

Affinity 201

Chapter 201 - One-Hour Break

Boom!

Grey's first four attacks collided in the ice sphere, exploding on impact, but it didn't even get as much as a glance from Grey and Void, the reason for that was because his secret fifth attack appeared above Aetonth at the same time as well.

The third array he made which he used in secretly unleashing the fifth attack was larger than the previous two, since his target was large, he wanted to use a big attack that might cover over half of Aetonth's body. Of course, he made sure the attack was of the fire element since he thought it was more effective against the Aetonth, the Ice Dragon.

Aetonth who was running in Grey's direction while still sending out ice streams immediately sensed the attack that appeared above it, it immediately stopped attacking and tried to dodge to the side, but when it wanted to move, it realized that moving actually became quite difficult. It looked below it only to realize that at least one-fourth of its leg had sunk into the thick mud which formed all of a sudden beneath it, it couldn't struggle free quickly given the time, so it spread out its wings, hoping to fly away in the crucial moment.

Aetonth managed to flap its wings twice, but it was unfortunately not enough to get it out of the mud before the attack landed fiercely on its back.

Boom!

A large explosion rang out, but that wasn't all, Void attacked as well, sending out a lightning, fire, and darkness element attack all at the same time, aiming for one place.

Seeing this, Grey also attacked as well, he didn't know if these attacks could kill it, but he hoped they should at least wear it down.

After almost twenty seconds of continuous attacks, the duo stopped and Void returned to Grey's shoulder, panting. Even Grey wasn't having an easy time as well, it had been over twenty minutes since Aetonth was chasing and beating them up, and since then, he haven't had time to rest.

Void on the other hand managed to rest during the time they spent running, it's just that, compared to Grey, he was the one who had taken most of the beating.

'Do you think we got it?' Void asked looking at the smoky and dusty place where they unleashed barrages of attacks.

'No, we...need to leave here.' Grey wasn't optimistic about their chances if killing Aetonth from those attacks, but he wanted to find a place to rest, hopefully, Aetonth wouldn't chase after them anymore.

According to his calculations, his friends should get to the array within three hours or so, and he's currently about four hours away from the array.

He ran following the route he planned out, while also hoping to find a secure spot to rest, he didn't wait to confirm if their attacks damaged Aetonth, but he hoped it did, even if it was by a small amount.

Four minutes after Grey and Void left the forest, the dust and smoke still hadn't completely died down, but Aetonth's figure could properly be seen now.

It was currently sprawling on the muddy ground, and letting out slight painful groans. It was thoroughly stumped by the duo's attacks, and he nearly had the impulse to kill them, it didn't remember when last it was hit by this much.

"Clever human, annoying cat, you're lucky my power is restrained, or else I'd have beaten you so bad for this that you wouldn't even recognize yourselves. If not for that old man, I wouldn't even go easy on them. Hmph!" Aetonth's voice could be heard coming from the dust.

"I'll let them rest for one hour, I need to recover from their attacks." Aetonth's figure moved, and it soon walked out from the dust.

When it came into sight, a transparent ice scale-like armor could be seen covering its scales, but some parts of it were missing and its scales had multiple black spots.

Of Grey and Void's attacks, the one he hated the most was Void's darkness attacks, followed by Grey's fire element attacks. Both attacks were so powerful that even though its present strength was five stages ahead in Grey's case and six stages ahead in Void's case, they still managed to break its defenses.

After Aetonth came out from the dust and laid down at the side of a tree, the old man appeared in front of him once again.

"To think they would be able to break your defense." The old man said with a soft smile.

"If they were by themselves, they wouldn't have a chance." Aetonth said disapprovingly.

"But you have to admit, they're quite strong, and clever as well, even I didn't expect them to trap you in such an ingenious way. If you were facing any other duo, I don't think you'd be in such a sorry state." The old man said.

"Hmph! Stop praising the brat, if not for you saying I shouldn't kill him, he would've been long dead." Aetonth scoffed before saying.

"But you have to give them credit, they tried." The old man said.

"Fine." Aetonth nodded.

"So why are you here?" The old man asked while staring in another direction.

He could currently see Grey and Void running away, they've even left the forest, and were currently heading in the direction of a building.

"I'm giving them a one-hour break, at least they should rest a little, or they might truly die from my attacks." Aetonth said before closing its eyes.

With how powerful it originally was, it didn't have any problems with locating the duo with his spiritual sense. Although its true strength was restricted, it could still easily use its original powerful spiritual sense.

"Okay, try to push him harder this time, you're beating the cat too much." The old man said.

He had been watching the battle, and compared to Grey, he noticed Void was the one who was getting more beat up by Aetonth.

"I feel the brat wants the cat to be beaten up, so I'm just helping him." Aetonth said.

"Oh, I also noticed his physical defense was amazing when I struck him previously." It added.

"Just like him, hmm, okay, try to push him harder, I want to see how strong he truly is." The old man said before disappearing.

"Oh! I already have your crystal" The old man's voice rang out from the void, but he was nowhere to be seen.

Chapter 202 - Sacrifice The Cat!

Thirty minutes later.

Grey and Void could be seen sprinting out of a forest, and heading in the direction of a building.

After they left the forest where they were battling with Aetonth, they've passed by multiple buildings, as well as two other forests before getting here.

Grey didn't even know how far he had run, but he estimated that he should be at least forty kilometers away from Aetonth. It only now did he decide to rest, once he's recovered, he would head towards the array.

'I think it stopped chasing us.' Void said while relaxing on Grey's shoulder.

'Me too, but it's best we move out after resting for a while.' Grey replied before entering the compound.

He looked around, and other than some beasts, he saw nothing else. The beasts were all in the Arcane Plane, so all Grey did was to release his far superior aura, scaring the beasts away.

He made some defensive arrays outside the room he entered, before shutting his eyes to enter into a meditative state.

His body greedily started to absorb the elemental essence in the area, rejuvenating the tired Grey, and also filling up his wind and lightning element reserve. Of all his elements, they were the ones he had used the most since he constantly had to channel them in his body while he was running away, so when he was absorbing the elemental essences, he focused more on them since he didn't know if he might have to run away once more.

Grey's wind and lightning elemental reserve in his elemental beads were almost filled, while his other elements were once again filled up.

If it were to be someone else, then they would've needed at least nearly double the time he took in almost refiling his wind and lightning element. But compared to others, his absorption rate was faster.

'Void, let's go.' He opened his eyes and said.

He was currently feeling energetic and was ready to continue his journey. Now, he wanted to leave this place more than anything else, if he continued moving at this speed, then he might get there within another three hours or so, making him an hour late given the time he estimated Klaus and the others would get there.

'Okay.' Void who was previously resting opened his eyes and jumped into his shoulder.

Grey came out of the room, exited the building, and once again started his race towards the array.

Unknown to them, Aetonth had already begun its chase once again.

Grey and Void quickly passed through different terrains in fifteen minutes, from entering a forest to going through a tall grassy field to currently being in a mountain.

Just before they got to the peak of the mountain, Void suddenly stood up and looked behind them.

'Crap! It's coming.' He said to Greg hastily.

'The dragon?' asked Grey.

Void nodded with a sour face before replying, 'Yes.'

If he truly had the crystal, he would have returned it after going through the first round of beating from Aetonth, but now, he not only lost the crystal, he was being beaten for it. Although everything was his fault in the first place, he was still stumped by how the crystal suddenly disappeared.

When they were previously in the building resting, he even checked his spatial storage again, just to be sure. This time, he went through it meticulously, but he still didn't find the crystal.

His current situation was like being beaten for stealing something you planned to return but then lost it on the way, only in his case, he thought of returning it after being beaten, only to find out it was gone.

'Are you sure you don't have the crystal?' Grey asked once again.

He was still having doubts about what Void said, he couldn't be blamed though since Void loved shiny things.

'I don't. If I knew it was this powerful, I wouldn't have taken it.' Void said with remorse.

'Well, it's too late now.' Grey said before increasing his speed.

His senses weren't as sharp as Void's, but since Aetonth hasn't entered his range yet, it meant he was still some distance away, that's a valuable time for the duo to come up with a strategy before it will catch up to them.

Grey continued running while thinking of something to do, surprisingly, he asked himself, 'If Klaus were here, what would he do?'

As soon as the thought came to his head, the only answer he could think of was, 'Sacrifice the cat.'

He couldn't help but chuckle and take a glance at Void, 'Maybe I might try it.' He thought to himself.

It took Grey another two minutes to get off the mountain, running past the buildings he saw on his way. Another five minutes later, Grey started sensing Aetonth's aura.

'It's getting closer.' He thought.

In another two minutes, Grey caught sight of Aetonth's figure when he looked behind him, it wasn't really hard to miss the over six meters blue dragon in the sky, especially with its wings spread apart. He was currently running in an open field that seems to go downhill.

Boom!

An ice shard came from underneath Grey's feet, pushing him up. Luckily, Grey trained his physical body a lot, so he managed to quickly use the boost he got from the ice to leap forward. He landed on the ground before doing a roll because of the momentum, he instantly continued running as soon as he got up again.

This time around, Aetonth fired ice balls that exploded once they came in contact with anything. After the ice balls explode, they'll release ice that will freeze anything within a meter of them.

"Crap! Crap! Crap!" Grey ran while dodging the ice balls that were falling from the sky.

The chase went on like this for almost a minute before one of Grey's legs was unfortunately frozen, after being in the one-meter range of the ice ball's freezing range.

The ice froze his left leg from the foot to his t.h.i.g.h.

"Damn it! Come on, come on, come on!" Grey urged as the ice on his legs slowly started melting when he channeled his fire essence to his leg, but the problem was, Aetonth was getting closer to them.

"Yes, I'm free." Grey said after the ice melt completely from his leg.

Bam!

Aetonth landed on the ground, blocking his path.

"Shit! I'm f.u.c.k.e.d." Grey immediately cursed when he turned around only to see Aetonth in front of him.

A scene quickly played out in his mind, it was the scene of him offering Void as a sacrifice, and Aetonth letting him go. He quickly threw the thought to the back of his head since he knew it was unrealistic.

"Mister dragon, just so you know, he was the one who stole your crystal." Grey pointed at Void who was on his shoulder.

'You're selling me out.' Void complained immediately.

'Good, we're even.' Grey sneered.

'When did I ever sell you out?' Void asked feeling wrong.

'Oh, how about all the times you nearly cause my death because of your obsession. If we survive this, you're only allowed to steal what might put my life in danger, you know what, tell me first if you want to steal something.' Grey retorted angrily, releasing all the pent-up frustration he felt from this chase.

'Does that mean I can't steal the emperor's crown?' Void asked, he didn't try to talk back since he knew he was wrong.

'Did you even listen to a word I said? Don't steal what might cause my death! The emperor's crown will not only cause my death, but it would also put those I know in danger.' Grey yelled at him.

'Oh, I'm sorry about this though. It's just that, it was shiny.' Void apologized.

'Why do you like shiny things?' Grey couldn't help but ask.

'Honestly, I have no idea.' replied Void after some time.

Unfortunately for the duo, Aetonth didn't have time to wait for them and attacked instantly.

During the battle, Void had been slammed by Aetonth's tail, was hit by an ice ball that exploded, freezing him in the process, and had been sent flying in every possible direction, even downwards!

Chapter 203 - Fighting Back!

'I can't take this anymore, we need to escape!' Void yelled after slamming into the ground for the eighth time.

'You can still go on.' Grey sneered while blocking the advances of Aetonth to give Void time to regain himself.

'No, no I can't. Look at all the pits I've formed on the ground. Look! There's even one that draws for almost two meters! I'm not even close to half a meter in length.' Void complained while showing Grey all the little craters his figure had made after he slammed into the ground.

There is one that was particularly eye-catching since it drew over a distance of nearly two meters. It was from the time when Aetonth's tail connected with Void, sending him crashing into the ground.

Regardless of the fact that Void had been the one receiving most of the beatings, Grey hadn't been particularly lucky as well. Whenever Void was out of the picture, he had to face Aetonth alone to try and cover for Void.

It had been over five minutes since Aetonth caught up with them, and they haven't even been able to strike him once. All their attacks had either been destroyed by Aetonth's attacks or stopped by the ice sphere which appears only when an attack gets close to it.

Grey currently had three inscriptions set up which were frequently attacking, as well as his personal attacks, this was the only reason they were still alive. Distracting Aetonth was the only thing Grey could currently do. Without Void's space element, it was almost impossible for him to get past the ice sphere, since even when he manages to destroy it, Aetonth would be able to easily escape and create another one.

He thought of using his physical strength, but he realized that getting closer to Aetonth would put him in more danger, so, he decided against it. Also, after recalling how painful the tail strike he got from Aetonth was, he knew it was a fool's wish to think his physical strength would be on par with its or even stronger.

'Looks like I'll have to use that again.' thought Grey.

Without wasting time, he quickly started channeling water essence through his legs, to different parts of the battlefield, he hoped to once again trap Aetonth before he and Void attacked with their strongest attacks. But he was left stunned when he realized once his water essence got within two meters of Aetonth, he would suddenly lose the link with it, it was like it was suddenly frozen.

Grey tried again, and the result was just like the first time, he couldn't help but stare at the eyes of Aetonth, and from its eyes, he could tell it figured out what he wanted to do and stopped it.

'I'll have to use the Fusion State for a little while then escape, as quickly as possible.' Grey thought.

He was left with no option, he had to use the Fusion State so they could have an opportunity to escape, hopefully, he might even get to hit Aetonth more, after all, they would be in the same stage.

'Void, buy me some time, I'm going to use that technique now.' He said to Void who was just managing to stand from the new pit he had formed on the battlefield.

'Ah, finally!' Void exclaimed in delight before vanishing and attacking Aetonth the moment he came into sight again.

Grey created an earth wall to block any possible attacks that might come from Aetonth and focused on fusing his elemental beads since it wasn't the first time he was doing it, it was faster than before.

His only concern was that he used the Fusion State about a month or two ago, so he didn't know if it might be harmful to him or not.

The elemental beads quickly fused, sending out a shockwave with Grey at the center, soon, his stage increased from the Fourth to the Fifth stage, and then all the way to the Ninth stage before it stopped.

Boom!

The intense activity quickly alerted Aetonth who was having a good time beating Void up, it sensed the sudden spike in Grey's strength and couldn't help but be stunned.

How could the human improve by so much? It wondered.

Aetonth knew of techniques that increased the strength of their users, but not by this much, especially given the Plane Grey was on.

'Looks like the old man knew of this. Fine, things would become a little more interesting now.' thought Aetonth. It had gotten a little tired of beating the duo up, but since Grey could actually improve his strength to this level, the battle wouldn't be boring anymore.

It stomped on the ground, and from where its forelimb touched, the ground slowly started being covered in snow. In ten seconds, it covered the area within a thirty meters radius.

He quickly picked up speed, and soon appeared before Aetonth. Being in the Fusion State gave him more confidence to get close to Aetonth, he knew Aetonth's body was far stronger than his own, but he still wanted to try it out.

He clenched his right hand into a fist and threw a punch at Aetonth.

Aetonth retreated three meters back and the ice sphere appeared once again, blocking Grey's punch.

Crack!

Cracks quickly spread across the ice sphere, but it managed to hold on.

Grey didn't seem bothered as he quickly withdrew his hand to throw another punch with lightning speed, this time, his fist was covered in blue flames like a flaming glove.

He got this idea from a technique he picked up during the first time he headed out of the Lunar Academy, lightning gloves. It was a technique he went on to regret picking since he never really got the chance to use it.

Boom!

The already cracked ice sphere exploded and the flaming glove in Grey's hand shot from his hand, heading straight for Aetonth.

Aetonth didn't have enough time to evade the attack, so it quickly improvised and its claw at the flaming fist.

Boom!

Ice and fire exploded out in two directions.

Chapter 204 - Throw One More

Grey stood calmly in the same spot while watching as Aetonth was able to block his attack.

'Void!' He called.

He couldn't even beat the quasi dragon when he was using the Fusion State, so he didn't try to get c.o.c.ky and fight against a real dragon with the same strength. Aetonth was far stronger than the quasi dragon was. He needed Void's help if they were going to be able to escape this nightmare.

Aetonth roared excitedly after blocking that attack and ice shards shot at Grey.

Grey quickly used Aetonth's previous way of defending himself, he created a fire sphere around him that managed to make short work of the ice shards, not letting them come close to him.

After blocking, he pointed at Aetonth as fireballs steadily shot out from the fire sphere, heading in its direction.

Aetonth reciprocated by spitting out a stream of ice that destroyed most of the fireballs, but some still managed to hit him thanks to Void's space element.

The trio fought back and forth with Aetonth unsurprisingly being the one who held the advantage.

Within one minute, it had sent Grey flying a couple of times and had also frozen some parts of his body. Likewise, in this one minute, Grey and Void had managed to hit it more than they had done since encountering it.

After managing to dodge Aetonth's tail strike, Grey took to the sky, standing mid-air with his short hair fluttering in the wind. He was sweating from the intense one minute fight it just had with Aetonth, but he couldn't rest long since Aetonth attacked once again.

'Void, don't get close to it.' Grey warned before a multi-colored orb appeared in his hands.

As soon as Void saw the orb, he instantly retreated since he knew how powerful it was.

Aetonth on the other hand looked at the orb with curiosity, and shock could be seen present in its large eyes.

How could he wield something this powerful? Aetonth was left puzzled.

It didn't have time to think about it when it saw the multi-colored orb coming its way at a frightening speed. It couldn't escape, so it quickly went into its defensive mode, the ice sphere, as well as the transparent ice scale-like armor that covered its body appeared almost instantaneously.

But even then, it felt they weren't enough.

With that, it created an ice pillar that it sent at the orb, hoping to destroy it.

Given the speed by which the orb was moving, it got close to him almost as soon as the ice pillar finished forming, so it didn't really move by much before it struck the orb.

Boom!

A huge explosion followed suit, right after the orb made contact with the ice pillar.

Grey who was mid-air felt Void appear on his shoulder, 'Let's go.'

'Wait!' Void stopped him.

'What?'

'Throw one more. You know, just to be sure.'

Grey felt Void's idea wasn't bad, another orb was soon thrown into the explosion which was still increasing further. He made sure to aim it at the spot he previously saw Aetonth.

The first explosion hadn't even reached its peak when the second one exploded after making contact with something.

Boom!

Grey quickly flew away from the scene, not waiting to see the outcome of the explosion.

The only reason this battle felt a little easier than the one with the quasi dragon was because of the huge space they had around them. Here, Aetonth couldn't corner them.

Deep in the trial land.

At a mountain peak.

The old man was currently watching the battle between Aetonth and Grey, while Chris was busy studying the array before him.

The old man watched on from how Aetonth was beating the duo to when Grey hid behind an earth wall. At first, he was puzzled by this, but it all made sense when he sensed Grey's energy increasing by the second.

"Oh! It's that, how come he can't enter instantaneously?" He asked himself in a low voice.

Chris looked at the man as he was muttering what sounded like gibberish to him since he couldn't hear what he was saying properly. He shook his head and felt maybe, just maybe, the old man would go insane soon.

"Oh! He can use that now, excellent. How smart, attacking once again to make sure the opponent is at the very least, hurt." The old man muttered under his breath when Grey used the orb to attack Aetonth again.

"Hmm, but he's quite cautious though." The old man said as he saw Grey escaping as soon as he used the orb the second time.

As soon as Chris saw that the old man was gone, he instantly smiled in elation.

"Hehe, that old man, he didn't know I've already figured out how to break this thirty minutes ago. Hmph!" He thought as he walked towards the array.

Brown stared at him, but didn't have any reactions, it not that it didn't want to go out, but it knew it was a waste of time since the old man would bring them back before they even get far.

Chris knew this as well, he knew he couldn't escape, but he just wanted to break the array and examine this place further.

On getting to the array, Chris calmly closed his eyes and used his spiritual sense to create an array that would break the weak link he had long found in the array. But the next moment...

"Damn it! That cunning old man!" Chris yelled in annoyance.

The old man knew he had found the way to break the array, so he modified it a little. This, in turn, made Chris' previous effort be in vain.

'Fine, I give up.' He thought depressingly, but that didn't stop him from studying the array though.

He needed more knowledge on arrays, and the old man was giving it to him for free.

'Unfortunately, I can't teach them to my precious cook.'

Chapter 205 - Train Him

The old man soon appeared at the site of the battle. Of course, Grey and Void were long gone.

He waved his hand, and the smoke and dust in the area died down. The hill currently didn't have any semblance to what it looked like ten minutes ago before Grey and Aetonth started fighting.

There was an over ten meters deep crater at the spot where Aetonth was previously standing, and the surrounding looked like a place that just suffered from strong burns due to the ashes flying everywhere, technically, it has.

In the crater, Aetonth could be seen sprawling on the ground. Its transparent ice armor scale was completely destroyed, most parts of its body were charred. Yet, none of its armor-like scales was removed. They were only charred, nothing else.

When it noticed that the aftereffect of the explosion suddenly disappeared, it guessed it was the old man's doing. It got to its feet, staggered a little before finding its footing, shook its body, and leaped out of the crater.

"He's quite something." Aetonth praised before fixing its gaze in the direction Grey and Void escaped to.

"Well, it's normal since he inherited that." The old man said mysteriously.

Not everyone knew of what was inside Grey's body, but he did. He knew it too well, that was why he wasn't shocked when he saw Grey displaying such power. If for anything he was shocked, it was not by the power Grey displayed. But because he felt compared to his student at this stage, Grey seemed to be lacking in strength.

'When that little brat was at this stage, he wouldn't have any problems with defeating Aetonth.' The old man thought to himself.

"What did he inherit?" Aetonth asked curiously.

"It's not something you should concern yourself about. Do you still plan on chasing after them?" The old man asked.

He could tell that Aetonth was fine. Given Aetonth's real strength, its physical defense wasn't something to laugh about, it was terrifying! Therefore, the old man knew other than the explosion shaking it up a little, it was perfectly fine.

"No, I've played enough for today." Aetonth rejected the idea.

It still couldn't figure out why the old man was doing this, okay, maybe it has, after witnessing Grey's last attack. But, is there still a need to go after him? The old man had seen what he wanted anyway.

"Okay, but just a reminder. You'll see him again, and at that time, you wouldn't be able to beat him up." The old man said with a smile.

He was bored, Chris had not really been entertaining. Why not watch Aetonth train the boy? He thought.

Aetonth looked at the old man, it knew what the old man was implying. If you don't beat him now, you'll never have the chance again. But the question was, what good would beating a human boy do for it?

Like the old man could read its mind, he said, "When the time comes, this will be something you can brag about."

Dragons are known to be prideful creatures, and Aetonth for one is also very prideful. But it had a weakness, it enjoyed bragging about things it had done or had acquired. That was one of the reasons it had so many treasures. Had Void not taken the crystal and woken it up, if the group looked inside the pond, they might have fainted from the sheer shock of the shiny things stacked inside.

"Something to brag about? Old man, are you sure you're not tricking me?" Aetonth who had previously lost interest suddenly looked at the old man curiously.

Why would it brag to others about beating up a human boy? Had it been a strong man, then it would have been truly interested.

"Because the boy would become someone even stronger than me." The old man said with a smile.

Of course, he trusted Aetonth hence he knew he could tell him this much. He knew Aetonth wouldn't kill Grey, especially after hearing he would be stronger than him.

'Stronger than the old man? Doesn't that mean I have a chance to beat someone who might become the strongest person in the world in the future? That truly is something to brag about.' Aetonth fell deep into thoughts.

"Take this as me asking you to train him, you could even say you trained the boy." The old man continued convincing him.

The old man had already predicted Grey's destination when he saw the direction he was headed, so he knew Grey would be leaving here soon. He hoped to toughen him up more before he left this place. It might seem unfair to Grey, but this would help him when he gets out of this continent to see the world. He was currently too weak for the old man's liking.

"Okay, but you better not be lying." Aetonth agreed.

Since the old man said he should take this as him asking him to train the boy, that meant the old man would reward him for his effort. It wasn't a bad deal since he would also be able to brag about it in the future.

The old man nodded before going back to his mountain peak, he wanted to see how far Chris had gone in breaking the modified array.

Aetonth opened its mouth and spat out a cloud of snow. It gently walked through it, and its charred scales went back to their previous blue color.

On getting to the mountain peak, the old man wasn't disappointed. Chris just like the first time had broken the array, but unlike the first time, he didn't leave the peak.

"Now, tell me old man, what is this place?" He asked.

Aetonth gave chase and quickly caught up to Grey within forty minutes, it immediately attacked, but unlike the other times, this time, he gave Grey a lot of openings trying to see if he would be able to see them.

The old man said it should train Grey, and that it will do. But it still beat him now and then.

Grey was able to capitalize on some of the openings and attack Aetonth, but because he still wasn't experienced enough, he couldn't see them all.

Chapter 206 - Whenever You See Him Running, Run!

Aetonth would occasionally let Grey attack him and escape, before giving chase after letting him rest for twenty minutes.

Grey on the other hand didn't find it odd since he felt Aetonth was probably chasing them because it wanted its crystal back.

Unknown to Grey, the continuous back and forth battle was gradually increasing the elemental essence in his body since he had to refill it after each battle. At this rate, it wouldn't take long before he would break through to the Fifth stage of the Origin Plane.

Another two hours passed, but because of the battles, Grey was still over two hours away from his friends. He estimated that they would've gotten to the array by now since it was over three hours already. Even if they hadn't gotten there, they wouldn't be far from it.

He unfortunately couldn't use the Fusion State anymore, so he had to run quickly.

Another one hour went by, and he was attacked by Aetonth twice in that one hour.

Compared to the first time, Aetonth noticed the human seemed to have been able to notice more openings. Now, it wouldn't take up to five minutes before Grey would be able to send out an attack that would hold him down for some time, allowing the duo to escape.

In comparison to Grey, Void was quicker in spotting openings, hence making the work easier for the duo. He was also the one who for some reason always gets beat up the most during each battle session.

At a valley, some miles away from Grey's current position.

"It's a shame Peter died in here, he had been very loyal to me all this while." The young man leading the group said.

He was none other than the twelfth prince of the Qilin empire. Amongst his entourage was Neil, as well as some of the surviving youths from the Royal Academy.

Their group of eight had been reduced to four. But they all felt lucky since they weren't the ones who died.

"How are you so sure he died? There might be a chance he came out after we left." One of the two youths said.

"Hmm, there's also that possibility. After all, we all thought Neil died as well, it was only after seeing him did we realize he came out first." The second youth said.

The youth called Peter in question was the youth from the Starlight Academy who Grey killed in that secret place, but there was no way for them to know about this since none of them entered that place.

Neil didn't say much and just continued walking silently, this almost six months he had spent here had thought him a lot of things about life. He had come face to face with death a couple of times, and on some occasions, he felt he would truly die. But help would always come from unexpected people, people he was confident that if he saw them in the same predicament, he wouldn't help them. He might even watch from afar as their enemies killed them.

There was even that time when they were planning on dealing with Alan and Damian who saved their lives just because they didn't come on time. He felt their way of thinking had been very childish.

He had always thought the people from the Lunar Academy were the enemies, that was what the Royal Academy made him believe. But it seemed like he was wrong, totally wrong. Yet, why would the Royal Academy say they were the enemies if they truly weren't?

Roar!

A roar suddenly brought him out from his thoughts.

"What was that?" The twelfth prince asked while staring behind them.

"I have no idea, but I don't think it's coming this way." The first youth who spoke previously said.

The others nodded and continued on their previous pace.

Neil on the other hand looked behind them more thoughtfully. He didn't know why, but there was a voice in his head telling him to run. Seeing the others were walking, he continued as well but prepared himself to run regardless.

At a forest.

Grey was running quickly, he originally thought he was the type who enjoyed battling. But against Aetonth, he was dead tired. The fear of not knowing if he might be able to escape every time he fought against it made him not want to encounter it anymore.

He felt grateful that he had been able to escape all this while, but he didn't know if he could escape the next time they meet. There was also the issue of his friends. They would be scared thinking he might have died since he hadn't arrived yet.

'There should be a valley there, it's faster than the normal route I planned on taking.' Grey said pointing towards his left.

He had studied the map properly and remembered most of the places to pass through when going back to where the array was located.

Because he was in a hurry, he forgot about this valley. It was only now that he got close to it did he recall it.

Without further delay, he turned around and headed straight for the valley where the twelfth prince's group was walking with Aetonth hot on his tail.

Grey soon got to the start of the valley. Looking behind him, he could visibly see Aetonth getting closer and closer.

He charged straight into the valley, hoping to exit it before Aetonth caught up. According to his estimate, taking this path would cut off at least forty-five minutes from the time needed to get to the array.

'There are people up ahead.' Void was the first to sense the group.

'Oh, they better not get in my way then.' A cold glint flashed across his eyes.

He was already angry from the chase, if these people try to delay him, he didn't mind making them regret it. Even at the cost of allowing Aetonth to catch up to him.

The group's figures soon appeared ahead of Grey.

Neil who was walking in the back of the group looked back, and he was surprised when he saw someone running in their direction. He didn't see Aetonth immediately so he decided to take a proper look at the person.

The others noticed he stopped and also took a look. Disdain appeared in their eyes even when they haven't seen who the person was.

It didn't take long before Neil's expression changed. He immediately started backing away.

"Run if you know what's good for you!" He said before turning around.

The twelfth prince caught his hand before he could runoff.

"Why are you running, isn't that the boy from the Lunar Academy?" The twelfth prince asked.

"Yes, now let me go. Just a piece of advice, when next you see him running, you run for your life as well." Neil shook off the twelfth prince's hand and made a break for it.

Grey who was almost close to the group was taken aback when he saw someone running, but he quickly recognized it was Neil. This was the third time he had encountered him while being chased, to think he would run away the moment he saw him running as well.

Chapter 207 - Going For A Dive

'Isn't that the guy we saw the last time you were being chased by those frogs and lizards?' Void looked at the running Neil.

He recalled they had seen this guy before, the first time was when they were being chased by the Lightning Apes, and then by the frogs and lizards. Now, they've also encountered him when they were being chased again. How coincidental!

'Yes, it's him. Why is he running as if I'm a calamity?' Grey asked feeling a little shocked by Neil's reaction.

'Well, had we not been connected. I'd have also run away from you. You're like a walking calamity.' Void said mockingly.

'And you're a calamity magnet.' Grey retorted sharply.

"Hello!" He waved at the twelfth prince's group as he got close to them, hoping to dash past them.

He didn't have time to stop and talk to them, maybe he might speak to them after they leave this place. But for now, he doesn't even have time to change his damaged clothes, much less the time to talk to them.

The last time they fought against Aetonth, it destroyed his clothes. He had some spare in his storage ring, but he couldn't delay since he knew Aetonth would chase after him once again.

"Hey! Why are you running?" The twelfth prince tried to block Grey's way as he questioned.

But to his surprise, Grey did a strange footwork and he was already behind him.

"Wait!" He yelled.

"I'd run if I were you!" Grey's said but didn't even turn to look at them.

At least he warned them. He didn't know why they didn't wisely run away, just like Neil.

"What?" The twelfth prince and his group looked at Grey like he was crazy.

They felt Neil was even crazier, why the hell would he run away just because he saw someone running?

But they got an answer a few seconds later. A chilling cold seemed to be coming from behind them that made them turn around.

Roar!

They were greeted by Aetonth's roar that sent a chill down their spines. The twelfth prince shivered in fear and unconsciously took a step back. He wasn't the only one who got scared, the other two who were with him stood rooted to the ground. It was like their spirits left their bodies on seeing the ice blue dragon coming in their direction.

"Dra...dra...dra...gon." One of the youths stammered while raising his shivering hand, pointing at Aetonth.

Aetonth who was originally chasing after Grey was slightly taken aback when it heard this. It's not like it didn't see them at first, but it couldn't be bothered by these unimportant people.

It opened its mouth, spraying streams of ice at them.

The twelfth prince panicked. They couldn't run now since Aetonth was already so close to them.

He looked around, and it was like time stood still. It was at that time that he heard it clearly, the sound of running water.

"Jump into the stream!" He yelled as he dived into the water.

They were very close to it, so jumping in before the ice would get to them was very doable.

Plop!

The other two heard this and followed as well. Getting wet was better than dying.

Plop! Plop!

Two more sounds of people diving into the water rang out.

Aetonth didn't bother to look at them and just continued on its way.

Currently, there were two people running, and one dragon chasing behind them. Neil was at the front, but Grey was slowly catching up to him, while Aetonth was closing the gap between itself and Grey.

Neil who was at the front couldn't help but look behind him. Looking behind him, he was stunned when he didn't see the twelfth prince nor the other two. His eyes trailed from where they were previously standing, and he caught sight of a head popping out of the flowing stream. Two more heads came out as well, and he quickly figured out what happened.

He looked behind Grey, trying to figure out what was chasing him this time. He didn't see anything on the ground, so he curiously looked at the sky. That was when he got the biggest scare of his life.

'How does he always do it?!' Neil felt like his head wanted to fall off when he thought of this.

He suddenly recalled when they first encountered Grey. At that time he thought there was nothing special about him. Then they encountered him again, at that time they were fighting what looked like a lost battle. Grey dashed out from the forest and acted strangely while running towards their enemies.

He initially thought Grey was a traitor, but when he saw what was following behind him, he quickly understood the reason for his actions. Then he encountered him for the third time, in that particular encounter, he thought he would truly die. But just like the second encounter, Grey came dashing out of a forest, and behind him were multiple frogs and lizards.

This was the fourth time he was encountering Grey, and he didn't dare to say there was nothing special about him anymore. Being able to always survive these chases had already made him special. In fact, if there was something higher than special, that was what Grey was.

When he thought of his third encounter with Grey, he suddenly remembered the young lady who was swallowed by the frog.

'If only she told me what those Apes did to her.' He thought sadly.

Sometimes, his curiosity made him have different thoughts about what the Apes might have done to the young lady. Even after coming up with multiple scenarios, he still couldn't figure out what they did to her. If only she was alive, he would try to find her, so she would tell him what they did to her.

"Hi!" Grey's voice brought him back from his thoughts.

When he looked at his side, he saw that Grey had already caught up.

"Bye!" Grey said as he dashed past him, not forgetting to flash him a smile.

They were almost at the end of the valley, but Neil knew Aetonth would catch up to him before he got to the end.

'I guess I have no choice.'

Plop!

With that, Grey was the only human left on the valley who was on land, the rest were in the water, thanks to him.

Aetonth didn't look at Neil, since he got out of the way in time, there was no use in attacking him.

Void looked at Neil in pity, he felt jumping in the water was just as much torture as getting beat up by Aetonth.

Grey was thinking about how they would deal with Aetonth when Void suddenly asked a strange question.

'Did you know that the only time we were being chased and we didn't encounter that guy was when we were chased by those bunnies?' asked Void.

'Yeah, why are you bringing that up now?' Whenever Grey heard about those bunnies, he felt like going back there and smashing that annoying bunny leader to pieces.

'Nothing, I just thought I should inform you.' Void said.

'Well, I don't like recalling that stupid bunny.'

Chapter 208 - Sneak Attacking Void

Neil watched on as Grey and Aetonth disappeared from sight.

'No wonder he always manages to escape.' Neil suddenly realized something.

Grey's speed was terrifying! He hadn't really thought of it before. But this time, on seeing Grey running for this short time, he was flabbergasted.

'How can he be so fast?' He asked himself.

He quickly got out of the water and went stood in the same spot, waiting for the twelfth prince and his companions to catch up.

"Why didn't you warn us?" One of the two youths with the twelfth prince snapped at him.

Neil's expression turned dark and he almost attacked, he managed to keep himself in check before replying, "First, you better remember your place. Secondly, I did warn you all."

They all hang around in here, but other than the twelfth prince, his status was far above theirs. They were just students who went to the Royal Academy. He, on the other hand, was royalty.

"You weren't clear enough." The twelfth prince chipped in when he realized that the others couldn't contend with Neil given their status.

He was the one who instigated them to say this. He felt annoyed thinking of the fact that he had to jump into the water just to avoid Aetonth's attack, so he wanted to take it out on Neil.

"I told you to run. It's none of my business if you decide to run or not. Or do you expect to wait and explain everything to you and put myself in danger?" Neil didn't back down even when the person he was speaking to was the twelfth prince.

He wasn't wrong, so why would he allow him to take out his frustration on him just because he was angry. Unlike the others, he wasn't afraid of him. It wasn't like he would be the next emperor.

The twelfth prince narrowed his eyes into a slit, then he let out a small chuckle and tapped Neil on the shoulder.

"What Academy was that brat from again?" He asked.

"Lunar Academy." The two youths answered in unison.

"Hmm, Lunar Academy again. Isn't that the Academy those two morons were from as well?" The twelfth prince looked at the duo again.

They quickly understood who he was talking about and nodded. He was speaking about Alan and Damian.

"Good, it's nice we won't get to go to different places to settle our scores. We'll visit the Academy later on." The twelfth prince let go of Neil before he continued walking.

"But I'm quite curious, what did he take that made a dragon chase after him? It must be a great treasure since it's from a dragon." He said with greed evident in his face.

For a mighty dragon to chase after him and not even bother with them meant that he took the dragon's treasure. Everyone knew how valuable things belonging to dragons were. If he could acquire it, maybe his strength would skyrocket.

At that time, he wouldn't be scared of his brother. If he's strong enough, he would just kill whoever becomes the emperor and take over. He had been very ambitious since birth, and maybe he might just have his way soon.

"It must be something valuable." One of the youths said.

"Yes, extremely valuable." The other one nodded.

The twelfth prince squatted down to touch the snow that fell after Aetonth flew past, "I thought as much, let's follow them. Thanks to the dragon, we have a trail."

Neil looked at the twelfth prince but didn't say much. Yes, he was curious about what Grey might have done to the Apes, Frogs and Lizards, and now a Dragon as well. But he never once thought of obtaining it.

He followed along as the group followed the trail Aetonth left on the way, but he had other plans.

At a compound.

A three-story building could be seen in the compound, some parts of it had been destroyed. If one looks closer, one would realize that some of the destructions seemed to happen not too long ago.

Boom!

A human figure shot of the highest floor in the building, behind him, was ice shards heading straight at him.

The figure was Grey, of course. After fleeing from the valley, he passed through a forest before Aetonth caught up with him at this compound.

He had been fighting with him since, and he had just been flung from the other side of the building, passing through the windows, as well as the almost destroyed walls that broke the moment his body came in contact with them. The walls couldn't stop his figure as he went from one side of the building to the other.

'Void, don't let it come this way.' Grey said as he did a flip mid-air while trying to use the wind element to stabilize himself before crashing into the ground. But since he controlled himself, he landed on his foot and drew a few meters before stopping.

As soon as he stopped, he dodged to his left and the ice shards struck the ground where he was previously standing.

Grey breathed out a sigh of relief, "*Phew* That was close."

'How are things over there?' He asked Void as he dashed into the building.

'Not good! I think this thing hates me.' Void almost wanted to cry.

Whenever Grey was not in the scene, then Aetonth would beat up him so much. But would always make sure not to send him flying, that way, it could beat him some more.

'I'm on my way, try not to die.' Grey advised.

He quickly climbed up the stairs, appearing on the top floor before long.

Aetonth didn't fly down this time, it stayed mid-air. Since Grey couldn't fly, the only way he could easily attack it was when he was on high ground. The last time he was flung through the window was when he was accidentally caught by Aetonth's tail.

Grey was left dumbstruck when he saw the suffering Void was going through, 'You're right about that, it truly does hate you.'

Luckily, Grey came in time.

'Maybe it knows you're the one who stole its crystal.' Grey mocked.

'It's not funny, help me distract it while I free myself.' Void said angrily.

He had the fire element so he could free himself, but before he could even do it previously, Aetonth had frozen him again. What was more annoying was the fact that he couldn't escape with the space element.

'Hehe.' Grey snickered as he dashed towards Aetonth. Just then, he flicked his wrist.

After doing that action, he attacked Aetonth using his fire element.

Void who was only thinking of escaping didn't notice Grey's action. An ice whip suddenly appeared above his small b.u.t.t and smacked it.

Aetonth caught sight of this and it almost burst into laughter.

'I knew the human wanted me to beat him up.' It thought.

'Ah...!' Void screamed in pain when the whip lashed him.

Chapter 209 - Following The Trail

'Hehe, that should teach him a lesson.' Grey snickered inside but acted like he knew nothing about what just happened.

'Void, why are you screaming?' He asked with concern.

'That bastard whipped my butt! Let's...let's kill it!' Void said in pain.

He hadn't even been able to free himself yet he was attacked again. Now he regretted stealing the crystal all the more. If he could go back in time, he would not have taken it.

Without any further delay, he quickly thawed the ice that was restraining his limbs, before Aetonth would whip his b.u.t.t again. As soon as he freed himself, he stood on his two hind legs and rubbed his b.u.t.t with his forelimbs like a human would do if they were whipped in the b.u.t.t.

'We should escape first, after that, we'll think of what to do next. Which I presume is running, again.' Grey didn't even have the thought of killing Aetonth.

When he was previously using the Fusion State, he couldn't defeat it, much less now that he couldn't use it anymore. Besides, why would he want to kill Aetonth for something he did?

'It's because you weren't the one lashed, that's why you're saying this.' Void's voice was in between crying and speaking normally.

Grey felt Void was just a question away from actually crying, and he opted not to ask it, for now. Once they've escaped, then he'll get on Void's nerves.

'Stop acting like a scaredy cat and fight back, don't you want to get your revenge?' He urged him to attack.

'Ah!' Void yelled in anger before attacking with the darkness element. He made a cloud of darkness and sent it Aetonth's way.

He was incensed! How dare Aetonth whip his butt? It was unforgivable!

Boom! Bang!

'No, no, I'll get revenge later. Let's find a way to escape first.' After getting hit, Void quickly discarded the thought of revenge.

Who was he kidding? There was no way for the duo to go toe to toe with Aetonth, much less beating it. Yet, he was thinking of killing it? How stupid of him.

Grey chuckled and attacked as well, he wanted to find an opportunity to take down Aetonth then run away. He was already close to the array, about one hour thirty minutes or so. He hoped that Aetonth wouldn't be able to catch up with him before he gets there.

Boom!

His fireball clashed with Aetonth's ice ball, sending heat and chill in two directions.

Grey immediately used his inscriptions to attack before the aftereffects of the explosion when the two attacks collided died down.

Bam! Bam!

The two inscription's attacks connected with Aetonth, pushing it down a little. Grey saw this as an opportunity and quickly jumped from the top of the building, making an earth glove around his hand. He

prepared his right hand, and as soon as he got close to the descending Aetonth, he struck a terrifying blow on its back.

Boom!

Bang!

Aetonth's body crashed into the ground, making a pit in it. Grey on the other hand was boosted upwards from the explosion he caused after his fist connected. He quickly landed on the top of the building once again before turning around to flee.

'Void! What are you doing?' Grey was left speechless when he saw Void going close to the end of the building, looking at the pit Aetonth made when it crashed into the ground.

A dark orb formed just above his head that he sent straight into the pit. He didn't even allow it to travel at its usual speed as he moved it into the pit directly, using the space element.

Bam!

Roar!

Aetonth's roar of pain was heard from the pit. When it previously slammed into the ground, it didn't really feel any pain. But the corrosive ability of the darkness element always finds a way to cause it harm. This was one of the other reasons it always beats Void up more compared to Grey.

'That little cat, just you wait for the next time I catch up to you.' It hissed in pain.

After hearing the roar, Void quickly withdrew his head from the edge of the building before saying, 'Quickly let's go, before it recovers.'

Without being told, Void knew Aetonth's hatred for him just increased to a new height. It's just that, he wouldn't be at rest if he didn't get revenge. Now that the opportunity presented itself, of course, he was going to use it.

Grey looked at him in pity, 'Pray it doesn't catch up before we get to the array.'

Even Grey wasn't optimistic about their chances of not encountering Aetonth again, after all, there was still around one hour thirty minutes before they got there. Given how things had been going all this while, it might catch up to them at least once, before they got to the array.

The duo quickly ran out of the compound, disappearing into the forest on the right.

Fifteen minutes after Grey and Void left.

A group of four walked into the compound, heading to the side of the building where Aetonth crashed. The group comprised of the twelfth prince, Neil, and the two other youths.

They had been tracking Grey and Aetonth after they got out of the water, yet even when Grey and Aetonth spent so much time fighting here, they still weren't able to catch up.

"They're gone." The twelfth prince narrowed his eyes as he examined the compound.

The building was originally damaged, but he quickly noticed the new parts of it that were broken.

"What if the boy is hiding in the building?" One of the two youths said.

"They shouldn't be far, they definitely fought here not too long ago." The twelfth prince said and looked at the pit Aetonth made when it crashed.

'Is he that strong to cause this? I'll have to see for myself.' He thought before following the trail once again.

The group headed to the forest on the left.

Grey headed to the right, but since Aetonth usually gives him some time to rest, it went to the left to also rest a little.

The twelfth prince nor anyone in their group knew of this, hence they followed Aetonth thinking it was still pursuing after Grey.

Chapter 210 - Showing No Pity

While the group was walking further, Neil was thinking about the state of the compound when they got there. The pit he saw on the ground was obviously made by the dragon, so it meant Grey was able to hit it. He didn't just hit it, but he hit it fiercely.

'If the dragon could make such a deep crater from his attack, will any of us be able to survive it?' This was the question he was asking himself over and over again.

From what the twelfth prince previously said, it wasn't hard to know his reason for following behind them. He wanted to collect the treasure by force.

'Wait, how could I be so foolish to follow them. If we encounter the dragon or that guy and the prince wants to collect the treasure, neither of them would listen to my explanation, they would kill me, instantly.' Neil thought in fear.

The others seemed to have been blinded by greed, so they forgot about the fact that they couldn't fight against the dragon. If Grey was capable enough to fight it to that extent, doesn't that mean that Grey was almost as strong as the dragon?

How could the twelfth prince dare to think of forcefully taking something from someone as strong as that?

Neil immediately decided to warn them, "Don't you think this is a bad idea?"

"Huh!" The twelfth prince stopped to look at him.

"You know, trying to steal the treasure from that guy." Neil explained.

"What are you even saying? If you don't want to come along, then beat it." The twelfth prince said while waving his hand as if Neil was an annoying fly.

Neil stopped and wanted to leave, but then he thought about the fact that the twelfth prince was his cousin, he shouldn't just let him walk towards his doom without trying to convince him.

"Think about it, didn't you see the outcome of their battle? If that guy could fight against the dragon to that extent, it means we can't take him on." He continued convincing the twelfth prince.

But this time, the twelfth prince didn't even bother to spare him a glance. How could Neil say he should forget about a treasure that belongs to a dragon? He must be sick in the head if he would let such an opportunity slip by.

Neil got a little annoyed when the twelfth prince ignored him, he decided to warn him for the last time, if he didn't listen to him, then it wouldn't be his fault if anything happened to them.

He was once again ignored by the twelfth prince.

"Fine, I'm leaving then. Don't say I didn't warn you." Neil immediately stopped following the group and changed his direction. He didn't want to be near them nor the dragon.

The twelfth prince and the others continued running for another fifteen minutes, slowly getting closer to where Aetonth was resting.

Deep in the forest.

Aetonth was resting beside a tree with its eyes shut, its shut eyes suddenly snapped open and they looked ahead of it a little surprised.

'Why would these little brats follow me?' It thought as soon as it sensed the twelfth prince and his group.

It didn't go too far from where it fought against Grey. But given the speed of the twelfth prince and his group, it looked far.

It continued monitoring them and soon quickly figured out something. Aetonth had lived for a long time, so it knew greed whenever it senses it. Even though the twelfth prince hadn't appeared in front of it, it had already noticed the greed in his eyes.

'Heh! Looks like I'll kill someone after all.' Aetonth thought.

Compared to Grey and Void, it did not pity anyone else. Okay, it might not really have much of a pity for Void, but it wouldn't kill him, unlike these morons who were running to their deaths.

It shut its eyes waiting for them.

Another one minute passed before the twelfth prince and his group got to where Aetonth was lying.

"Look, it's the dragon. Do you think it's injured?" One of the youths whispered on seeing that Aetonth had its eyes shut.

"Maybe, let's go closer. It would be best if it's injured, we could kill it then. A dragon's heart is a supreme treasure." The twelfth prince said.

He felt like he had hit the jackpot, and even started thanking Grey for wounding the dragon. Now, all they had to do was finish the dragon and they would be able to acquire its heart.

'When I see that boy, I'll thank him for this gift. Before I take the treasure he stole from the dragon.' He thought a little excited by the prospect of obtaining the dragon's heart.

Since Aetonth was an Ice Dragon, its heart would be more beneficial to a Water Elementalist, but the twelfth prince didn't care. The little benefit he could get from this would make his Plane skyrocket. He might even get the chance of reaching the Sage Plane within five years. That was a Plane he didn't even think he might reach before his life runs out.

There were a lot of people who had been stopped in the Overlord Plane for so long, yet, none of them could find a way to breakthrough. He had heard of a rumor in the palace about there being a Sage Plane Elementalist in the palace, but he couldn't confirm it.

The twelfth prince and his group edged closer to Aetonth. Their hearts were beating wildly just thinking about what they were about to do.

As soon as they got within five meters of Aetonth, they attacked.

The moment they released their attacks, Aetonth who previously had its eyes shut, opened them and stared at the group with curiosity. It didn't even try to dodge the attacks.

Its transparent armor appeared on its body and easily blocked their attacks.

In the group, the twelfth prince was the only one who had managed to get to the Third stage of the Origin Plane, the other two were just in the Second stage. And unlike Grey, they didn't even have attack power that was stronger than their stages.

After blocking their attacks, it stood up and looked at them with its large eyes, there was a hint of playfulness in them.

The previously silent forest turned noisy by the screams of terror from the twelfth prince and his companions.