyle soon took them to a large mountain range. At the center of the mountain range, there was a town situated there. This was the first time Grey and Klaus were coming to this place, but Kyle had been here on a few occasions and knew what it's like here.

After they entered the place, he took the lead and led them to an Inn.

Void appeared the second they arrived at the Inn, he looked straight to the back of the Inn.

'Good cooks. We're definitely eating here, getting their recipes if possible.' He transmitted to Grey.

Grey looked at the always hungry cat on his shoulder, unsure of what to say to him. Void rarely leaves the spatial storage these days, and only comes out when there's something good, either food or treasure.

When he's alone, Void is always out, but once there's company, he doesn't come out much.

Klaus saw Void and laughed, he knew the reason Void came out and he too wanted to try the food here. He could see a large amount of people eating with delightful expressions and could already guess the food was good.

He was about to take a seat when Kyle looked at him strangely, "We're not seating here. There's someone I came to see."

"Huh?" Klaus was taken aback.

Grey already guessed this wasn't the reason they came here, so hearing Kyle speak of meeting someone, he already expected something like this.

"You can go on your own, we'll eat while we wait for you." Klaus waved his hand, he didn't want to miss out on this meal.

"Actually, I'll need your presence there for my safety." Kyle said with an awkward smile.

"He isn't enough?" Klaus pointed at Grey.

"Stop complaining, let's go. We can always have a meal when we're done." Grey dragged Klaus with him.

Klaus and Void felt like this was the only chance they could get a meal here, once they go into the place, the chances of getting a meal would be greatly reduced.

The duo followed behind Kyle as they walked into a private booth in the Inn. This place was spacious and well decorated. When they entered the booth, someone could be seen sitting there.

Grey's expression changed slightly when he noticed that the person was actually in the Sovereign Plane, and not the first stage, but the Third stage. This person was strong, very strong. But he didn't show any signs of fear in his eyes, with Klaus and Void present, they could take this guy on.

The man looked at the trio who just entered the place, when he sensed the cultivation stage of Grey and Klaus, his eyes widened slightly, but they soon returned to their normal size. He didn't have any plans of having any sort of misunderstandings with Kyle since they only wanted to discuss business.

When they got there, Grey and Klaus sat behind Kyle without saying anything. Kyle went straight to the point. Apparently, the journey Kyle took them on was for him to gather the items this man needed.

The man promised a good exchange for them, and it was something that could greatly boost the odds of getting to the Sovereign Plane for an Elementalist.

The man handed the item to Kyle, and after confirming it, Kyle left the place. The man gave both Grey and Klaus a meaningful glance before chuckling and going back to his meal.

They soon left the place, and Grey and Klaus headed straight for an empty table.

"We shouldn't stay." Kyle said warily.

"Why?" Grey asked.

"That man isn't one of the good people to do business with. The reason I took on the task was because you two came and I know you'd help..." Kyle explained.

The man is known for swindling people, not just that, but he has a powerful union behind him and could do whatever he wants. Of course, there are certain people he could do that for, Grey and Klaus aren't one of such people.

Kyle's family isn't as strong as the Dawson Family, nor were they on the same level as the Moonlight Faction.

"Oh, I already guessed he'd try to take it back, but don't worry. We have this covered." Grey didn't mind and went on to make his order.

Klaus and Void did the same.

Kyle wasn't as relaxed as the duo and didn't bother to order any meal. He was better off not making any orders. The sooner they left this place, the better it was for them.

They were in the process of eating when the man came out of the private booth, he looked at them and nodded at Kyle before saying in a not so loud voice, but given the cultivation of everyone present, they heard him clearly.

"Keep the nexus tonic safe, you know how valuable it is."

The man's words drew the attention of everyone seated in the Inn, even some of the private booths were opened and people took a peak at the person who had the nexus tonic. This was a very precious and rare item to possess and it was sought after by a lot of people. The fact that someone has it here was a shock to many of them.

When everyone looked at the person who was said to have the nexus tonic, some of them couldn't help but lick their lips. Kyle is only in the Seventh stage of the Venerable Plane. Most of the people here were

only in the Venerable Plane, and only two bar the man who made the statement was in the Sovereign Plane. Even so, they were only in the First stage of the Sovereign Plane.

Grey didn't bother with the man's words, he gave him a cold look and continued to wait for his meal. He couldn't be bothered with the man's words for now. He could kill almost anyone that comes near them instantaneously in this Inn, so he had nothing to worry about.

The man was about to leave the Inn when he heard an unfamiliar voice echo in his head.

'There are consequences to each action.'

The man paused and took a long meaningful look at Grey's table, his eyes wandered between Klaus and Grey as he tried to figure out who sent out the threat.

After a while, he smirked and walked away. This wasn't the time to stay and find who was bold enough to threaten him.

Grey and his friends didn't make any moves, sitting in the same position as their food was ready.

Chapter 1512 Delicious Meal

Grey and Klaus were eating in a carefree manner, they didn't show any signs that they were currently being watched by the entire Inn. They didn't care about that and focused on their meal while making jokes.

Void was eating enthusiastically, the food here was amazing!

'We're definitely going to take their recipes, especially after they tried to poison our food.' Void said to Grey.

'Recipe? Heh! When I'm done, their recipes will be the last thing they worry about.' Grey replied.

Yes, the food was delicious, but these people actually put something in their food. The item was supposed to weaken them, but given Grey and Void's sharp senses, it's very easy for them to sense these weak levels of poison. Even the miasma couldn't affect them much, much less whatever these people placed in the food.

Klaus was also aware of this and he wanted to react but then he saw Grey shake his head. He chuckled and let the matter rest.

From what he knew about Grey, they were definitely going to get their revenge on these people. Grey isn't one to let people harm him without retaliating.

They enjoyed their meal under the eyes of everyone, joking in the process. They soon asked for a tavern where they could pass the night.

Unsurprisingly, there was one attached to this place. Grey and Klaus already knew this, they just wanted to let these guys know they wanted to spend the night at their tavern.

The person who attended to them was ecstatic when he heard this and ushered them to one of their best rooms.

Grey and his friends slept in different rooms. Kyle was scared, he wasn't as powerful as both Grey and Klaus, and he was also the one in possession of the item that was coveted by everyone. Seeing this, Grey told Void to watch him over.

Kyle was still skeptical, but after hearing that Void was the strongest amongst the group, he relaxed his tense muscles.

Grey and Klaus ordered for more food, a different dish compared to what they ate the first time. Void wasn't left out as he did the same.

In the end, the trio ate almost everything this place had to offer. Since they were staying in the tavern, Klaus was able to actually convince these people not to rush them for payment since they were staying there and there was no way to leave the place without the people knowing.

The owners of the place thought the group were afraid to leave this place due to drawing so much attention, so he willingly agreed to let them stay here without paying first. Besides, when they were dead, he could take away all their possessions.

They didn't know their poisons had zero effect on the trio. Void was able to separate the poison from his body without anyone noticing. Grey directly consumed the poison, using his miasma to corrode it. It didn't even stand a chance and the second it made contact with the miasma, it was destroyed.

Klaus used his ice ability to turn each part of the poison into snowflakes, kept in his body.

All three of them left the poison in their bodies and it didn't cause any harm to them. They didn't even know what the poison worked for.

As Klaus was about to go to sleep, he released the snowflakes around his room. He didn't put them in one place, rather, he scattered them across the place so it would be undetectable by anyone. He wanted these people to breathe it in when they sneak into his room later on.

Now, the poison isn't the same as before, once these people inhale it, he would be aware of it and act accordingly.

Time passed and deep into the night, the people from the Inn entered their rooms.

Grey couldn't help but give it to them, these people were very efficient. They even went as far as sending two Peak Venerables. From what Grey could sense from the place, their strongest expert was a First stage Sovereign, and he wasn't able to sense the cultivation stages of both Grey and Klaus. Void was like a normal cat and didn't draw any attention.

Two Peak Venerables for some youths in the Venerable Plane wasn't a bad thing, the only thing was that they got it wrong. Grey and Klaus were not in the Venerable Plane.

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Klaus' room.

Klaus was sleeping when he noticed the people sneaking in. They inhaled the snowflakes as soon as they got into the room.

Klaus went on to control the ones scattered across the room to where the duo were and made sure they inhaled it all.

The duo were just about to strike when Klaus asked.

"What took you guys so long?"

He sat down on the bed as he looked at the two masked men. Both guys wore black clothings and covered their faces.

"Wait, aren't you the guy that served us? Wow, such a big shot." Klaus pointed at one of them.

That was the person that served them. The person who took their order was different from who served them. They knew it had something to do with the discovery of the nexus tonic but didn't think too much about it.

"How do you know it's me?" The man was taken aback.

"Haha, what do you take me for?" Klaus laughed and stood up, "I must say, this place's cooking is impeccable. Other than my friend and his mother, I think you guys have given me the second best meal of my life."

The duo didn't understand what was happening, Klaus was talking to them like they weren't about to kill him. What was worse was that they didn't attack. It wasn't that they didn't want to attack, but for some reason they found it impossible to move.

They soon looked down and noticed their bodies had been frozen.

"How?" One of them asked.

"Simple, I'm a Sovereign, do you think you could notice it when I attacked? Besides, thanks to my friend, I know which nerve to freeze and make you not feel anything." Klaus took a seat, crossing his leg as he looked at the duo while taking a sip of the tea left there.

Chapter 1513 Let's Pay Him A Visit

In Grey's room, the scene was different, he didn't speak much like Klaus, rather, after making them unable to move, he directly forced them to confess who sent them and what their plans were.

These people naturally didn't have any choice, and they tried to alert others, but against Grey, a Sovereign, there was no way their words could leave this place. He shut this place from the world and only someone like Void, or those in the Third stage and above could know what is happening here.

The duo spoke all they knew after finding out there's no way to escape. Even committing suicide was out of their control. Grey placed them in his control, and other than their ability to talk, they couldn't summon any strength to do anything.

"Where's your leader now?" He asked one of them.

The man refused to reply, and saw that one of his fingers was cut off. Not just that, after playing with the human body due to his research on necromancy, he knew a few nerves that would increase the pain the man was going through. The man screamed at the top of his lungs, unable to contain the pain he was going through.

Grey felt like he didn't do anything and looked at the other man who spilled everything and where the leader was hiding. He even told him about the arrays placed in the place.

"You see." Grey said to the man he cut off his finger as he killed the other one swiftly.

"He doesn't need to go through any pain, a simple death, you on the other hand, my friend, will regret ever being alive." Grey tapped the man on his shoulder and the man screamed in pain.

If the man was told a simple tap on his shoulder could bring such pains, he would never believe it, but Grey seemed to have cracked the human body and knew all the places to touch to make one hate their lives. This man started crying like a little child, but he didn't care about his dignity, he was going through pains he never believed one could ever go through. No one should be put through such pains.

Looking at Grey's delicate face, he didn't see any innocence in it, rather, all he saw was the devil himself. This young man was more devilish than Magical Beasts.

"You will die a painful death!" He screamed while still in tears.

"You won't be alive to witness it, that I'm sure of. But don't worry, you're not going to die now. I want to make sure you feel this pain for a week or so. That should teach you not to mess with people again. Oh wait..." Grey soon recalled the man would die in the end. He shrugged and took a seat as he watched the pain vibrating violently from pain. He didn't show any change in his expression, it was as if this was something normal.

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On Void's end.

He straight up killed the two guys before they could even make any moves. The moment they stepped into the room, they were killed without any idea how they died.

Kyle saw this and he felt his heart tremble. A Peak Venerable, someone that would make short work of him was killed without even being able to put up a fight.

'This is the gap between Sovereigns and Venerables.'

This was the only thing in his head. A Venerable might be powerful, but that was to people who were weaker, against a First stage Sovereign, a Venerable was nothing more than an ant. After witnessing this, he grew a greater conviction to get to the Sovereign Plane as soon as he could. Only those in the Sovereign Plane can be regarded as top experts, and these are the people who can control their destinies. Anyone below the Sovereign Plane is nothing more than an ant.

After Void killed his opponent, Grey appeared in the room and nodded. He looked at Kyle and said, "Let's go, we have to pay someone a visit."

They went on to Klaus' room and saw both men frozen, yet clearly in pains. They were bleeding from their eyes, nose, ears, and mouth. Klaus was seated on the side.

"Done?" He asked them when they entered the room.

"Naturally." Grey replied.

"Why did you keep that guy alive?" Klaus raised a brow.

"He was proving to be stubborn. I tweaked a few things in his body, he should already hate his life by now." Grey replied casually.

When Kyle heard Grey's words, he couldn't help but thank the stars that he was Grey's friend and not one of his enemies. The fact that Grey could so casually talk about tweaking someone's body, making them hate their lives, meant that whatever the person was going through might be inhumane. In truth, the pain the man was facing at the moment was indeed inhumane.

"You got the information you need?" Klaus asked.

"Yeah, let's pay the owner a visit. He should have some good treasures." Grey grinned.

"Don't forget the recipes." Void chimed in.

"Yes bud, you should have that as part of our menu." Klaus was in support of this.

"Do I look like a chef to you two?"

"Well... you very much act the part. And you're a good one. It's not like you're a bad one." Klaus replied while scratching the back of his head.

Grey's eyes twitched, but he didn't say anything. Klaus and Void were free to think whatever they wanted.

The group left the tavern silently and headed for the owner's residence. He was staying close to the tavern and locating it wasn't difficult. Grey sensed the arrays that he was warned about and scoffed. They weren't even enough to make him worried.

He quickly tweaked it and they entered the place without any worries. After getting in, they were all dressed in black and headed to the place the owner was waiting for them.

Chapter 1514 My Friend Is A Little Uncultured

The trio silently entered the place. Grey and Klaus exchanged glances and signaled for Kyle to wait outside as the duo knocked on the door leading to the room.

They made their cultivation stage give off the aura of a Peak Venerable, so the man sensed them when they entered the building. Grey only tweaked with the array to make it convenient for them to take whatever they wanted without the man having any chances of escaping.

"Come in."

A stoic voice came from behind the door.

Grey and Klaus pushed the door open and walked in.

They bowed as a form of greeting.

"Well, did you get it?" The voice asked coldly, not interested in all these pleasantries.

Grey and Klaus lifted their heads and took a glance at the room. It wasn't big, around twenty-five square meters, and only a table and chair could be seen there. There was a large shelf on the side that Grey sensed an array around. He smirked when he noticed this.

'There's definitely something there.' He thought as he nodded to Klaus.

Klaus took the lead and actually brought out the item the man wanted.

When the man saw it, his eyes lit up and he leaned forward, moving away from the shadows. As Klaus moved closer, the moonlight reflected on the face of the man, and he didn't expect to see a chubby face, with a large beard and a monocle on his right eye.

The man had brown hair and snatched the item from Klaus' hands. The speed of the man was a complete contrast to the fat on his body.

"If..."

The man snorted as Klaus was about to speak, as if he didn't want to hear anything from him. Klaus, seeing this, stretched his hand toward the tonic, the man tried to retract his hand to keep the tonic away from Klaus, but Klaus was faster as he grabbed the tonic from the man's hand.

The man was about to speak, but Klaus let out a deep breath and ice spread across the place. The man didn't even have the chance to react before he was frozen to his seat.

His body jiggled and he tried to forcibly break free from the ice.

"That's not something you can achieve in a short time." Klaus commented and looked outside the window, it was as if he was relishing the feeling he was getting as he stood under the moonlight.

It was a full moon, and being a Water Elementalist, he was at his strongest state.

"Come on bud, you don't have to treat him like this, he's the owner of that Inn. Who's going to pay the chefs if he's dead?" Grey walked over calmly.

He used the wind element to open the door, a sign that Kyle could come in. The reason they left Kyle outside was to ensure they had gotten the man under control first. It would be dangerous if a First stage Sovereign Plane Elementalist attacks Kyle, who was still a Seventh stage Venerable.

"You... who are you people?" The chubby man asked.

"I'm surprised you don't know the people you tried to get killed today. Or could it be that you sent more people out?" Klaus asked thoughtfully.

The eyes of the chubby man widened, "The three boys?" He asked skeptically.

"Who else?" Klaus smacked the back of the chubby man's head, and his face jiggled.

"Show some respect." Grey said as he looked at the man apologetically, "Don't be offended, my friend is a little uncultured."

"Since we came to see you, I'll go straight to the point." He continued, "We're here to kill you. However, we want to see if you can buy back your life."

The chubby man had been trying to escape from the ice while all this was happening, but he had failed in all his attempts. The ice Klaus used was made from the heavy water. He doesn't use it often due to how tasking it is to use it.

The chubby man looked at the trio and his heart sank, "You are Sovereigns?"

"Maybe, maybe not. Depends on what you want us to be." Grey said, "If you can afford it, we're not Sovereigns, if you can't, we just might be."

The man understood the meaning behind Grey's words, pay us and we will let you live. This was common in the world and the chubby man had done this to a few people, so he calmed down when he heard this. From his short encounter with Grey, he didn't see him as someone who would go back on his words, he was direct. People like this rarely go back on their words.

He didn't have the same feeling for Klaus, from Klaus' eyes and the way he treats him, he could tell the only reason he wasn't dead right now was Grey's presence.

The chubby man knew what he was capable of doing, and fighting against Klaus was not one of them. Just the fact that he was kept frozen with so much ease already proved the point that the gap between them was massive. If Klaus wanted him dead, he wouldn't even know how he died given the distance between the duo a few moments ago.

"I have some things, I can take you where I kept them." The chubby man spoke up after a while. From his voice, they could see that it wasn't an easy decision for him.

"Oh, how nice. We don't have to waste too much time." Grey clasped his hand and said, "Lead the way."

Klaus looked at Grey who nodded to him. He removed the ice keeping the man in place.

The man didn't attempt to escape, rather, he walked towards the door.

Grey was standing close to Kyle, so if the man wanted to make any funny moves, he would stop him immediately.

He squinted his eyes as the chubby man walked out of the office. The place he was expecting the man to take them was through this shelf that was stuck to the wall, but from the looks of it, the man didn't have any plans of taking them there.

Chapter 1515 What's Behind That Place?

Klaus was the one behind the man, Grey and Kyle followed from the back.

Grey didn't show any signs of him knowing about the passage that was in the man's office, he just followed him. Some people usually have these sorts of places where they keep their treasures, others use it for other things.

They didn't walk far, in the compound, they were taken to what looked like a grave, and the chubby man made some seals and an opening was revealed. Grey didn't notice this at the start and couldn't help but give the man a deep glance.

One of the reasons he didn't have the thought of immediately killing the man was simple, this was a Sovereign Plane Elementalist, such a powerhouse would definitely possess some amazing items with him, even if they are not all valuable, he should have one that might be of use to Kyle or some of the people Grey had under him.

They followed the man into the place and if not for their masks, they wouldn't have been able to hide their impressed expressions.

Most of the items here were very valuable, even a Peak Venerable wouldn't think twice if offered some of the items here.

"Looks like this trip is an eventful one for you." Grey took a glance at Kyle.

There were treasures here that would bolster his cultivation speed greatly. Of course, using too many treasures would affect his strength, but if he can use just one or two top quality items, it wouldn't affect him. And this man had a few of such treasures.

Kyle laughed in delight and without hesitation, he started to keep them in his storage ring. With these as well as the tonic, his journey to the Sovereign Plane was getting shorter and shorter. He didn't take everything and only took the ones he needed.

Grey and Klaus didn't show any reservations as they wiped the entire place clean. The chubby man felt his heart shatter as the treasures he toiled hard for were taken. Some of them were stolen, but they were still his. He worked so hard, yet all were gone.

He was even waiting to hand some over to his children, but alas, there's no chance of that happening now.

"You've taken everything, can you leave now?" He asked in a cold voice, his head dropped. This was an embarrassing moment for him.

"Do you think all these are what your life's worth?" Klaus asked mockingly, "I never knew a Sovereign's life cost so little. I would've killed you from the start."

"You've taken everything, what more do you want?" The man felt dejected.

"Your storage ring."

"What?"

"Hand it over, I'm not in a good mood."

The man took it off and passed it over to Klaus.

"Good, now, let's head back to your office." Grey said, his eyes turned into a slit as he said, "We still have much to discuss."

The man felt his heart sink, but he had no other choice. He was not on the same level as either Klaus or Grey. From how the duo were acting, he could tell that Grey was the leader of the group. That meant Grey is stronger than Klaus.

He took them back to the office and took a seat once again.

"What do you still want?" He asked.

Grey thought about something and walked over to the man, the man showed some signs of wanting to fight back, but Grey acted like he didn't see the man and grabbed his hand.

An unknown energy shot into the man's body, and before he could react, he noticed he lost control on some parts of his body. He couldn't help but take a look at Grey. Being able to do something like this so skillfully meant that it wasn't his first time.

A Sovereign being powerless against Grey was a shocking sight to Kyle.

"What's behind that place?" Grey used his head to motion at the shelf.

The man looked in the direction Grey was asking and his expression changed drastically for the first time, but he hurriedly hid the change and asked with a clear and calm voice.

"Behind what?"

"Don't play dumb with me, I already know there's something there. In truth, I thought it was your treasure trove, but from the looks of it, it isn't." Grey spoke slowly and chuckled, "You see, I'm a very curious person."

With that, he tapped on the wrist of the man, and a bone-

chilling pain made the man jolt, screaming in pain.

When Klaus and Kyle saw this, they felt a chill run down their spines. They knew the reason the man had such a reaction was due to what Grey did beforehand.

Kyle couldn't help but wonder what Grey could do to a Sovereign that would make him scream with so much pain.

Grey walked to the shelf and tried to inspect the array. His eyes showed confusion, he didn't know the array, it felt a little familiar, but it was obvious he hadn't gotten too many encounters with it.

'Is it from the old times?' He wondered and started to inspect it. The more he studied it, the more confused he became.

"What's up?" Klaus noticed Grey's frequent change in expression and knew he was stuck on something that was proving difficult.

"There's an array here, I can't crack it." Grey replied with his hand placed on his chin.

Klaus was taken aback when he heard this. He had always known Grey to be a genius when it came to arrays. Even arrays he didn't have any experience on, he usually eventually finds ways to break them down, but Grey was showing an expression he only displays whenever he can't solve a problem.

"Open it." Klaus said to the man.

"I don't know what you're talking about." The man didn't have any plans of agreeing to Grey's allegations of something being behind the shelf.

While Klaus was about to attack the man, Grey's eyes widened.

"Impossible! It can't be."

Chapter 1516 What's Behind That Place? (II)

"What's behind that door?" Grey asked with a cold expression, killing intent oozing out of his body. It was as if he would kill the chubby man the second he didn't give him the reply he wanted.

The chubby man looked at Grey's expression and fear crept in. At first, he didn't think Grey would want to kill him, but the way Grey was acting, it was clear that he would kill him if he didn't get the answer he wanted.

"I don't know what..."

The chubby man didn't complete his statement when he felt an intense pain coming from his left hand, he looked down and realized all his fingers had been cut off. The pain he felt was greater than what he would usually feel if his entire arm was cut off, much less when only his fingers were cut off.

"I'm not in the mood for games, tell me what I want to know and leave." Grey's eyes were cold.

Klaus had only seen this expression on Grey's face whenever he wanted to kill someone. Whenever this expression showed up, he always usually kills those involved in its appearance. Since this guy is the reason behind his current expression, he could already confirm that the chubby man would be killed in a short time, especially if he didn't tell Grey what he wanted to know.

With his fingers cut off, the chubby man screamed in pain. With the volume of his screams, one could tell how much pain he was in. The fact that only his fingers being cut off caused this much pain was a surprise. But when the duo thought about how the man reacted when Grey tapped him, they realized it was all Grey's doing.

'It must be a nerve in the body.' Klaus thought to himself.

Grey had told him about a few nerves in the body, especially the one that has to do with feeling pains. That was all he kept in his head, hence he uses it often. He knows how to freeze the nerve that allows one to feel pain, but he didn't know how to amplify it. Grey on the other hand knew how to amplify it which means all those he decides to torture would all prefer death over living.

"What's behind that shelf?" Grey asked once again, his gaze getting colder and colder.

"I don't know what you're talking about." The chubby man said.

"Looks like you're more afraid of that getting out than me." Grey commented, his gaze was dead cold as he added, "You just made the greatest mistake of your life."

The chubby man gulped when he heard this, and steeled his mind for what was to come, but to his surprise, he didn't feel any sort of pain, rather, Grey walked up to him and placed his hand on his head, what he heard next devastated him.

"I'll place you under my control and make you wipe off your entire family. You'll kill each person so slowly that they'll scream your name as they die."

Grey's voice echoed in his head, and that was not all.

"You'll have complete control of your memory and know what you did. You will kill your children, brothers, sisters, and wife with your hands. If your parents are still alive, they're not excluded."

When both Klaus and Kyle heard Grey's words, even they couldn't help but take a glance at Grey. They've never seen this side of him.

Klaus knew Grey was ruthless, and so did Kyle, but they didn't think he was this ruthless. The fact that he could make one go through all this to achieve what he wanted was beyond what they thought he could do.

The man didn't believe his words, but that all changed when he saw himself cutting off his other fingers under Grey's control. He already knew how painful it was, so he naturally wouldn't do something like that, but under his gaze, he cut off his fingers.

"What did you do to me?" The chubby man asked.

"You're under my control, other than what you say and think, I'm in control of everything else." Grey whispered to the man and asked, "Believe me now?"

Only a fool wouldn't believe Grey now. The man just experienced it first hand, if he had any reservations before, now he knew Grey wasn't threatening him. There is a difference when you think someone is bluffing and when you know they aren't.

"I'll talk." The chubby man said. He didn't want to go through any more pain.

Disclosing what is behind the shelf would mean his death, but not disclosing it would not only mean his death, but immense suffering before death. There was a difference. Most people wanted to die a simple death, and he was among those people. Dying after being tortured wasn't one of the ways he planned to die.

"Good."

Grey smirked.

The reason he placed the man under his control was for the man to know that he was capable of doing what he said. After experiencing this, the man naturally spoke up.

"What's behind that shelf?"

"A portal." The chubby man replied.

Grey and Klaus exchanged glances, not sure of what portal laid behind this place. But whatever it is, they didn't mind going through it and exploring the place. There's a good chance they could get a good amount of treasures inside.

"Where does the portal lead?" Klaus asked excitedly.

"I'll show you." The chubby man stood up and walked to the shelf.

After making some hand seals that Grey kept in mind, the shelf moved and a pathway opened up.

He knew the portal wasn't directly behind the shelf, so he wasn't surprised.

The group followed behind the chubby man as they walked through the pathway. Before long, they soon got to a spacious cave, and the portal was right before their eyes.

"Before we go, is it dangerous?" Klaus asked.

"A portal safeguarded by a Sovereign will naturally be dangerous, but so does it have opportunities." The chubby man replied.

He was about to step in when Grey stopped him, he looked at Klaus and said, "I'll leave him under your care."

After saying that, Grey took a step into the portal.

Grey's vision blurred, and when he got to the other side, he had a shocked expression.

"Impossible!"

Chapter 1517 Alice's Journey To The Peak

On another part of the Continent.

While Grey and Klaus were with Kyle, and while Reynolds was trying to get to the Peak of the Venerable Plane, Alice was also trying to do the same.

Like Reynolds, she had gotten to the Ninth stage of the Venerable Plane, but there was no way for her to improve in seclusion. She has to come out if she wants to break through.

Unlike Reynolds, she didn't need to come out, her Faction has a secret realm she could enter and break through to the Peak. If she's lucky, she might leave that place on the verge of getting to the Sovereign Plane. A month was all she needed to spend in that place, but since she's in the Ninth stage, she wouldn't need more than a week or two to get to the Peak of the Venerable Plane. After getting to the Peak, she might try to see if she could get close to breaking through while there.

She stepped out of seclusion, and since she had garnered enough merit, she used it to get into the place. Unlike Grey and Klaus who were the main talents in their respective Factions, Alice and Reynolds were different. Yes, their cultivation speed is faster than others, but it still didn't give them the number spot in their Factions. The reason was simple, their Faction Leader's children were in the same Faction, and were on the same stage as them.

This meant that the Faction Leader's child was always favored compared to them. They were always right after the Faction Leader's children which made getting the best treatment impossible.

Alice used her merits and stepped into the secret realm.

"Grey and Klaus are already in the Sovereign Plane, Reynolds should be close as well. I can't fall behind." She muttered as she entered the place.

She heard of Klaus' breakthrough, and there was no need to ask about Grey's breakthrough, every living being in the world saw it. Only those close to him knew that it was him. From the first glance, just like Klaus, she knew it was Grey. Other than Cori, Grey's friends were the only ones who recognized him. Cori recognized him from the first attempt while Grey's friends needed the second time to confirm it.

When she stepped into the secret realm, her objective was simple: get to the Peak of the Venerable Plane. And like Reynolds, she had the same plan in mind. Fighting someone at the Peak to forcefully improve her cultivation stage.

Reynolds had the benefit of possibly facing someone above the Peak, but Alice didn't need to worry about that. In this secret realm, she would only face those at the Peak of the Venerable Plane, at most. There were opponents in the Ninth stage of the Venerable Plane, while there were some in the Sage Plane and lower. She had to challenge those at the peak of the world, and that was what she did.

The moment she entered the place, she went to the strongest person in this secret realm who was already at the Peak and challenged him.

This was an individual that was already close to being a Pseudo-sovereign, yet, she went on to challenge him.

Being someone who isn't used to having his authority challenged, the man didn't hold back during the battle.

Alice was forced to run away for her life during the first battle. Unlike Reynolds, her Seelie wouldn't make her equivalent to a Pseudo-sovereign, or close to that stage. Even though in terms of talent, she was better, this man had the higher experience and cultivation stage and used it to his advantage. Alice couldn't even get a single advantage over him.

The first battle didn't last up to ten minutes, but Alice was seriously wounded.

....

In a cave.

'Looks like I overestimated my ability. Grey and Reynolds might be able to achieve something like this in the Ninth stage, but I'm not.' She thought as she evaluated the battle.

With no other choice, she went for a Ninth stage Venerable. In the space of a week, Ninth stage Venerables were no match for her.

She was already in the Ninth stage, all she needed was to get used to her new strength. After a few days, she didn't only get used to it, but she was able to use an even greater strength when attacking.

Since she was still in the secret realm, she went to challenge the man once again.

This man was someone no one from the present generation of talents has been able to defeat in the Faction. Of course, she knew her friends would make short work of him, but she wanted to be on the same page as her friends, so she wanted to defeat him easily as well.

Since she was already close to the Peak in terms of strength and had defeated a few people in the secret realm with that strength, this was what she had in mind. Defeat this man and get to the Peak, there was no other way.

The man didn't know about Alice's progress, neither did he care. Seeing Alice again, he felt disgusted.

"I don't like beating girls twice." He said calmly.

He already knew the situation of his world, so whenever he was faced with geniuses from the Aurora Continent, he held deep hatred towards them for some reason. He's the only one who could beat any of them sent here, so the pressure on him was very strong.

"Don't worry, you won't be able to achieve that, in my case." Alice replied.

She knew what the man meant, but didn't back away. One thing about their relationship with the inhabitants of this secret world is that they try not to kill each other in battles involving Sovereigns, especially those in the Late stages.

Those from Alice's Faction refrain from killing them, and so do the inhabitants of this world.

Alice was a little worried, but she knew her life was safe.

Chapter 1518 Playtime Is Over

Alice looked at the man with seriousness in her eyes. She knew unlike the last time, she didn't have any plans of retreating this time, no matter what happens, she wants to see this battle through.

Killing this man was not something that was acceptable, but in battles like these, nothing could be guaranteed, even Alice's life couldn't be guaranteed. There has been a few people the man from this secret realm had killed, but the Faction couldn't pursue it for any of them since these were people who refused to retreat even when they could see that they were heavily overwhelmed.

This man gives everyone chances to retreat whenever they are fighting. Whoever fails to take the first opportunity would be killed regardless of their status, this was the deal he had with the Faction Leader and would naturally abide by it.

Alice not wanting to retreat means that she didn't care about her life or was confident in her abilities. This would be revealed after they engaged in a battle.

The man didn't speak any further with Alice and attacked the moment he realized she wasn't going to retreat.

He was a Dual Elementalist like Alice and had both the water and earth elements. Alice had the fire, lightning, and ice elements which somewhat gave her three elements. But with the elements possessed by the man, her elements were almost useless.

Lightning and fire against a Water and Earth Elementalist was already at a disadvantage. When the Elementalist has the higher cultivation stage and even higher attack power, it meant that there was almost no chance in getting the better of them.

The man's attack was fierce and was accompanied with an insane killing intent.

Alice merged with her Seelie from the start to the battle, entering her peak state. She didn't want to give this man the chance to have the victory once again. Since she has come back, she was going to walk out of here as the victor, well, that's the plan.

Alice was quick, using the aid of the lightning element to dodge the man's attack. After doing so, she countered with the fire element, creating a series of fire arrows that shot at the man.

The man created an earth wall to block the arrows. The arrows collided with the wall and caused cracks on it, but the wall stood firm.

The man looked at the wall and chuckled, "I see why you're confident, little girl. You got stronger."

"Hehe, unfortunately, that's still not going to be enough for you to defeat me."

They were both standing in a plain with no hills or trees in sight.

The man attacked once again, using the water element to create a whip that he sent Alice's way.

Alice used the ice ability of the Seelie to freeze the whip before it got close to him. The whip, which was frozen, broke free after only a second or so, before striking the spot Alice was standing on.

Alice retreated, dodging the whip by a hair's breadth. The ground caved in when the whip struck it. Had this attack come in contact with Alice, she would have been in a world of discomfort.

The man chuckled when he saw Alice successfully dodging the attack, he licked his lips and said, "Come on, where are you going?"

He swung the whip once again, and like an arrow, it shot through the air, aiming for Alice's head. The tip of the whip became frozen solid as it was extremely sharp. If this thing touches Alice, she would be seriously wounded.

With no other choice, Alice used her lightning element to attack the whip, trying to deflect it.

The whip moved at breakneck speed, before Alice could react properly, the whip was already in front of her. With no choice, she tilted her head to the side, and the tip of the whip scratched her cheek, causing a slight gash on her face as blood dripped from it.

She felt a stinging pain, but she didn't let it affect her, she hurriedly moved to the side as an earth spike shot out from the ground where she was previously standing.

As she dodged the spike, a palm made from ice clamped down, striking her against the ground.

Buzz! Bang!

A lightning bolt fell from the sky and struck the palm, destroying it and revealing Alice who was already looking battered. Her eyes didn't change from how they were when she first came, they remained unyielding as she looked at the man. There was no retreat for her, at least not yet.

She charged at the man, using her fire and lightning element to attack. Her fire and ice domain appeared as she used it to create what looked like a projection of a sword that she struck out as she also attacked with her elements.

The man braced himself for the incoming attacks, with both his earth and water elements, he created a double layered defensive dome. The earth on the outer part, while the ice was on the inner part.

The sword and Alice's other attack struck simultaneously, and the man felt the dome shake. It sank into the ground, to show the pressure it was currently under.

To the man's amazement, the first layer of his defensive wall made a loud cracking sound, and what followed was a popping sound. The earth layer had been shattered, and only his ice dome was left. Cracks soon started to form on the ice dome as well.

Seeing the state of things, the man created a large earth spear that he used to strike Alice's ice and fire domain sword.

When the two attacks collided, they gave out an ear piercing sound, and the earth spear cracked.

The man's expression changed slightly when he realized for the first time since they crossed paths, Alice had the advantage over him in terms of attack power.

He snorted coldly and spread out his arms, "Playtime is over."

Chapter 1519 A Mistake

A brownish glow surrounded the man. At the same time this appeared, the ice dome shattered, and the sword came crashing down on the man.

The man clasped his outstretched hands and a large earth hand sprouted out from the ground, and clasped the sword, keeping it in one place. The sword didn't move another inch.

The sword was stopped a few inches away from the man's head. If he didn't act quickly, he would've been killed by this attack. This wasn't something his body could take and survive.

The man looked at Alice and smiled, the next thing that happened was the appearance of a figure that looked like a summon. An earth golem climbed out of the ground, while still keeping a hold of the sword.

Alice's expression showed shock, she murmured to herself, "A summoner."

Even though the man was not on the same level as Reynolds when it came to the power of his summon, it still doesn't change the fact that he was a summoner. Given his strength, the golem would have the same strength or even higher power than the man.

Alice was already finding it difficult to fight on equal footing with the man, if this golem was added to the mix, her situation would rapidly deteriorate.

'Am I going to retreat again?'

She genuinely started to have thoughts of retreating. Yes, she wanted to fight this man, and win, but not at the cost of her life. She came here with the conviction of defeating the man no matter what happens, but now, she wasn't too sure that would be possible. A summoner of the man's level was just a freakish entity.

The man saw the change in Alice's eyes and laughed, "You thought I was going all out then?"

Alice didn't respond to his words, she gritted her teeth and came to a decision, she would attempt to fight the man, and only when she knows there's no hope of defeating him will she resort to escaping. Given all she had on her, she was confident in leaving this place with her life.

Of course, this was only if she finds out there's no way for her to defeat the man. If there's even the slightest sign of her being able to achieve this, she will try to make it happen.

She made the first move, using her speed to her advantage. The golem might be strong, but due to being made from rocks and its size, it was very slow. Since that's the case, Alice wanted to use her superior agility to take it down.

The sword that was still in the hands of the golem dissipated and reappeared behind Alice. It changed shapes and turned into a spear.

The spear struck towards the man, and the golem naturally stepped forward to block the attack, but something unexpected happened. The spear, like a rope, twisted and evaded the golem's stretched hand and headed for the man.

The man didn't expect something like this to happen, so when the attack came his way, he was taken aback. But reacted quickly, using his ice ability to block the spear. The ice wall was only able to block the spear for a second, but that was all the man needed.

The golem turned around and grabbed the back of the spear, but it once again dissipated, appearing close to Alice who was standing close to the man. She attacked with her lightning element.

The lightning bolt was blocked by the man.

Alice's eyes showed excitement, from the looks of things, summoning the golem actually put the man at a disadvantage. The man would have to minimize his essence consumption due to having to transfer a large amount into the body of the golem to keep it active. This meant that he wouldn't be heavily involved in the battle.

Reynolds was a special case in battles like these since he could fight with the Elemental Warrior fully active. It seems in his case, his Elemental Warrior doesn't expend too much of his essence energy.

Alice didn't have any time to think about Reynolds and his Elemental Warrior, and opportunity just presented itself before her, and she wanted to make full use of it. Since the man brought out the golem, the tide of the battle had switched.

The man noticed this, but he didn't take back his summon, rather, he squinted his eyes and joined in on the attacks as well. Since this was the case, there was no point in not attacking.

Alice was forced to retreat some distance away due to the man's involvement in the attacks now. She couldn't get too close, hence if she were delayed by the man, a single strike from the golem is all it would take for her to lose her ability to fight back.

"You're proving to be stronger than you look." The man's expression was serious now.

Alice was panting from the continuous dodgings, but she was still in peak condition for a prolonged battle. She soon caught her breath and stood still to look at the man and his golem.

The golem stood in close proximity to the man, making it impossible for any of Alice's attacks to touch the man. The golem could not only attack, but its defensive capabilities were far more superior to the man's own. This was one of the reasons the man brought it out in the first place.

The man looked at Alice and took the initiative this time, he struck out. The golem held a large hammer that it used to attack as well.

Alice dodged all attacks coming her way, especially the ones from the golem. But she soon realized something, her movements were slowing down. She wasn't as fast as she usually was.

'What's happening?' She panicked internally.

She soon recalled an ability Grey possessed, and it had to do with his earth element.

'Don't tell me he can do it too.' She felt her heart sink.

Chapter 1520 Alice's Opportunity

Alice's heart sank when she finally confirmed what was happening. It was just as she suspected, the man could manipulate the gravity around her. She didn't sense it early, and only now that it had greatly impeded her speed did she realize it.

The man knew Alice was slower than she used to be, and he capitalized on it. Now, the golem could almost catch up to Alice, as long as he provided the opportunity, then the golem would be able to kill Alice with one attack.

Alice felt panic, but she didn't act on it. She knew any mistake and she would've placed herself in a position of no way out. With that in mind, she sent out her Seelie, opting to go for a two sided attack. Her attack power would reduce significantly, but it doesn't matter in the grand scheme of things, all she needed was the opportunity to leave this area. Her speed was her greatest asset in this battle, she didn't want to give it up.

When the man saw the Seelie come out and attack, he was taken aback. Seelie were very rare creatures, and even in his world, Seelies were nothing more than a myth. Seeing one with his eyes was shocking.

He had read about Seelies and had seen drawings of them, so he knew from first glance that it was a Seelie. Without hesitation, he discarded Alice and focused all his attention on the Seelie, he wanted it. Greed crept into his mind and he didn't care about the battle anymore.

If he didn't see the Seelie, he wouldn't mind letting Alice go, but now that he had the opportunity to obtain a Seelie and obtain its miraculous effects, he didn't want that chance to go, not for anything. He didn't even mind offending the Faction.

Alice saw the greed in the eyes of the man and knew that things had gotten difficult. Espacing now would be almost impossible, but the thing was, she didn't have that in mind in the first place. Since things have gotten to this stage, she felt more conviction to defeat the man.

The man and his golem went after the Seelie, and Alice was able to leave the range of the gravity control. After leaving that range, Alice spread small fire flakes around, using it to burn the gravity enforced areas, creating a space around herself. The man's gravity control would still be there, but the second it gets close to her, it would be burnt. This was a good way to catch the man off-guard.

"What are you doing?!" She screamed when she saw that the Seelie had been cornered by the man and the golem. She rushed into the area once again.

The man grinned, "I'll kill you and make this thing mine."

Alice was slower than what she was before the appearance of the Seelie. The man knew it was the effect of his technique, so he didn't worry about it. His technique was different from Grey's own. Grey could instantly affect gravity, the man's technique on the other hand needed time. But were effective nonetheless since they would come unexpectedly.

The man moved towards Alice and stretched out his hand, wanting to grab her head with an ice palm. The golem was making sure the Seelie wouldn't be able to merge with Alice again. The man felt safe since Alice's aura had reduced since she separated from the Seelie. Given her current strength, there was no way she would be able to fight against him.

He was a little carefree and when his attack was about to land, he noticed something that made him shocked.

Alice suddenly exploded with shocking speed, blitzing past the ice palm and appearing beside the man. Even though she was only in the Ninth stage, she was still faster than this man who was at the Peak, thanks to her lightning element.

The man wanted to retreat, but it was too late, Alice was already before him, and she used that force to strike. Like lightning, she appeared on the other side, merging with her Seelie, but her attack had already struck the man who flew backward from the impact of the attack while coughing a mouthful of blood.

His body slammed into the golem, and the force actually destroyed the golem, sending him crashing into the ground of the plain.

Alice didn't stop there, she knew one attack wasn't enough to keep this man down, she needed to continue attacking before he could regain his footing.

Like a bolt of lightning, she flashed through the plains, following the man and attacking.

The man tried to block the attack even though he wasn't balanced, the force of the attack sent him slamming off the ground, bouncing into the air.

He was at a complete disadvantage this time.

Alice didn't stop, she chased after the man's figure as she continued attacking. He was lucky to have strong defensive abilities, else he might've been dead by now.

He blocked each attack, but it was too close and he felt his internal organs churn. The force from Alice's attacks were just too much, and Alice was taking advantage of the fact that he was retreating while she was advancing.

Bam! Bang! Bam!

Alice continued with her relentless attacks, the man could only defend. He wasn't fast enough to dodge her attacks, nor was she even giving him any chance to retaliate. It was an entirely one sided battle, and Alice was making sure she battered him.

The man was in a battered state, but he was still alive. He had made sure he didn't allow Alice to hit any of his vitals, but he was starting to slow down from the continuous attacks.

After almost one minute of constant pressure, the man's defense finally crumbled and he was hit head-on by one of Alice's attacks which sent him to the ground. He couldn't even keep himself flying anymore.

While laying on the ground, blood was flowing from his mouth as he managed to open his eyes to see Alice's figure slowly descending, he couldn't see her face due to the sun shining on his face.

