

Affinity 161

Chapter 161 - Still Can't Control It

'That's got to hurt.' Void flinched when he saw Grey being slammed into the ground repeatedly by the quasi dragon.

The quasi dragon threw its tail at Void, trying to slam him with it.

When Void raised his head, he saw the tail coming down at a breakneck speed, he quickly moved to the side, narrowly escaping the attack.

After escaping, Void threw a lightning ball at it which exploded on impact.

Roar!

The quasi dragon roared angrily, being attacked by Void angered it. Because Void was too small, it was having a difficult time hitting him, not just that, but Void was very fast.

It lunged at Void, and just as it saw him trying to escape, he opened his mouth and spat out fire.

Void quickly unleashed the darkness element when he saw the fire coming towards him, a black mass of fog almost two meters high and three meters wide appeared and tried to block the fire coming Void's way.

It managed to impede it, giving Void the much needed time he needed to escape.

'I need to buy as much time as I can.' thought Void.

Seeing that Grey was injured, rather than going over to meet him, he decided to distract the quasi dragon so that Grey could recover a little, furthermore, he also told him to rest.

Void knew he wasn't strong enough to have a one on one battle with the quasi dragon, but he knew given his speed, he would be able to at least escape some of its deadly attacks.

After dodging the fire, Void created a lightning arrow, making sure to amass as much lightning essence as he could in it so it would contain a destructive power.

He immediately sent the arrow towards the quasi dragon when he was done.

When Void saw the arrow hit it, he was about to heave a sigh when the arrow was unexpectedly unable to pass through the defense of the quasi dragon. Other than feeling the impact of the force when the arrow exploded, it didn't get hurt in any way.

'Can this thing even be hurt?' Void asked, feeling a little despair.

The quasi dragon is stronger than both of them, so fighting against it was a risk for them, now added with its terrifying defense, how could they defeat it?

But with no other option, he could only continue fighting against it while waiting for Grey to join the battle.

He created a flaming sword which he hacked at the tail that was coming in his direction. The fire spread out, trying to consume the tail of the quasi dragon, but it was just as unsuccessful as his previous attacks.

After Grey vomited blood, he tried to stand up but because of the spin, he still felt the world was turning around, and like a drunk man, he fell back down.

Most of the earth armor he created previously was destroyed and only a few places of his body still had it on. His hair was ruffled, and blood could be seen at the side of his mouth.

Just as he was about to try and stand again, he heard a voice in his head.

'I'll stall for time, try to rest a little.' said Void.

He stayed in the kneeling position a little longer to try to clear his head, the pain he felt from the attack almost drove him crazy, he could swear some of his bones cracked from the attack. Luckily, he had trained his body, else, his bones would have broken from being slammed into the ground with such force.

'This thing is too strong.' thought Grey.

He had managed to clear his head a little and caught sight of when Void used the flaming sword to hack at its tail.

Breathing heavily, he slowly stood up contemplating how to defeat their present adversary.

'I can't use the Fusion State yet, it's still too early. But I can use elemental fusion and attack it. I'll have to give it a shot.' Grey thought while looking at Void who was dodging most of the quasi dragon's attacks.

Grey felt trying out elemental fusion was his best shot other than the fusion state, from the small exchange he had with it and from his observations from when Void was fighting against it, he could tell only brute force attacks could work on it. The impact of the blast once the orb explodes should be able to damage it a little, if he sees it has an effect on it, then he wouldn't mind using the Fusion State.

'Hey bud, can you stall it longer?' He asked Void.

Void who was just pushed back from the impact of the quasi dragon's attack felt elated when he heard this. He initially thought Grey would stay down longer than this, but since he started fighting against the quasi dragon till now, it hadn't even been up to three minutes. Although he couldn't say he was really fighting against the quasi dragon since he rarely attacked and mostly only dodged.

'Yes.' He hastily replied.

'Good.' said Grey.

Without delaying any further, he immediately got to work.

Calming his mind, he tried to sense the elemental essence in the air.

'Huh! How come the elemental essence here is so thin? It's almost none existent.' Grey thought.

When he was using the elements all this while, he noticed compared to before, they weren't as strong, but because of the battle, he couldn't think of the reason, now he knew why, with such thin elemental essence, it was hard to use the elements properly, only the earth element feels the same.

Without being able to draw sufficient elemental essence from the surrounding, he could only rely on his essence beads.

Soon, he started guiding the elements from his elemental beads, through his body, they followed his directions and headed to the palm of his right hand.

The inside of his body looked like a multi-colored waterfall in reverse. The five elements moved from his stomach to his c.h.e.s.t, and then into his right shoulder, before heading to his palm.

Before long, lights made of brownish, silver, greenish, blueish, and reddish color could be seen coming out of his palm and gradually started solidifying just above his palm. It formed the shape of an orb, made of five different colors perfectly intertwining in it.

As time went on, the orb started to grow bigger. First, it was the size of a table tennis ball, then it slowly grew to the size of a fist. This was the largest he could grow the orb to without it exploding in his hand immediately. The orb currently had a mixture of five different colors, and it looked beautiful.

Since the last time he used it at the cave underground when he obtained the blue fire, he hadn't tried it again. He knew the power of the blast now would be far more powerful compared to that time.

When the orb was still forming, the quasi dragon, as well as Void, was soon attracted by the strong aura they felt coming from it.

Void was stunned when he saw the beautiful multi-colored orb that Grey seemed to be creating.

'Since when could he do that?' He asked himself.

The only reason he didn't ask Grey was that he saw how serious he was looking, so he knew he couldn't distract him.

Roar!

The quasi dragon roared and charged at Grey, discarding the annoying cat.

'Hey! Stop there!' Void ordered and sent an attack at it.

A spear created from a black mass shot towards the quasi dragon.

The quasi dragon saw the attack but didn't bother about it since it felt the result of the attack would be the same as all of Void's other attacks, and since it wasn't directed towards its head but its back, it just allowed it.

The spear struck it, and to Void's greatest surprise, it pierced into the body of the quasi dragon.

Roar!

The quasi dragon roared in pain when the spear entered its body.

The spear soon dissipated and when Void looked at the place, he noticed the outer scale in that place was gone, and black fluids were coming out of the wound of the quasi dragon, not just that, but the flesh of the quasi dragon had also slowly started turning black.

'To think the darkness element could break its defenses' Void thought flabbergasted.

He had been wasting his time since trying to hurt it, and only used the darkness element to block the fire of the quasi dragon, how foolish of him.

The quasi dragon immediately turned and lunged at Void.

'Void get out of there!' Grey ordered.

On his hand, the orb had already started trembling, he still couldn't control it.

Void quickly ran from the quasi dragon's range, sending another attack its way to slow it down.

Void dashed towards Grey and saw him throw the orb at the quasi dragon.

Boom!

The orb exploded on impact.

Chapter 162 - Battling The Quasi Dragon

'What the hell! That's insane!' Void exclaimed when he saw the huge impact of the explosion.

The moment the orb hit the quasi dragon and exploded, Grey grabbed Void and made a break for it.

Yes, he would love to see the outcome of the attack, but he knew this was their best opportunity to escape. If the attack managed to hurt the creature, then he truly would regret it since if he could collect the body of this creature, it would mean a lot to him. But if the creature was fine even after this, then he would regret not escaping now.

They soon got into the tunnel, and Grey quickly created a fireball that helped light up the way. Panting heavily, he ran as fast as his legs could carry him.

'What are you doing?' asked Void.

'Uh... Escaping.' replied Grey who was still running quickly.

The tunnel was about eight meters wide and had a height of at least ten meters.

'What about the quasi dragon?' Void asked feeling maybe they had a shot at killing it.

'What about it?' questioned Grey.

'Wouldn't you want to check if that amazing attack of yours killed it?' Void looked behind them and asked after seeing no movements.

'No.' Grey answered resolutely.

He had already seen how strong the quasi dragon was, why would he risk staying there any further. If by chance his elemental fusion blast didn't hurt it, then he wouldn't know what to do since even if he entered the Fusion State, that was still his strongest attack.

'We're missing out on a potential amazing meal, I think that attack of yours injured it at the very least. Just imagine how tasty it would be, and you should know, this is a magical beast that is previously at least in the Peak of Rank Five, so its flesh must hold a lot of energy.' Void tried to convince Grey to turn back.

Two minutes later, just as they were about to appear on the other side of the tunnel.

'You know what, I think we should go back and... No...no, running is fine, running is good. Can you run a little faster?' Void who was in the middle of trying to persuade Grey immediately started urging him to go faster.

Grey was stunned by Void's sudden change, but it didn't take long for him to realize why, he could hear the faint footsteps of the quasi dragon behind him, and it was gradually growing louder.

'Damn it! It couldn't even keep it down for two minutes!' He cursed out while trying to boost his speed further.

He soon started ascending the flight of stairs, and just when he got to the twentieth step, the footsteps of the quasi dragon stopped.

'Oh no!' His heart sank, and he pushed himself to the limit trying to run as fast as he could.

Contrary to the first time when he was hearing the footsteps of the quasi dragon, now, he was tenser since he didn't know the location of the quasi dragon.

'Can you sense it?' Grey asked while running.

He had managed to get to the fiftieth step, but he still had one hundred steps to go, given the speed with which the quasi dragon used in crossing the tunnel, it would be able to catch up to them before he got to the exit.

'No, it's like its presence and aura disappears whenever it does that.' Void responded while vigilantly looking around.

He knew the quasi dragon was here, but just like the last time it disappeared, he couldn't sense it, so he didn't know where it was.

'Damn it!' Grey cursed and tried to increase his speed, but alas, he was already at his limit.

Just as he stepped on the eightieth step, the quasi dragon suddenly appeared eight steps ahead of him.

Roar!

Its roar stopped Grey in his tracks who because of his speed almost slammed into it.

Grey looked at the quasi dragon and couldn't help but curse his bad luck.

'Damn it! Not even a scratch!' He felt like crying.

The elemental fusion blast was his greatest attack at the moment, and it didn't have a problem rivaling a full-powered attack of a Peak Ninth stage Origin Plane Elementalist. Yet, it couldn't even leave a scratch on the quasi dragon's body.

Is this thing even killable? With this strong defense, Grey wasn't confident he could harm it, not to mention killing it.

Grey had already decided to leave this place, no matter what! Even if it meant doing the impossible!

Growl...

The quasi dragon growled and slashed its claws towards their attacks, the attacks exploded on impact but it surprisingly didn't retreat, instead, it pushed forward past where the attacks exploded.

Standing in a step that was just barely over one meter wide, and a few inches long, Grey was having a hard time contending with the huge body of the quasi dragon.

Without realizing it, he was gradually descending the stairs once again as soon as the battle started.

Bang!

Grey's earthen hammer slammed the head of the quasi dragon, forcing its upper body down. But just as it had always done, it rose almost instantly.

Although Grey's attacks didn't have much of an effect on it, he noticed the brute strength attacks whenever he uses the earth element seemed quite effective against it, so he instantly resorted to using only it against the quasi dragon, but he was still descending the stairs trying to escape the attacks of the quasi dragon.

'Oh! I remember something now, the last time I attacked it with my darkness element, the darkness element was able to erode its scale, hurting its flesh as well.' Void suddenly recalled his last attack at the lab and told Grey about it.

'Then what are you waiting for?' Grey asked after jumping back almost ten steps to escape the attack of the quasi dragon.

Void who was previously using his fire and lightning elements changed to the darkness element once again.

But this time, whenever the quasi dragon saw anything that gave off even the slightest hint of the darkness element's aura, it hastily retreats.

Once it avoided the darkness element attack, it opened up its mouth and spat out fire in the direction of Grey and Void.

Grey created an earthen wall, while Void formed a wall made of black mass behind it, the fire quickly destroyed the wall and went for the black mass behind it.

Grey immediately jumped back when he saw the black mass being destroyed by the quasi dragon's fire.

After they landed on the ground, Void sent three arrows at the quasi dragon, all three arrows were black.

The quasi dragon who just stopped spitting out fire scurried to escape the arrows.

'It's avoiding it, good.' Grey praised but cursed out loud the next moment.

"Shit! Damn it! F.u.c.k this beast!" He complained when he realized they had actually gone back to the foot of the stairs once again.

While he was attacking and dodging the attacks of the quasi dragon, he didn't know when they got to the last step, not to mention the foot of the stairs. He could see he was even at least two meters away from the first step.

He created a huge earthen pillar that had a sharp tip and sent it at the quasi dragon, hoping it would be able to successfully pierce the armor-like scale.

Roar!

The quasi dragon roared and swung its tail at the almost half a meter thick pillar.

Bang!

The pillar broke and fell on the ground with a 'thud'.

When the pillar fell, it kicked up clouds of dust which Void capitalized on and slashed a huge black claw at the quasi dragon.

The black claw was made using the darkness element, but for some reason, it looked very identical to Void's claws.

Before the quasi dragon saw the claw it was already too late and the claw slashed its c.h.e.s.t area, creating an injury in the process.

Roar!

Void's attack made four almost fifteen inches long claw marks appeared on its c.h.e.s.t. With the scales there falling off, and the injured flesh eroded for some time before stopping.

Grey caught sight of the injury and s.u.c.k.e.d in a cold breath.

'The darkness element truly is a mysterious, and powerful element.' He thought.

Although Void's attacks weren't stronger than his, the corrosive ability of the darkness element was currently making life a living hell for the quasi dragon.

Grey was again attacked, he created what looked like a nail, and used the water element to create a hammer that smashed into the huge earthen nail.

The reason he didn't use the nail alone was that he wanted to generate enough force and speed so it could successfully pierce through the quasi dragon.

The quasi dragon who was still feeling the pain from Void's claw attack saw the two meters long nail made of earth coming its way and instantly tried to dodge it.

Pu-Chi! Bam!

Roar!

The quasi dragon let out a roar of pain, looking behind it, it saw the nail pinning its tail to the ground.

'Yes!' Grey exclaimed happily when he saw that the nail managed to pierce through the scale of the quasi dragon.

'Attack! Don't give it time to break free.' He urged Void.

And the duo rushed at the quasi dragon, each preparing their respective effective attacks.

Currently, they felt maybe they had a chance against this beast.

Chapter 163 - Battling The Quasi Dragon II

Roar!

Bang!

Grey slammed into the wall of the tunnel after suffering from the impact of the quasi dragon's attack.

'Damn it! We need to leave this place soon.' said Grey.

Because of the thin elemental essence in the area, Grey didn't wish to stay here for too long. He could continue fighting for at least thirty minutes, but after that, his reserves would be used up. Creating an inscription was also going to be difficult, but since the earth essence here is still normal, then he would have to use only the earth element to attack.

'How are we going to get past this thing?' Void asked while using the darkness element to create what looked like a vine with spikes to stop the quasi dragon from attacking Grey once more.

After Grey used the earthen nail to pin the tail of the quasi dragon to the ground, the duo instantly attacked, trying to hurt it as much as they possibly could, but it was able to easily remove the nail, and also spat out flames to block the attack they sent its way.

Once it blocked their attacks, it began its assault once again, forcing the duo to gradually retreat into the tunnel.

Like Grey, Void noticed the thin amount of elemental essence in this place during the battle, so he knew they had to end the battle quickly. But the problem was, how? The quasi dragon was not only stronger than they were, it was also faster, had stronger defenses, and also a terrifying attack power.

'I'll have to use that soon.' thought Grey.

He had already realized how dangerous their current situation was, even if they've managed to keep themselves alive, it wouldn't be long before they used up the elemental essence they had inside them, once that happens, they would be sitting ducks for the quasi dragon.

Presently, given his current Plane, and the strength of his body, he could stay in the Fusion State for at most seven minutes, so he had to ensure that he would be able to defeat the quasi dragon within that time, or even at the very least, escape before the seven minutes time was up, or his skin would start cracking up from the excess energy.

Before long, the quasi dragon forced the duo back to the lab.

Grey wanted to create an opportunity to enter the Fusion State but the quasi dragon didn't give him the chance.

Bam!

He crashed to the ground and the short blade fell. When he saw the blade, he recalled the energy he felt inside and quickly tried to pick it up so he would fight with it.

But the quasi dragon was faster than he was and used its tail to drag the blade closer to it.

'Get the blade.' Grey said.

Void sent out dark arrows while edging close to the quasi dragon.

Sensing Void's attack, the quasi dragon retreated with the blade, dodging Void's attack while attacking him in the process.

Void instantly retreated but was sent flying by the impact, crashing into one of the platforms.

'Void!' Grey yelled when he was Void crashing into the platform.

'I'm fine.' Void stood up and assured Grey.

'Keep it busy.' Grey nodded before adding.

It was time for him to use the Fusion State, he couldn't wait any longer, so as to avoid any more unforeseen events.

This was the first time he was going to use the true fusion technique, the last time he used the Fusion State, he hadn't formed his elemental beads. With his elemental beads now, he needed to stay undisturbed when fusing them. If the process was interrupted halfway, then if he's lucky, his beads would be destroyed and he would fall back to the Arcane Plane, if he's unlucky, he'll blow up.

'I'll try.' replied Void.

In the past over six minutes or so that they've been fighting against the quasi dragon, he had faced the quasi dragon alone for almost half of the time, so he was almost getting used to fighting it alone. His greatest advantage over the quasi dragon was not his darkness element, but his size. Unlike Grey, since the battle started, other than being forced back by the impact of its attacks when they collide, he had not been hit physically by the quasi dragon.

The quasi dragon instantly tried to go after Grey when it saw he was trying to leave the battle.

Swoosh!

Void sent out a claw made of the darkness element at it, forcing it to stop and block the attack. It couldn't use any part of its body to block Void's darkness element attacks and could only breathe out fire to stop the claw from reaching it.

Grey hid behind one of the platforms and sat in a crossed leg position fully focusing on his elemental beads.

The quasi dragon changed its attention to Void when it saw Grey hid behind the platform. Although it wanted to stop what he was doing, it felt Void was more of something threat since almost all of Void's recent attacks could hurt it.

Suddenly, what looked like wings slowly started coming out of the back of the quasi dragon.

'Oh, Shit!' Void cursed on seeing this.

The wings on the back of the quasi dragon slowly revealed themselves, and to Void's dismay, the bat-like wings slowly started moving.

Flap! Flap!

With the increased speed of flapping, the wind it caused almost threw Void off his feet.

'Shit!' Void immediately attacked it before it could take flight.

They were in a three hundred meters wide, two hundred meters high lab, that was underground. If the quasi dragon were to start flying, then attacking it would be difficult for the duo, while it would get a better shot at them.

The quasi dragon spat out fire at Void who immediately escaped when he saw the fire coming out of its mouth.

The quasi dragon soon took flight.

While Void was stopping the quasi dragon, Grey was currently focused on the task at hand.

'Huuu'

After breathing out, he calmed his mind, removing all distracting thoughts, and focused fully on fusing the beads.

He sent his spiritual energy into his body and used it to move the elemental beads closer to each other, with the experience he had from elemental fusion, and also the first time he fused his chaotic essence, fusing the beads was easier.

After getting the beads closer, they slowly started naturally merging with each other. They didn't face any problems with the merging process, and within forty-five seconds, they merged completely.

Now, Grey's previous five elemental beads have turned into a single five-colored elemental bead. With five beads, it meant an increase of five stages.

Boom!

An energy wave spread out in all directions from Grey's body, but with the quasi dragon flapping its wings, Void was unable to sense it.

Grey's stage soon started climbing upwards, and in five seconds, he went from the Fourth stage of the Origin Plane to the Ninth stage of the Origin Plane.

'What the hell! Void! I thought you said it wasn't a dragon!?' He yelled at Void when he saw the sight of the quasi dragon taking to the air.

'It isn't.' replied Void.

'Then how do you explain the wings?' Grey asked, not convinced by what Void said previously.

'Although its evolution was a failure, it still had some traits of a dragon.' explained Void.

Grey also took flight and shot straight at the quasi dragon who was mid-air, when he got close, he threw a blow to the body of the quasi dragon.

Bang!

After fusing his elemental beads, the strength of his physical body increased by two stages, although it wasn't as powerful as his stage, once he fills his muscles with the elements, his physical strength increased by another stage.

The quasi dragon was pushed back by almost thirty meters by Grey's punch and it roared in pain.

Now Grey was in the same stage as it was, but its defense was still better.

Grey was able to easily dodge the attack and he created a huge two and a half meters hammer that he slammed into the jaws of the quasi dragon.

The quasi dragon fell from the air and crashed into the ground, as soon as it landed, then inscriptions sent out ten pillars that slammed into it, and he also threw three fusion orbs at it that exploded on contact.

Bang! Boom!

Void was stunned when he saw Grey battling the quasi dragon mid-air, and seeing that he was not only in the same stage as it, but he was overpowering it, he couldn't help but feel excited.

Chapter 164 - Multi Elemental Blade

'Grab the blade.' Grey reminded Void while closely monitoring the place where the quasi dragon crashed, he couldn't see it because of the dust when the quasi dragon slammed into the ground.

'Hmm.' Void nodded and hurried towards the blade which fell eight meters away from where the quasi dragon landed.

Standing mid-air, Grey watched as Void ran towards the blade. He looked around with curiosity.

Presently, he had two thoughts in mind, the first and most important was to escape if the quasi dragon was not hurt by his previous assault, the second one which was optional to him was to fight against the quasi dragon if it was hurt by his previous attacks.

"Huh!" Grey exclaimed softly and looked above him.

On the roof of the lab, he could sense a slight fluctuation of the aura of an array. Although it was very faint, he was confident what he sensed was an array.

'Could this be the reason for the low elemental essence here?' He asked himself while trying to sense the array further.

He also thought about their sudden inability to use anything related to the space element. But, he felt it wasn't the reason because they were able to use it previously, but then it was suddenly blocked.

'Got it!' Void's voice brought him back from his thoughts.

'Okay, we should leave.' Grey said.

The dust still hadn't settled even after almost twenty seconds, seeing that they had taken the blade back, he decided to leave this place.

'Okay, do you think it'll survive?' asked Void.

'I don't know.' Grey replied.

He floated down slowly but still stayed in the Fusion State. From their previous encounter with the quasi dragon, he was sure that it wouldn't stay down from this attack.

The duo once again charged towards the tunnel, but Grey stopped midway and turned around, creating an almost thirty inches thick wall.

An attack struck the wall the moment it was created, but unlike Grey's previous defenses, this wall didn't fall apart immediately due to his current increase in strength.

'That was close.' Void heaved a sigh when he realized Grey just blocked an attack.

He didn't even sense the attack, not to mention dodging it, so he felt relieved seeking that Grey was able to block the attack.

After the attack died down, Grey edged close to the earth wall and peeked from the side of the wall.

"Shit! It's gone again." He said while looking at the empty lab.

Seeing the situation, Grey stretched out his hand to Void.

'What?' Void asked when he saw Grey's hand in front of him.

"The blade." Grey said looking at him with fierce eyes.

If Void dared to refuse, then he'd beat him up!

'Oh!' Void chuckled awkwardly and passed the blade to him.

He knew how serious their situation was, so he didn't dare to hold onto the blade.

Grey held the blade in his right hand and studied it closely. He didn't know what elemental weapon it was because unlike the few he had seen, this one was unidentifiable by him.

With no other option, he tried to channel his fire elemental essence into the blade. The second the elemental essence entered the blade, it lit up with a fiery red color.

'Fire.' He thought.

But on impulse, he withdrew the fire elemental essence and tried to channel his wind elemental essence into the blade, and to his greatest surprise, the blade lit up with a greenish color.

Grey's heart trembled when this happened.

'How is this possible?' He asked himself with a look of disbelief.

Although he was shocked, he quickly calmed himself and tried infusing the blade with his other three elemental essences, and just like the first two, the blade lit up signifying the color of the elements.

It took Grey a total of about eighteen seconds for him to test out all five elements on the blade.

'To think there's such a treasure.' A look of disbelief was on Grey's face throughout the eighteen seconds he was testing out the blade.

Grey who was in a state of disbelief suddenly jolted and slashed the blade to his upper right, infusing it with the earth element.

The previous light blade immediately turned extremely heavily, weighing almost three hundred pounds.

Boom!

The blade clashed with the claw of the quasi dragon who appeared out of nowhere.

Grey was pushed back fifteen meters and he slammed into the wall of the tunnel after being overwhelmed by the quasi dragon's power.

Four black spears shot at the quasi dragon, and it immediately retreated and hid once again.

'It wasn't injured.' Void said feeling a little dejected by the quasi dragon defense.

Grey stood straight and looked at where the quasi dragon appeared last.

"Hmph! Even if we can't kill it, it can't do anything to us. Get going." Grey said while positioning himself behind Void.

Since the quasi dragon wanted to play hide and seek, he didn't have time to entertain it. He had already stayed in the Fusion State for just over a minute, so he couldn't afford to waste any more time.

The duo started moving through the tunnel with unimaginable speed, since the quasi dragon hadn't left this place, it meant that it couldn't leave the place, so once they head out, they would be safe.

When they entered the tunnel, the quasi dragon appeared once more and attempted a sneak attack, but Grey sensed it like before and immediately attacked with an inscription.

The reason he didn't use the blade, was because he didn't dare to. The elemental essence required to use it for a single attack was immense. Even though the earth elemental essence was still normal, the consumption of the blade was higher than his absorption speed.

After blocking the sneak attack of the quasi dragon, Grey followed behind Void, trying to catch up.

But after moving only fifteen meters, the quasi dragon appeared once again and attacked.

Grey was forced to turn around and retreat slower than he normally would.

A minute went by with Grey being attacked by the quasi dragon at least twenty-eight times. Grey realized when the quasi dragon noticed they were going closer to the end of the tunnel, it increased the frequency of its attacks, and in some cases, it would fight with Grey.

But what left Grey puzzled was that the quasi dragon had the advantage in at least sixty percent of the times they battled, but for some reason, it would hide once again whenever he was managing to keep up.

Bang!

He hastily stood up, but bent down the next moment.

Swoosh!

Eight black arrows shot from behind him towards the quasi dragon that was stepping out of the tunnel.

The quasi dragon immediately tried to move to the side to escape from the oncoming arrows, but when it looked below it, it realized its fore and hind limbs had sunk into the ground.

Grey smirked when he saw this.

Roar!

The quasi dragon roared in pain when all eight arrows pierced into his body. Three of the black arrows pierced into his left forelimb, four struck its c.h.e.s.t, and the last one struck its neck.

It struggled to get out of the muddy ground, but the more it struggled, the more it sank.

Grey made an earth mace that was three meters long and held it with both hands. The huge head of the mace was behind him as he slowly dragged it closer to where the quasi dragon was located.

The quasi dragon continued struggling when it saw Grey coming towards it with a weapon in tow. Before Grey got to it, it managed to take out its forelimbs with the help of its wings, but due to the small space, it couldn't spread them out properly.

Grey stomped on the ground, and an earthen cube pushed the head of the mace while he swung it forcefully towards the body of the quasi dragon.

Bam!

The mace struck it heavily, pushing it back into the mud once again, but broke in the process.

"Go!" Grey yelled and flew up the stairs picking Void up in the process.

He didn't dare to wait till the quasi dragon recovered before attempting to flee.

Roar!

An angry roar came out of the mouth of the quasi dragon as it sent a stream of fire towards Grey and Void who were almost halfway through the stairs.

Roar!

The quasi dragon roared fiercely and the place shook, when Grey turned around to take a glance, a look of dread immediately appeared in his eyes and he pushed himself to go faster.

The aura of the quasi dragon had currently gone past the Origin Plane and was now in the Overlord Plane.

Grey was presently at the Peak of the Origin Plane, and it was almost impossible for him to fight against the quasi dragon once it reaches the Overlord Plane.

But a shocking scene took place the next moment, the walls of the tunnel lit up with white array lines and continued shining brighter before the lights shot off the walls, charging at the quasi dragon.

They formed weird array lines around the body of the quasi dragon, and it roared out in pain.

The previously rising aura of the quasi dragon gradually started declining.

'What just happened?' Grey thought but didn't stay any further and when he landed on the last step, the statue moved on its own, creating an opening for the duo to escape.

Chapter 165 - Why Do We Always Get Chased!?

"Phew, finally, we're out of that place!" Grey breathed out a sigh of relief as he dashed out through the opening on the wall.

He turned to look back at the opening, and could still hear the painful roars of the quasi dragon, only, it was gradually turning faint.

The statue was yet to return to its previous position, so the opening was still there. The roars soon died down, and Grey curiously walked over to the opening and stretched his head into the opening to see if the array lines he saw previously were still there. He was quite curious about it but because he was escaping, he didn't get a good view of it.

Just as his head appeared on the other side of the opening, he instantly withdrew it and jumped to the side, falling in a kneeling position.

Whoosh!

A stream of fire came out of the opening, blasting into the wall on the other side of the hall, before spreading to the left and right of the hall simultaneously.

Void who was still savoring the moment of being able to use the space element once again, instantly used it when his tail was almost caught by the fire.

'What the hell did you do!?' He asked after appearing four meters away from the opening.

"Nothing." Grey scratched his head awkwardly as he replied.

The fire continued streaming out until the statue went back to its previous position after five seconds.

Rumble!

The statue made a rumbling sound as it closed completely, once again sealing the quasi dragon in the lab, waiting for the next time an unfortunate person would venture here.

"Wow! This had been an eventful experience." said Grey as he exited the Fusion State.

'Yeah.' Void nodded.

This had been the most heart-racing period of his life, and it was quite exciting. They almost died on some occasions against the quasi dragon, before he realized his darkness element was super effective against it, and then Grey jumped five stages and fought toe to toe with the quasi dragon, although he was overpowered sometimes. And just when they were about to exit the place, the quasi dragon which had kept its stage low all this while immediately started increasing in power, before being stopped by an array.

'Oh! What was that orb thingy you did that exploded?' Void asked when he remembered the time Grey used the fusion orb against the quasi dragon.

"About that..." Grey fell silent for a while, contemplating whether he should tell Void about it or not.

'Other than his obsession for shiny things, he's pretty trustworthy.' He thought.

Thinking of his experiences with Void, and how he had helped him on some occasions during the time they had spent together, he decided it was time to tell him about it. Although, he wouldn't tell him about the chaos God or the chaos element.

"I can fuse the elements." said Grey faintly.

His voice was so low, it was almost like he was muttering gibberish.

'You can what now?' Void asked with a confused face.

All he heard was I can, other than that, he heard nothing else. He could tell what Grey was about to tell him was a secret given his first hesitation before he finally answered.

"I can fuse all my elements together." Grey spoke loudly this time so Void could hear him properly.

'What!?' Void exclaimed, dumbfounded by Grey's words.

Although he didn't know much of the world, he too had multiple elements, so he had naturally experimented on trying to merge them. Which obviously ended in a failure. The only thing he knew was possible was coating one element with another, not fusing.

"Yes, that was what you saw me do previously." replied Grey.

He had expected such a reaction given what he told Void was something impossible for others, but not him, if he were to tell Void that he could not only fuse the elements but also his essence beads to boost his stage, he couldn't help but imagine his reaction. But he wouldn't tell him about that, neither will he tell him of his ability to comprehend other elements. He wanted to study him more, after all, they had only spent just over two months and a week or two together.

'That's incredible!' Void said excitedly after his initial shock.

'Can others do it as well?' He could not help but ask.

If it was possible for others, then he would love to learn it, after all, he had witnessed its frightening power.

"I don't think it's possible. I can't really explain how I can do it, so don't ask." Grey said when he saw the enthusiasm in Void's eyes.

He could almost tell what Void was thinking from his eyes, so he just rejected before he asked. Even though he was quite curious to see if another person would be able to do it if given the technique, this was not something he could just teach to anyone.

Void looked down a little disappointed, but he soon threw it to the back of his head.

'How did you increase your strength by that much?' He asked curiously once again.

He had never seen Grey do that before, so he was also very curious about it. One has to know that although it was possible for someone to increase their stage, it was unheard-of to increase it by five.

During their encounters with others, there had been times when their opponent would use a secret technique to boost their strength, but it was always by a single stage. So even if there were techniques that are of higher quality than the one that opponents of theirs used, it shouldn't be by this much, right?

"That, I can't really explain for now. I'll tell you later." Grey shrugged, avoiding to tell him the truth about this.

'Hmm, okay.' Void nodded understandably.

He knew everyone had a secret that they wouldn't share so easily, for Grey to even tell him about being able to fuse the elements was already a sign that he trusted him, albeit not completely.

'So, what now?' He asked looking at the wall that the fire of the quasi dragon burned.

"We should le..."

Rumble!

A rumbling sound stopped Grey who was speaking midway, the sound was followed by intense shaking in the hall.

'What's going on?' asked Void.

"I don't know, but we should get... Oh my God!" Grey who was speaking suddenly exclaimed while looking behind Void.

'What? What?' Void asked twice when he heard Grey's exclamation and also the look of dismay.

"Behind you." Grey pointed with a slightly trembling hand.

Seeing Grey's reaction, Void quickly turned around.

'Oh my God!' And just like Grey, he exclaimed.

"Run!" Grey turned around and dashed out of the hall, heading for the exit of the building. Void who was able to use the space element once again, disappeared and appeared on Grey's shoulder, looking behind him worriedly.

'Why do we always get chased!?' He thought a little dejected by their predicament.

Behind them, there were at least fifteen seven meters long lizards and four two meters frogs chasing after them, but that was not all, more were still pouring out of the openings on the wall of the hall.

Grey and Void were previously at the middle of the hall, and there were about ten statues they hadn't checked, five on each side of the hall, and to their greatest surprise, all ten had openings, not just the one they entered.

Although these beasts weren't as strong as the quasi dragon, they were not weak either.

Grey was only able to sense the stage of the first four, and they were all in the Sixth stage of the Origin Plane.

The door to the building exploded, with Grey dashing out of it. He didn't dare to wait and open the door, so he just blasted it away before he got there.

Croak!

The loud croaking of a frog was heard two seconds later as two of the frogs were the first to appear outside the building, giving chase. The other frogs as well as the lizards all dashed out of the building, following behind Grey and Void.

Grey ran as quickly as possible trying to escape from the pursuit of the beasts behind him, but the frogs were actually slowly closing the gap between them.

"Damn it!" Grey complained when he saw this.

Had he not used the Fusion State moments ago, he would have used it to escape from them.

Although he could fight them one on one, as a group, it was impossible for him to fight against so many of them.

'Where are we going?' Void asked while looking behind them.

'Anywhere.' answered Grey.

He was almost certain that no one had been chased as much as he had, and even if they had, most of them would not survive it.

Chapter 166 - What Did They Do To You?

Splat!

A greenish gooey liquid landed on a tree and surprisingly opened a hole in the tree with smoke coming from the sides of the tree.

"Shit! It also has corrosive effects?" Grey could be seen running towards the tree that was hit by the gooey liquid, and he could not help but look at it.

The greenish gooey liquid was initially aimed at him, but being quick, he managed to evade it and it hit the tree, and to his greatest surprise, the greenish gooey liquid had a corrosive effect.

Croak!

Two frogs could be seen following closely behind him, while multiple other beasts could be heard from some distance away, they were all chasing after the same person, Grey.

'Why are they following me, what did I do?' Grey asked himself while creating an inscription.

He felt there must be a reason why the beasts were chasing after him, but he couldn't think of an that could be the cause of it.

One of the frogs following behind him suddenly opened its mouth, and its pink tongue shot straight at Grey.

Void who was on the lookout instantly sent a lightning bolt at the tongue.

Buzz!

The lightning bolt made contact with the frog's unprotected tongue and sent a stream of lightning straight into the body of the frog.

The frog retracted its tongue and wailed in pain while also trembling continuously, it also temporarily stopped in place, unable to move for the time being.

Void seeing that he got one of them, laughed happily, especially at the sight of the frog quivering repeatedly. Though he knew the frog wouldn't die from the shock, it was still satisfying to watch.

'What's so funny?' Grey asked when he heard Void's laughter.

'I just electrocuted one...' Void told Grey what happened.

'Well, that's good, now, we need to get the other one off our backs.' said Grey.

He had tried creating some distance between them, but the frogs were not falling behind, rather, they were slowly catching up to him. If the chase continued this way, then they would definitely catch up with him.

Had there been only these two beasts, then he would have already stopped and tried to fight against them. Even though it wouldn't be easy, he was sure he would be able to defeat them, with the help of Void that is.

Grey was currently running towards the south, and the beasts were chasing after him continuously.

After one and a half minutes of running, Grey had finally set up the inscription, while managing to keep himself alive as well.

While he was running, the frog would continuously spit out those greenish gooey liquids at him, which Void blocked some of them, while he dodged the remaining ones.

Scampering through the trees, he remembered when he was being chased by the horde of apes.

'It hasn't even been close to two weeks, yet here I am, being chased once again.' He thought self mockingly.

'If only I could encounter people just like the last time.'

Boom!

The attack missed the frog who agilely jumped to the side, to escape from it while also spitting out the greenish gooey liquid.

The greenish gooey liquid hit a tree ahead of Grey and was able to eat away a part of it, making the tree fall in the direction opposite Grey.

Bang!

The sound of it hitting the ground reverberated out, while Grey jumped above the just fallen tree.

He once again used the inscription to attack, while Void also followed up with an attack of his own.

With both attacks coming from two different angles, the frog was forced to spit out its gooey liquid at Void's lightning attack. When the gooey liquid touched the lightning, it let out a sizzling sound with steam rising up into the air.

Three kilometers in the direction Grey was currently headed.

"Where are your friends?" The young lady asked icily while looking at the young man with ruthless eyes.

The young lady was none other than the one from the Azure empire Grey encountered just over a week ago when he was being chased by the horde of apes, and the young man she was facing was Neil from the Royal Academy in the Qilin empire.

Neil separated from the group when they entered a castle just like the one Grey and his friends entered when they just came to the trial land. He had been searching for them around the castle for almost a day now, but he hadn't seen any of them.

Just when he gave up and leave the place, he was blocked the young lady. Neither of them had made a breakthrough yet, so they were still in the Fourth and Third stage respectively, with the young lady being in the Fourth and Neil being in the Third.

Neil felt a little panicky when he recognized the young lady before him, he wasn't as strong as the Twelfth Prince, so he was not one hundred percent confident in being able to escape her. Being the weaker party, his chances didn't look good.

He summoned enough courage not to show the slight fear that crept into his heart.

"Hmph! What are you doing here? Seems like you were lucky to escape the pursuit of those apes." Neil snorted coldly making sure not to give away anything.

Although, he was quite surprised seeing the young lady because he thought none of them would be able to escape from the clutches of the apes, except for Grey. Since Grey was able to keep himself alive from when the apes started chasing him till they saw him, he was sure he wouldn't have any problems with escaping, especially when he had the group from the Azure empire as decoys.

When the young lady heard him speaking of the apes, she was instantly infuriated and attacked. Her eyes turned red and for some weird reasons, tears were flowing from them.

'What did she experience that would make her react like this?' He questioned himself.

From the young lady's reaction, it wasn't hard to figure out she must have experienced horrifying things at the hands of the apes, but he couldn't think of anything. The apes would normally only kill their opponents, so for the young lady to react this way was quite strange.

"I will kill you!" The young lady yelled angrily and attacked once again.

Boom!

One minute later.

The scene of their battle was currently a mess, the young lady could be seen looking at Neil evilly, and the gates to the castle had been blasted to smithereens by her vicious attacks.

Neil was currently huffing, from the continuous attacks the young lady had sent his way. Even after blocking over eighty percent of her attacks, he was still injured and had suffered from multiple burns. But those were the least of his problems, due to blocking most of her attacks, he had suffered from the shockwave from when the two attacks collided, causing internal injuries.

Blood could be seen trickling from the side of his mouth, but he quickly wiped it while focusing on the young lady once again.

"What did the apes do to you?" He asked for the umpteenth time.

Boom!

"F.u.c.k!"

They heard an explosion, as well as someone swearing.

They both curiously looked in the direction where the explosion came from, and they saw a stunningly handsome young man running out of the forest, his short hair was fluttering in the wind, and he had a somewhat worried expression, but it didn't hide the glint in his eyes. On his shoulder perched a small pitch-black cat.

They were both dumbfounded when they saw the young man because he was someone they had seen not too long ago.

"It's him!"

They exclaimed simultaneously.

Grey who was running already knew there were people here, so he wasn't too surprised when he heard their voices.

"Oh! Hi!" He waved when he saw how both Neil and the young lady were staring at him.

"It's all because of you! You made them do those things to me!" The young lady screamed and charged towards Grey who was running their way.

"What are you saying? What did they do to you? Also, who are you?" Grey asked three questions simultaneously.

"I'll never forgive you!" The young lady yelled hysterically and completely forgot about Neil while charging at Grey.

Neil just watched from the side, his curiosity eating him up as he asked himself the same question, 'what did they do to her?'

Unfortunately, the young lady had refused to tell even after he asked her multiple times during the battle. It wasn't like he cared or anything, it was just his curiosity getting the better of him.

Chapter 167 - How The F.u.c.k Does He Do It?

Grey was stunned seeing the young lady running hysterically towards him, and couldn't help but wonder where he met her.

He didn't recognize her because after realizing he didn't know the group from the Azure empire, he didn't even bother to take a proper look at them, and just forgot about their faces, not just that, but he truly felt they would all die under the hands of the apes, after all, they weren't as fast as he was.

'But... What did they do to her? And who did things to her?' Due to how tears and snot were gushing out of the young lady's eyes and nose, his curiosity was piqued, it got to the level that he almost forgot he was being chased, well, almost.

"Shit! Who are you? Get out of my way!" He waved his hand sending a stream of wind that blew the young lady back.

He was trying to run away, yet this unknown young lady was running towards him while crying. The only reason he refrained from harming her was that he didn't know who she was, and he couldn't just start killing people left and right just because they were running towards him, what if the young lady was only mistaking him for someone else?

But the case would be different the moment the young lady tried to attack him though, if she were to attack him, then he wouldn't take her as a stranger, rather, she'll become an enemy he would try to take down. After all, he couldn't just sit by and allow her to attack him just because he thought she's mistaking him for someone else.

'You really don't remember her?' Void asked on seeing Grey's confusion.

'No, have we seen her before?' Hearing Void's words, Grey figured they had crossed paths with this young lady before.

He had crossed paths with a lot of young ladies, and he didn't really remember all of them, the only ones he remembered were the eye-catching ones or those who did something worth remembering, either good or bad.

'Yeah... Remember the group that helped with the Lightning Apes? She's the girl you told me to jump into her arms.' explained Void.

'Oh, it's her! To think she survived.' Grey immediately remembered the young lady, although not too well, but he recalled telling Void to jump into the arms of a young lady to make their ruse seem more believable to the apes.

'Wait... Doesn't that mean she's talking about the apes? What did the apes do to her?' Grey's mind jolted when he thought of the apes.

He couldn't think of the apes doing any other thing other than ripping their opponents apart.

'I don't know.' Void shrugged.

He, too, was quite curious as to what the Lightning Apes did to the young lady.

"You bastard! You'll not die peacefully!" The young lady cursed and immediately threw an attack at Grey.

'Damn it!' Grey complained internally and created an earth wall to block the attack.

'Shit! Our friends have caught up.' Void said in exasperation.

Croak!

"What's that?" Neil asked while curiously looking at the forest.

All of a sudden, his body trembled as if he recalled something, then he looked at Grey, then back at the forest, then back at Grey again. Soon, he connected the dots.

'How could I be so dumb!?' He questioned himself as he gradually started taking steps back.

This was exactly like the last time he saw Grey, at that time he was inexperienced, so he couldn't escape on time and had to go through the stress of fighting against the apes that followed them, although the ones that followed them were weak, but had they run away sooner, they wouldn't have gone through the hassle of fighting against them.

He could tell Grey was in the Fourth stage of the Origin Plane seeing how casually he was able to block the attack of the young lady, and he's definitely stronger than her, so since he was running away from something, it meant that thing was stronger than he was, and Grey was stronger than him. How could he fight against something stronger than someone stronger than him?

'I have to leave.' He urged himself and turned around to run.

Just as he turned around.

Boom!

A loud sound drew his attention and once again, he curiously turned to take a glance at the cause of it.

"Oh my God! What did he do now!?" Neil felt his legs go soft and his head spun, he was sure he was so close to passing out.

Three two meters frogs appeared at the same time, and Neil could swear he was hearing sounds of more beasts just as big as these frogs, if not bigger coming their way.

"How does he always survive this?" He asked as he dashed towards the west.

The frogs scared him, they scared the shit out of him. If he were to stay there a little longer, he might just piss on himself.

While Neil was escaping, the young lady whose mind had been cloudy by hate didn't even see the frogs, the only thing in her eyes right now is Grey. All she wanted to do was kill him, that was all that mattered, nothing else.

"Ah!" She yelled and once again charged at Grey, preparing an attack which she soon released.

The young lady's attack went straight at him.

'Void!' Grey yelled internally not bothering to look at the attack.

'I know.' Void replied and disappeared from his shoulder, before appearing ahead of him.

The moment he appeared, the stream of fire coming at them slowly started disappearing after getting within one meter of him.

"Huh!" The muddle-headed young lady felt like she was seeing things and couldn't help but rub her eyes to get a clearer view.

Whoosh!

The fire appeared behind the unsuspecting young lady, slamming into her back.

"Argh!" She screamed in pain when it hit her.

The force of the fire sent her flying in Grey's direction.

One of the three frogs shot out its tongue even though the distance between it and Grey was a whooping over three hundred meters.

'She's coming.' Void said after his counter-attack sent the young lady flying.

'Okay.' Grey nodded and prepared himself for what would happen next.

Since he was running over, it didn't take up to two seconds for him to reach the young lady who was mid-air, he caught her leg, took a spin, and threw her in the direction of the tongue.

The whole scene flowed so naturally that one would feel like Grey, Void, the frog, as well as the young lady had practiced this routine a thousand times.

The frog's tongue got hold of the young lady, and the shocking thing about it was that the tongue was over forty meters away from the frog's body. Neither Grey, nor Void, nor the escaping Neil whose curiosity was making him take a peek at what was happening could comprehend how a frog's tongue could stretch that far.

"How's that even possible?" Neil felt his view in life was taking a turn, a bad turn.

But just when he thought he had seen it all, the frog retracted its tongue along with the injured young lady who was attached to the end of it and opened its mouth wide, swallowing her whole.

Even though the frog was two meters in length and just over one meter and a half in height, Neil felt it shouldn't be able to swallow the young lady who was just over a meter and a half.

"I need to get out of here." Neil felt he was having a battle between passing out from shock, and keeping consciousness to escape, but his will to not die, or even if he wanted to die, not in 'that' manner was making it impossible for him to pass out.

Just as he got close to the trees, his curiosity once again made him glance over his shoulder, and behold, he saw different types of lizards, as well as frogs, flooding out of the other side of the forest.

He stood still, dumbstruck, and could not help but turn to take a proper look.

'How the f.u.c.k does he do it?' He asked himself.

He felt his brain heating from the questions, he knew other beasts were coming, but he wouldn't dare to imagine it was this much. Within the three seconds he had stood watching the beasts flood out, he could confidently swear that over fifty beasts had come out of the forest.

Croak!

When his body touched the ground, he huffed and looked behind him, only to see a greenish gooey liquid corroding the tree behind him.

'Shit! No wonder they say curiosity kills the cat! But not this cat! This cat will live to see another day!' He said and dashed into the forest, disappearing into the woods.

His curiosity had nearly killed him, had it not been for one of the frogs making a croaking sound while the other one sent its attack towards him, he would have been dead. But yet another question came to his head, how did the greenish gooey liquid travel from almost eight hundred meters away?

Luckily, the frogs nor lizards chased after him, they all followed Grey.

Meanwhile, Void looked in Neil's direction like he was staring at a fool. Who was foolish enough to stand and watch as so many magical beasts pours out of the forest?

'Such a dumb guy, he should've died to rid this world of one moron.' thought Void.

Chapter 168 - Tiny Door

'We can't keep this up for much longer.' Grey said as he used the inscription to attack the frog that was getting closer to him.

'I know, but there's no way to shake them off, it's like they're glued to your aura or scent.' Void contemplated.

'I don't think it's my aura because the last time I managed to get out of their view, I concealed it, yet they still found us.' Grey said while running past the compound.

He suddenly halted and looked at the castle again.

'It's like the one I entered with the guys when I just came here.' He said.

Standing at the place the gate was supposed to be, he looked behind him, then at the gate. His mind quickly flashed to the castle and everything that happened there. If this one is just like that one, then it meant there would be trials inside. It also meant that he would be able to escape his pursuers.

"Let's go in." He steeled his mind and decided to take the risk.

He didn't know what trials this place had in store for him, but if it would keep these beasts away, he was okay with it. After using the Fusion State against the quasi dragon previously, he should be resting, but he couldn't because he had to escape.

When he entered the compound, he turned around and created a wall to block the space. After doing that, he channeled water essence towards his feet and then into the ground. He had already gotten better at turning the ground into mud, and could easily determine how much essence is needed to create an extremely thick, or light mud.

Currently, he was planning on creating a thick mud that would impede the movement of the beasts that were behind him. With the wall blocking the view of the beasts, they would all naturally jump over it, thereby landing in the mud he has prepared for them.

By the time he was done with his preparation, the frogs were already within a hundred meters away from his location.

'This should be able to slow them down.' He nodded looking at his work before dashing towards the door of the castle.

The compound was large, spanning an area of at least seven hundred cubic meters with the castle taking up one-third of the space.

Grey soon got to the door and just as he touched it.

'There are multiple spaces in there.' Void said, surprised.

'Yeah, there are a lot of places like this.' Grey said nonchalantly.

It wasn't his first time experiencing this, so he didn't feel too surprised.

Grey placed both hands on the wooden door, with the thought of pushing it. He had looked around and noticed it wasn't like that one he entered with the group, so he guessed this one would open if pushed. And just as he was about to apply force on his hands, the door shook.

Rumble!

Creak...

After shaking once, it slowly started opening up.

"Oh!" Grey exclaimed lightly, not expecting the door to open in this manner.

While watching the door, he heard a 'plop' sound, and a smile formed across his face. He quickly turned around and saw all three frogs were caught in his mud trap.

The mud was almost fifty meters long and was at least thirty meters wide, so it covered the area after the gate properly.

Boom!

Grey's attention was once again drawn to the door with that sound. Looking back, he noticed the door was currently opened wide.

"Don't tell me it'll stay like this?" He could not help but complain.

Without wasting any more time, he dashed into the castle which was dark inside, although it was still daytime.

Entering into the castle, other than pillars which had carvings of different magical beasts, there was only one door.

"That should stop them." Grey said with a wry smile.

The door was so small that he was sure it would stop him as well.

"Maybe if I crawl I'll be able to pass through it." He said self mockingly.

Presently, he already gave up on this place and just assumed he was at a dead end and had to face the beasts.

'Hmm, if I turn back now, I should be able to escape.' thought Grey.

Just as he turned around.

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

'Leaving on time so I could still keep a good distance away from them.' replied Grey while walking towards the wooden door which for some reason was closed.

He didn't hear any noises, so he was quite surprised that it was closed.

'Aren't you going to enter this place?' Void looked at him strangely.

'I know you can pass through it, but have you seen the size difference between us? I'm sure only my head could get past it.' Grey replied while trying to open the door.

"F.u.c.k! Why won't it open!?" He cursed out loud when even after using all his strength, the door didn't budge in any way.

'Because it can only be opened from the outside.' Void said.

"Shit! We're f.u.c.k.e.d. *Sigh* Such a bad decision." Grey sighed while shaking his head in disappointment.

He never thought a single decision would cause so much harm, it might even cost him his life. There's no way for him to leave this place, yet, the beasts don't have a problem with getting in. If not for the mud trap he set outside, then he would have already started fighting against the beasts by now.

'Is anything wrong with your head or something?' Void had a strange expression while staring at Grey.

He still couldn't comprehend why Grey was acting this way.

'Are you waiting for the beasts to come in before you go in?' Void still had the same weird look in his eyes.

Grey looked at him and declined to reply, he wanted to save his energy for the beasts coming his way. He felt maybe there was something wrong with Void's head.

Like, how the hell does he expect him to pass through that small door?

'I get it now, you don't know.' Void said after seeing his lack of reply.

'Don't know what?' asked Grey.

'That's not the entrance, there's a space opening just before it.' Void pointed to the door.

It was only now that he remembered unlike him, Grey didn't have the space element, so he wouldn't be able to sense the fact that there was an entrance just in front of the little door.

'Why didn't you say that earlier?' Grey instantly stood up and sprinted towards the little door.

Since he could escape, why would he bother himself with fighting against the beasts? He soon got close to the door.

'Where?'

'Take three steps forward.'

'Okay.'

Grey took three steps forward, but nothing happened, just as he was about to question Void again, he heard the creaking sound the door makes when opening.

He unconsciously took a fourth step, and just as his foot touched the ground, he was s.u.c.k.e.d in with a flash of dark silvery light.

'Oh, looks like it's the fourth.' Void said awkwardly.

'Where's this?' Grey asked looking at the dark space around them.

He was currently floating, and looking ahead of him, he saw twelve lights, other than that, he saw nothing else. It was like he was in the night sky, and the twelve lights were the stars in it. Judging from the direction he was headed, he realized he was going towards the third light he counts from the left.

'A space created by a Space Elementalist.' said Void.

'Wow, amazing! The space element truly is unique.' Grey exclaimed, surprised by what the space element was capable of once again.

He hopes to awaken his sooner, but alas, it was easier said than done. He knew how long it took for him to awaken the other elements, and luck was also what helped him in shortening the time. Had he not been lucky, then it would take longer. Comprehending the elements was just too hard, and since he had to increase the grade of the ones he had awakened, he had less time to start comprehending new ones.

Just as he entered the light, a frog appeared in the space.

Chapter 169 - Finding The Cause

Whoosh!

Grey heard the sound of the wind brushing against him quickly, looking around, he realized he was falling from the sky, and the ground was still at least over one thousand meters away.

'Isn't this a bit too extreme?' He complained but still felt lucky that he had awakened his wind element which he quickly used to support himself thereby slowing down the speed of his descent.

Some seconds later, he landed softly on the ground like he was only taking a walk. After he got to the ground, he first stared at the sky, before observing his surroundings.

They were presently in a mountain range that stretched out as far as the eye could see, and they could hear the roars of different magical beasts.

'This is a little different from the one I entered previously.' thought Grey.

He waited for some seconds, but he didn't hear the robotic voice he expected to hear. Without the voice, he wouldn't know what this place was, and given how wide it was, he couldn't explore it completely before the time they were supposed to spend in the trial land runs out.

'There's a building there.' Void's small voice brought Grey out of his thoughts.

"I guess that should be our target." Grey placed his hand on his chin while scrutinizing the mountain.

Without further delay, he started descending the mountain, heading towards the one with the building.

Twenty minutes later.

"Such a strange beast, it's a shame it escaped once it realized I was stronger than it was." Grey said while looking at the ruined area in front of him.

In the past twenty minutes, he had traveled more than halfway through the mountain and had encountered different beasts that were all around the Fourth to the Sixth stage of the Origin Plane, and he had unsurprisingly defeated them all. They weren't even worth mentioning until he faced this

previous one, it was a beast he hadn't seen before and he hoped to capture it, but it escaped when it saw he was stronger than it was.

The beast stood on two legs like humans, it had a dog-like head, and two hands that had four fingers each. It stood at a height of almost two meters, and its body was a shade of blue and black, with blue taking the majority while black only covered up its chest and belly, as well as some parts of its face. It was surprisingly also a dual element magical beast, having the wind and earth element respectively.

'Huh! We need to get going.' Void looked towards the top of the mountain while talking.

"What's up?" Grey asked after he had already started walking.

He didn't know why Void said that they needed to get going, but he decided to start heading forward anyway, in case he needed to run, he'll have a good head start.

'Looks like one of them entered this place, and it is headed here very quickly.' explained Void.

"Just one?" Grey wanted to get a confirmation of the number.

If only one of them entered this place, then he wouldn't mind killing it. After all, the only reason he was running away was that they were just too many, and he couldn't fight against them.

'Yes, but since one of them is here, it wouldn't take long for the others to come in here as well. The sooner we leave this place the better.' Void advised.

"No." Grey shook his head.

He initially thought of killing the first one, but after hearing Void's statement, he changed his mind because he knew he was right.

"The sooner we find out why they're chasing after us, and how they keep finding us, the better. We can't keep running forever." He added.

When they entered this place, he realized something, although one of the frogs attacked Neil when it saw him, it didn't go after him, rather, it continued chasing Grey. It was like they were only focused on him, and him alone. He had tried hiding his aura, but they keep finding him, now even after entering one of twelve lights which he felt should be able to hide him from them, they are still able to come after him.

'There must be something giving me away.' He fell deeply in thoughts.

Being chased wasn't a good feeling, and although he was starting to get used to it due to how frequently he was getting chased, it still wasn't a good feeling.

'Another one's in.' Void said after a brief lapse of silence.

'Could it be the things I took from the lab?' Grey asked himself while moving forward slowly.

"By any chance, do you think they're able to find us because of the items we took from the lab?" He asked, thinking this was the most plausible explanation.

'Another three now. Sorry, what did you say?' Void who was focused on sensing the beasts that were entering the place was unable to properly hear what Grey said.

Grey repeated the question once again.

'That...might be a possibility, but we really can't be too sure.' Void said.

"Then there's only one way to find out."

Five minutes later.

Grey was currently almost at the foot of the mountain, but Void was unexpectedly not with him.

'Can you hear me?' He transmitted his voice over to Void who was nowhere to be seen.

Over one kilometer away from Grey's position, Void could be seen jumping from tree to tree with a grumpy face.

'Yes.' He replied grumpily.

Grey chuckled on hearing how he responded, he was still left speechless by Void's obsession over shiny things.

After he thought of the possible reason they were being chased and found by the beasts, he suggested that he and Void should head in two separate ways with each carrying one of the items he took from the lab. The second Void heard his suggestion, he instantly voted to be the one to take the blade while Grey took the glass tube that held the lizard.

Grey naturally wouldn't agree to this, and after spending almost one minute arguing who would take the blade, he won. The reason for that was because the blade was in his storage ring.

He was praying fervently, hoping the beasts don't come after him, because the thought of discarding such a great weapon was already giving him a heartache.

'It's amazing how we can communicate even from such a far distance.' Grey said trying to get Void's mind off the blade to help lighten his mood.

Void is truly a great companion, and other than his love for shiny things, he was great. Grey isn't even bothered about it, since everyone has something they love. Although, there's a high chance that Void's obsession would get him in trouble, just like with the Lightning Apes.

'Yeah, I didn't think we would still be able to communicate even from this distance.' replied Void.

They soon focused on speaking about the mind link, and its possible limitations which slowly took Void's mind off of the blade.

'I'm almost at the next mountain, what next?' Void asked as he appeared at the foot of the mountain knowing another side, preparing to head into the next mountain.

'Wait there.' replied Grey.

At first, Void suggested that after he was a good distance away from Grey's location, he would drop the glass tube and head back since he felt the glass tube containing the lizard was the most likely item that was attracting the beasts. But Grey rejected it since he couldn't take the risk. What if after dropping the glass tube, the beasts still chase after him? Wouldn't that mean he'll lose both the body of the lizard as well as the sword?

Grey and Void patiently waited on two separate mountains, the mountains they were currently on was not in the direction of the building, so even if the beasts finds them, after discarding the item, they would head towards the mountain, besides, they could still communicate, and once they get close to one another, they could sense each other.

Ten minutes later.

Rustle!

Grey who had his eyes closed, sitting in a crossed leg position opened his eyes and his face turned sour when he heard the rustling of grass when stepped on.

'Don't tell me the blade is the reason they're chasing after me.' He shook his head feeling a little dejected.

This was a multi-elemental weapon, the first he had ever seen or heard of. It would be bad if he were to give it up.

'They're headed in my direction, I've discarded the glass tube.'

Just when Grey was starting to think of what to do, he heard Void's voice and couldn't help but sigh in relief. If the beasts went after Void, it only meant they were after the glass tube holding the lizard all along.

'If they went after Void, then what's coming towards me?'

Chapter 170 - Nice Pants!

'If they went after Void, then what's coming towards me?'

Grey stood up and squinted his eyes, peering through the trees, trying to see what or who was coming towards him.

It didn't take long for him to catch a glimpse of a human figure, he felt a little more relaxed seeing that it was a person that was coming towards him, at least this meant he wouldn't need to fight an unnecessary battle.

"Who's there? Come out!" He yelled towards the person who for some reason was still hiding.

"Ah!"

Accompanied by a powerful yell was a one and a half meters long earth spear that shot at Grey at a terrifying speed.

Being caught unaware by the attack, he was slow to react, but he was still able to dodge the spear by a hair's breadth.

He sidestepped to the side and the spear brushed by his side, ripping a hole in the pants of his left leg while also slightly scratching his skin.

'Shit! My last pair of pants are ruined! Who the hell is this?' Grey felt like beating the hell out of the person.

He had been so careful all this while, and even when he found against the quasi dragon, he somehow managed to keep them from getting damaged. Now, a moron came from nowhere and destroyed it, even wounding him in the process.

He was infuriated!

Just as the first attack was dodged, three earth arrows shot at Grey once again at breakneck speed.

Grey immediately created a wind dome around him that easily deflected the arrows coming his way. After deflecting it, he shot straight in the direction where the previous attacks came from.

"Come out now! And we can still settle this...if you're not an enemy." Grey yelled but the last part of the statement was so low that only he heard it.

But he was met with silence, the person who attacked him didn't make a sound, nor did the person attack any further. The person also concealed their aura, making it difficult for Grey to find them.

Grey looked around for some time but was still unable to find the person. He even did a wide fire attack on the area, but other than scaring the magical beasts in the vicinity, nothing else happened.

With no other option, he was forced to give up, while gritting his teeth hatefully. This person attacked him without warning and destroyed his last pair of pants, now he would have to walk around with it. Luckily, the place torn wasn't that large, so he could manage.

'I need to get some pants.' Grey declared inside.

'Where are you?' He asked Void who was currently dashing through the trees on the mountain agilely.

'I'm almost at the second mountain.' replied Void.

'Forget about it for now, come in my direction, and if you see any humans on the way, inform me. Also, when you get here, don't immediately show yourself.' Grey said.

He wanted to find who attacked him, and he felt Void was the best guy for the job. Given how sharp Void's senses were, he might be able to pick up this person who seems to be quite good at hiding.

'Is anything wrong?' Void couldn't help but ask when he heard Grey's words.

Grey went on to tell him about his ordeal, and his quest for revenge.

After telling Void about it, he looked around vigilantly then walked away from the place, but he didn't go too far, only about a kilometer from there. He walked towards a big tree that was able to perfectly block the sun and sat in a crossed leg position.

'How did the expert put a sun in this personal space?' Grey asked as he stared at the sky through the leaves of the tree.

Even after being here for almost one hour, Grey was still dumbstruck by the fact that this was a space created by someone, it was almost like the real world! In fact, had Void not said it was a space created by an expert before they entered the place, he would've thought there were only transported to somewhere else in the trial land.

Rustle...

Grey instantly snapped out of his thoughts when he heard the rustling sound, but he didn't make any movements, he sat in the same position and if not for the frequent movement of his c.h.e.s.t when breathing, one might think he was dead.

This was the reason he left his previous location, given how good the person was in hiding, he was unable to tell if the person was still there or not. But here, no matter how good the person was in hiding, the person would walk past some leaves which would certainly make a small amount of noise. Now, he knew he still had a chance of revenge, but he still didn't know who would be attacking him.

He sat down patiently while conversing with Void who was already close to where he was sitting.

'The person is here, so no need to look around for other humans, just head straight towards my location.' He informed Void.

'Okay.'

Another minute went by with neither Grey nor his stalker making any move, made of the two, Grey seemed to be the most unbothered, it was like the situation was reversed.

'I'm here.'

'I know, I can sense you. Try to find out the location of the bastard.' Grey stood up.

"I know you're here! What's your motive of attacking me?" Grey questioned, but it was like his words fell into deaf ears.

He looked in the direction he heard the rustling leaves, and slowly approached it.

Swoosh...

Grey jolted at the sound of something breaking through the wind and sharply turned. An earth arrow was speeding towards him, even though he was prepared for an attack, he never expected it to come from this angle.

The arrow was headed straight at his heart, he threw his right hand at the arrow with the hope of catching it, even if he couldn't catch it, he should at least be able to change the course of its movement. But because of the speed, he was only able to move slightly, before the arrow hit him.

Bam!

Thud!

With the arrow connecting, Grey fell to the ground, he laid sideways without making any movements, even his breathing seemed to have stopped.

One minute went by with no one taking any action, it was only on the second minute did a figure slowly walk out of the trees. When the figure emerged fully, it was surprisingly the youth from the Starlight Academy who was in the Twelfth Prince's group.

He had a smirk on his face as he slowly approached the body of Grey. When they entered the castle, just like Grey they were all disheartened on seeing the small door, but because they couldn't leave, they slowly started examining the hall. It was only after one of them mysteriously disappeared did the others started swarming towards the small door.

He was resting when he suddenly heard movements, following where the sound was coming from, he found Grey. Before coming to the trial land, the instructors of the Academy told them to kill the students from the Lunar Academy if the opportunity arose, Grey especially, due to his involvement in the last incident that led to the death of one of their instructors.

"This c.o.c.ky bastard is finally dead, the Academy would reward me handsomely." He laughed out loud in delight.

At first, when he saw Grey, he wanted to fight against him, but he halted when he sensed Grey was not one, but two stages ahead of him. He remembered being the one who was two stages ahead when they entered the trial land, now, the situation was reversed.

On getting to Grey's body, he was about to kick it when Grey turned to look at him with a smile.

"Oh! It's you." Grey sharply stood up and threw the arrow that was held in his right hand away.

The arrow unexpectedly didn't pierce into his body, rather, if one looks closely, one will see a hole in his shirt, and behind that hole, was a glistening almost silvery colored earth armor. Grey had prepared this beforehand, just in case things took an unexpected turn.

The youth took a step back while staring at Grey with horror-filled eyes, he saw his arrow hitting him, yet why was he perfectly fine?

"Don't be surprised, if not for the fact that I wanted to see you, you would have been dead by now." Grey patted the terrified youth on the shoulder.

He recognized the youth was from the Starlight Academy and recalling that he saw Neil here previously, he was about to connect the dots.

Void soon mysteriously appeared on Grey's shoulder, which sent chills down the spine of the youth. He didn't know when this small black cat came here, but from Grey's words, it looked like the cat was what would've killed him.

"I... I... I was...only...playing around." The youth stuttered, hoping for Grey to let him go.

"I must say, you do have a nice pair of pants." Grey said with a mysterious smile.

"Huh!" The youth was taken aback by Grey's statement.

'What do my pants have to do with this?' He thought.

A minute later, a dead pantless youth could be seen on the ground, with eyes filled with sadness and regret.

"It's not very comfortable, but it'll do for now. When we leave here, I need to go pants hunting." Grey said as he disappeared into the trees, heading towards the building.