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Chapter 21: Let Me Admire In Peace!

On seeing they were about to head into the forest, Grey couldn't help but ask, "Senior, will we be heading to the Academy by foot?" Grey was puzzled. 'What have I gotten myself into, at least he should have prepared a carriage to take us there'?

Chris laughed when he heard Grey's question, "Hahaha, of course not. Come with me, I'll show you our ride" Chris motioned for Grey to follow him into the forest.

Grey looked at him suspiciously before heading into the forest. They walked for some time, before they got to an open field in the forest.

Grey was stunned by what he saw, there was a large bird like creature laying on the grass in the open fields. When Grey got closer and saw the creature up close, he was more astonished. It was a legendary creature.

Its head was that of an eagle, it was coated in glossy brown feathers and had dangerous curved beaks. Two tufts of feathers sprang up its head like they were ears. At its shoulders, a pair of powerful, feathered wings could be seen folded at his back. Behind the wings, the feathers faded into tawny fur, and what looked like the body of a lion took over.

Its front leg was that of an eagle with razor sharp talons that could easily rip him apart, while its hind legs were that of a lion with terrifying sharp claws which only the tip could be seen.

As Grey got closer to it, the creature raised its head to look at the stranger who was coming close to it. Its black beady eyes were enchanting. Grey looked at the majestic creature in front of him, and was lost for words.

"This....this" Grey couldn't complete his statement and was stuttering none stop. Grey had seen magical beasts, so this wasn't his first time seeing one. But this was the legendary beast he had only seen in books, it never crossed his mind he will be able to see one at the start of his cultivation journey.

"This is Brown, she will be our ride back home" Chris introduced the creature with a smile. He had expected this reaction, so he wasn't surprised. Every time he went out to carry new students, this was always the best part for him. Whenever he sees the shocked reactions in the faces of the new students, it always makes him laugh.

"It's a Griffin!" Grey exclaimed. Grey's eyes never once left the creature since seeing it for the first time.

This was one of the rulers of the sky in terms of aerial speed, and it had terrifying strength. How can Grey not be shocked. He started wondering the identity of this Senior who came to this small city.

There was no way he will get to ride a Griffin here if he were ordinary. Griffins weren't legendary for nothing, first of all, getting the chance to see one was incredibly hard as they were rare beasts. Taming one was even harder.

Griffins are proud beasts and would rarely allow themselves to be tamed by humans. Even when caught, it would fight back with all it has.

Clearly the relationship between Brown and Senior Chris isn't ordinary, since he could leave her here without worrying she would escape for so long.

Chris walked towards Brown and gently caressed her feathers. Grey just stood at a spot looking at the majestic beast without moving. This truly was unexpected. Now he was also eager to go to the Academy. How would the Academy look like, he couldn't wait.

"Are you going to stand there all day, come on lets get going" Chris laughed again on seeing how Grey was still standing stunned.

"Is she really going to be the one to take us there?" Grey asked again to be extra sure. Although he knew it was a stupid question, he just had to ask it.

"If not her, then who?. Do you have any other means of going?" Chris retorted grumpily. 'I think his brain is already fried from shock' Chris thought inside.

Grey dropped his head embarrassedly. 'Can't you just reply normally, you have seen the creature for a long time, this is my first time seeing it. Let me admire it in peace' Grey thought grumpily.

Grey suddenly felt he made the right choice in choosing the Lunar Academy, just seeing a legendary beast before he even went to the Academy suddenly felt worth it. He could brag with this for a long time. He almost wanted to run back to Martha and tell her he just saw a Griffin.

When Brown stood up, Grey was once again stunned by its immense size. It stood over 5 meters tall with a length of over 3 meters. It truly was a majestic beast.

Grey walked closer to Brown with extreme caution. He was scared of irritating the beasts, else it might just rip him to shreds with those terrifying talons it possessed.

As Grey stood closer to it, he felt how small he was. Chris just stood at the side looking on. He has always enjoyed this. This was the reason he always came to little cities for the test. This was the fourth time he was coming to Red City for the test. Surprisingly, he witnessed Grey take the test twice.

Unlike the other representatives, he can head over to other cities. Maybe it was fate that made him witness the miracle which Grey was. He couldn't describe the feeling, but he knew Grey wouldn't be someone ordinary in his life. magic

He had heard of how Grey suddenly started training in the forest after failing to awaken his element. Not only that, but he also heard how Grey was able to defeat Derek who was already at the Eighth Stage of the Collection Plane easily.

This wasn't something someone ordinary can achieve. He was looking forward to Grey's future accomplishments.

"Come on let's get going, we have a long journey ahead of us" Chris said after allowing Grey fill his eyes with the image of Brown some more.

Brown squatted down so they could climb onto her. Grey climbed up easily and looked ahead with great enthusiasm. They were about to head for the Academy.

After they climbed up and steadied themselves, Chris patted Brown on her back indicating it was time to leave.

Brown took off into the air...

Chapter 22: He's Not Bad, But I'm Still Better.

Two days later...

Grey and Chris were in a restaurant having a meal. Usually, Elementalists could go days without eating, but most of them still enjoy the taste of delicious foods, so they eat whenever they can. And some foods are also helpful to cultivators.

Grey hasn't started cultivating yet, so he still had to depend on the nourishment of food. Although he could go without eating for a day, he would rather not. Grey was a foodie, he loved food a lot. So him not eating is like a punishment to him.

"Senior, how come I am the only one who joined the Lunar Academy from Red City?" Grey asked after taking a big bite of the meat in front of him.

He noticed there wasn't any other kid going with him to the Academy, and it was quite strange since other Academies representatives get at least two kids when they're heading back.

"Well, we have a low admission rate," Chris said without even raising his head, clearly he was also just like Grey, a foodie.

Grey could see how much Chris was enjoying his meal, so he decided to ask after their meal. They had been making stops in different cities during their journey. They would have to stop flying when it was almost dark to get to a city where they would have to sleep at an Inn.

Grey had already taken note of how much Chris loved eating. They hadn't spoken much during the journey. Whenever they are in the air, Grey always studied his environment and carefully observed their traveling routes. magic

It was a stunning sight while he was in the air, it felt amazing. Surprisingly, Brown can make air shields that would stop the air from hitting them while she is flying at full speed.

Brown would have to hide in a forest close to the city whenever they stopped and went into a city. Since unlike other aerial magical beasts, she was rare. Of course, she wouldn't be in any danger in a place like this since she was stronger than the residents in the cities. Well, that only applies to small cities.

"But we also have the highest retention rate. Meaning, we rarely chase out our students for not meeting the required stage during the yearly test. All our students are hardworking" Chris continued.

"Oh" Was the only reply Grey could give. He knew about the yearly tests the Academies give to their students. This was one of the reasons Derek was in the city.

"The competition is really tough at the Academy, you will know more when you get there" Chris refrained from going deep in details of how the Academy operates.

Grey didn't ask any more questions since he could clearly see Chris wasn't going to tell him anything. After eating, they immediately went to the Inn to get some sleep. Since they still had about two days journey ahead of them, they needed to rest properly.

Two days later...

Grey looked at the biggest city gate he had ever seen. Grey could see people entering and exiting the city on a large scale. This truly was a large city, unlike Red City where he previously stayed.

Lunar Academy was situated 1 kilometer west of the city. Lunar Academy was named after the city. The city was boisterous, Grey curiously looked around.

"Senior, why did we come over to the city, is the Academy located in the city?" Grey asked, he knew most Academies weren't located in the cities. And were mostly located outside the city.

"No, we are heading over to meet a friend of mine. After that, we'll head over to the Academy" Chris said while heading in the direction of the city.

"Oh okay," Grey responded while closely following behind him.

When they got into the city, they headed straight towards the center of the city. Grey studied the city closely. It was a very busy place and people could be seen walking everywhere.

They stopped at the front of a huge manor. Although Grey wasn't a resident of this city, he could tell this was definitely the biggest manor in the city. There were guards at the gate of the manor, but they didn't stop them from going in.

"What a nice place" The tranquility of the garden calmed Grey's tired mind. He had been restless throughout their journey, but being here was able to calm his heart. He closed his eyes to sink deeper into this peaceful state.

Chris walked out after some time with a young boy in tow. The boy was about the same age as Grey. He had refined features and looked quite handsome. When they got to the garden, he looked at the stranger who had his eyes closed like he was in a trance.

"Grey, it's time to leave," Chris said loudly.

Chris's voice disrupted Grey's reverie. Grey opened his eyes and stared at Chris. He noticed Chris didn't come alone and was with a young boy.

Grey stared at him for some time before redirecting his gaze back at Chris. "Okay Senior" He replied with a smile. Staying in the garden for this short time had really helped calmed the state of his mind.

"Oh Grey, this is Klaus" Chris introduced the newcomer to Grey.

"It's nice meeting you, I'm Grey," Grey said while stretching out his right hand.

"I'm Klaus, it's nice meeting you too" Klaus shook his hand with a smile.

Grey evaluated Klaus, and Klaus was also doing the same. Klaus had always been proud of his looks, but this was the first time he was totally defeated by someone else in terms of looks.

'He's not bad' Grey praised Klaus for his looks in his heart. 'But I'm still better' Grey felt it was impossible to see someone as handsome as he was.

"Klaus is a student of the Academy, since we were going to the Academy, he decided to come along" Chris said calmly.

Chris turned after saying this and walked in the direction of the exit.

A.N: Come on guys, we can do it. We're currently out of the top 3 in the contest and we're now in the 9th spot in the new book rankings for male leads, we need more STONES!!!

Chapter 23:Lunar Academy

The trio left the city and headed west. Grey already knew they were heading towards the Academy, so he just stayed quiet without speaking much.

"So where are you from?" Klaus broke the silence. Since they would be walking all the way to the Academy, he might as well have a conversation with Grey. If only Chris had allowed them to take a carriage, it would have been better, but he refused when Klaus brought it up.

"I'm from Red City, it's a long way from here," Grey replied.

"Oh, I've never heard of it" Klaus thought for a while before responding.

"It's not a big place, so it's normal you don't know about it" Grey flashed a smile on his face.

"How come you came together with Senior Chris, I thought he went out to get new students" Klaus asked with a puzzled expression. He had never seen Chris come back with a kid older than the age of 12 whenever he heads out for the test. Sometimes, he doesn't even return with anyone.

Chris went out for the usual annual test for new kids who just awoken their elements. But seeing him returning with someone who was fully over the age was surprising.

"Well, I just awakened my element" Grey figured there was no use in lying to Klaus since they would attend the same Academy and would get to see each other.

"Did you wait until now before you had the test?" Klaus asked, this was the only reason he could think of when he heard what Grey said. But it was unexpected that someone would delay until they were over 12 years old before taking the test. This would put you at a big disadvantage with your peers, since they would have already cultivated to a higher level before you can even start cultivating.

"No. I had the test once, when I was still 12 years old. But I failed to awaken my element at that time, so after waiting for 4 years, I took the test again" Grey explained.

"Wait, you failed to awaken your element?" Klaus was dumbstruck when he heard this statement. This was totally outrageous, not being able to awaken an element at the age of 12 was usually very rare. But, being able to awaken your element after failing to do so while you were 12 years old, was even rarer.

Since there weren't many people who didn't awaken their element when they were 12 years old, so the amount who could later awaken their element were few in numbers. In fact, in the Qilin empire, there haven't been any such case happening in recent times.

"Yes, Senior was also present on the day I failed the test. He was the only one who spoke encouraging words to me that day" Grey recounted what he could. Although he remembered little, he still recalled what Chris said to him.

"So, what element did you awaken after the test?" Klaus asked curiously.

"Lightning and Earth element" Grey replied hiding nothing from him.

"You're a Dual Elementalist?" Klaus exclaimed.

Chris looked back when heard Klaus' shout. Klaus immediately closed his mouth, fearing to anger Chris.

"Yes, I am" Grey answered.

Klaus felt fascinated by Grey's story. This was something truly shocking. At first, he couldn't awaken an element, then later on, he awakened not only one but two elements. And one of them was the rare lightning element, and they generally regarded the other as the element with the best defense.

With lightning's terrifying attack, coupled with earth's resilient defense, he could say Grey was a perfect fighter, wielding both attack and defense, respectively.

"How about you, what element did you awaken during your test?" Grey inquired.

"Well, I'm a Water Elementalist" Klaus declared with a calm voice. He had already been at the Academy for some time now.

"Okay" Grey thought of his mother when he heard Klaus was a Water Elementalist. He knew she was terrifying. Luckily, she only freezes his legs and doesn't do more whenever he messes up.

Grey and Klaus continued talking as they walked closer to the Academy. Grey got to find out there were 5 halls in the Academy, with each hall representing an element. There was the Water Hall, the Fire Hall, the Earth Hall, the Wind Hall, and the Lightning Hall. There were also special classes which took place at the Academy. magic

Each hall was further divided into 3 classes for 3 cultivation planes, respectively. Collection Plane students are in the 1st class in their subsequent elemental hall. The Fusion Plane students are in the 2nd class. While the third class were for the Arcane students.

Klaus was already in the 3rd class, which was for the Arcane Plane students. Grey was astonished by how fast they cultivate. He also found out Klaus was a Purple graded talent just like him(for now).

He was slightly taken aback since Klaus made no mention of the Darkness or Light Halls. Compared to the Lightning element, they were far rarer, but he never thought they would be this rare. After asking Klaus the reason for the lack of Darkness and Light Halls, he found out it was because they had no Instructor who was a Light or Darkness Elementalist. After all , a Light or Darkness Elementalist rarely appears.

How long would it take him to get to the Arcane Plane?. Well, he couldn't wait. Apart from the time Chris looked at Klaus, he didn't interrupt their conversation, not even once during their entire journey. They reached the Academy before long, and Grey stood awed by it.

Well, if he says the gate of Lunar City was the largest he had seen, then the gate of Lunar Academy was the grandest. The gate erected at over 9 meters high, with a width reaching over 6 meters. The designs on the gates seemed life like, and when Grey looked closely, he could see the image of a Phoenix at the center of the gate.

They headed into the Academy grounds, the Academy was clearly bigger than Red City. The moment they entered the Academy, Chris immediately ditched Grey and only instructed Klaus on what to do before disappearing.

Grey glanced at the unreliable Chris without much reactions. Since he already had a good relationship with Klaus, he didn't have any problems with Klaus showing him around.

"So where are we headed first?" Grey asked with some enthusiasm.

"We're going to get you registered first of all. Then after that, I'll introduce the Academy to you," Klaus told Grey his plan.

Grey agreed with it. Since he was here, he should register as a student of the Academy.

Klaus and Grey discussed as they headed in the direction of the registration building.

A.N: I just noticed we don't have a rating guys, anyone wanna do a review?. We also at the 3rd spot guys. Keep the power stones flowing...

Chapter 24: You Bet I Am

Klaus took Grey to the registration building. When they got there, they noticed about 8 kids were waiting to get their registration done. Klaus told Grey to join the queue since he was here to get his registration done.

The kids all looked at Grey with peculiar eyes, even the instructors who brought them over, did the same. When they saw Klaus, they knew Grey being here had something to do with Chris, so they just let him be. Although they were curious about him, they didn't bother with him. magic

When Grey went in to get his registration done, the instructors went over to Klaus to find out who Grey was.

"Hey Klaus, who's the fella you brought over?"

"I haven't seen him in the Academy before"

"Did he come with Senior Chris?"

"He's a little too old to register with the new batch, isn't he?"

They asked Klaus so many questions that his head immediately started arching. Klaus just looked at them and was speechless.

These were instructors of the Academy, yet they all act like 12-year-olds. This was what made the Academy more interesting. The instructors are very welcome with the students, although they do have moments when they're strict, they are friendly most of the time.

Klaus is still amazed by how almost every single instructor in the Academy had odd personalities. Like, how do the Academy even find these bunch of weirdos. But he couldn't deny the fact that they were all superb in their fields and were outstanding teachers.

"He's Grey, he just took the test this year, this was why he just joined the Academy" Klaus replied in a helpless manner.

"Is he a moron?, who would wait till they were above 15 years old before they take the test?"

"I must say, he's quite handsome"

"Yeah, I don't think I have seen anyone this handsome before. He definitely is a gem".

"I thought you were the most handsome in the Academy Klaus, but this friend of yours is definitely better looking than you,"

While they were talking, one of the female instructors brought up how handsome Grey looked. If Grey had been present, and heard those comments, he would have been like, 'You bet I am'.

"He actually took the test while he was 12 years old, but failed to awaken his element. He only awakened his element this year" Klaus told them the reason Grey was just taking the test. "And he's a Dual Elementalist" Klaus added.

It amazed the instructors when they heard Grey's story. From not being able to awaken his element to turning into a Dual Elementalist, it was truly something else. They've not seen anyone who was unable to awaken his talent before, so they were quite shocked. These cases were rare in the empire.

While they were still discussing how handsome Grey looked, Grey stepped out of the registration office. He curiously looked at the instructors who were having a heated conversation with Klaus.

The moment Klaus noticed Grey was already out of the registration office, he immediately went over to him. Stopping him from coming any closer, before quickly escaping with him. He definitely didn't want Grey to see how weird the instructors of the Academy were on his first day.

Grey was surprised because of Klaus' reaction, but said nothing. While they were walking, Klaus thought of something and asked, "By the way, where is your living quarter located?"

They assigned each student a quarter for staying. Their living quarters occupied the western and southern parts of the Academy. The instructors' and other Academy workers' quarters were located in the northern part of the Academy.

The eastern part housed the halls used for classes, the library, the registration office, and the mission hall.

"they assigned me a living quarter at the western part" Grey said as he fished out the card they gave him at the registration room. He glanced at it and saw the number 413 on it.

Klaus looked over at the card, "Oh, you're assigned to quarter 413"

"You know where it is?" Grey asked when said this.

"Yes. My living quarter is also situated in the western part. So, we will see each other more easily" Klaus said with a smile.

"Okay" Grey replied.

Since they were in the eastern part of the Academy, Klaus showed Grey the halls used for classes.

Each hall's building was enormous, with only the Lightning Hall being smaller than the rest. Grey found out there were over 800 students in the Academy, but the number didn't exceed 900. This surprised him.

Academies usually have more than 5,000 students, how come the Lunar Academy had such small number of students.

"Do you know why the recruitment rate of the Academy is low, it's baffling that an Academy this big only has 800 plus students?" Grey was puzzled by this.

"There have been one time they admitted a student whose talent was only Orange, but I heard he was a Dual Elementalist with both elements having Orange talent respectively" Klaus continued.

Grey was amazed by the requirements to get into the Lunar Academy. "The other Academies don't have this requirement also, right?" Grey asked.

"No, they recruit students with Orange talent. Some even recruit students with Pink talent. But the top 5 Academies don't accept Pink grade talent in their Academies. Each Academy has their given requirements, though. Although we have the lowest numbers of students, we have the second highest numbers of Blue talent in the entire empire. We're second only to the Emperors Organization" Klaus stated proudly.

They walked towards the eastern part of the Academy, towards the living quarters of the students. Grey quietly memorized all the information Klaus was telling him.

A.N: Okay guys, we still need some more reviews to get a rating. We can do it!!!..

Chapter 25:Blake

Grey and Klaus walked towards the students' living quarters. Klaus had shown Grey most parts of the Academy while they were walking.

"Oh, they informed me at the registration office that the new students would have to assemble to take the test again. Is there any use for this?" Grey remembered what he was told at the office and asked Klaus in a puzzled manner.

"This didn't happen in the Academy previously, it was only after an instructor brought his relative to the Academy, and he wasn't up to the requirements of the Academy. The Academy only found out after some time. Therefore although each new students have already done the test in their cities, they will also take the test again here in the Academy" Klaus explained the reason for the test.

In the living quarters, Grey saw each student had a house in a spacious compound. All the buildings had the same size and style. Each compound was approximately 220 yards in length and width. It was massive for a single student. Each compound had a number tagged at the small gate leading into

the compound, they walked until they got to the compound with the number 413 on the gate.

Grey fished out the key given to him at the registration office and opened the gate. When they went into the house, it was dusty and cobwebs could be seen everywhere. There were chairs and when Grey went into the room, he also found a bed well placed at the side of the room. It was decent for a student.

After Grey completely checked out the house, he asked Klaus where his house was located.

"I stay at building 227" Klaus replied. Grey followed Klaus to his apartment and stayed with him for some time. He left quickly since he would have to clean up.

Due to the space before each compound, the environment was quiet. He noticed the Academy didn't give any special treatments to the students and each house contained the same things. The students can decide to decorate it after they start living in them. He thought students would have to stay in the same building, but since the students in the Lunar Academy aren't much, they could live alone in each building.

Grey worked almost all through the day and didn't step out once. By the time he was done cleaning, it was already night. He was totally exhausted and immediately fell asleep.

The next morning, Grey woke up early as he usually does and washed up before heading towards where the new students were to take the test. Klaus already showed him the place, and he had a good memory, so he quickly found the hall. When he got there, he saw 20 kids were already there. They had to wait outside the hall, more students appeared before the instructors came out of the hall.

Grey counted and found out they were only 46 new students, 'How can such a big Academy have this small amount of new students' Grey thought, stupefied by the Academy's selection.

Grey focused his gaze at the instructors who came out of the hall. They were led by a woman who seemed to be in her fifties. When she got closer to the student, she spoke in a clear voice "Hello everyone, I'm the Head instructor of

the Wind Hall. We will now begin the test to know which halls each student will be going to"

"Once you hear your name, you should head into the hall for the test" An instructor by the side said after the woman finished talking.

The first name on the list was quickly called up, and the kid went into the hall filled with excitement. The instructors were pretty fast with the test since they already knew the elements and talents of each kid. They just had to follow the rules.

Soon it got to Grey's turn. When he stepped in, all the instructors looked at him with interest. They've heard of how he could not awaken an element when he was 12 years old and could only do so when he got to 16 years of age. They felt he was pretty lucky since he could awaken his element even after failing to do so initially.

"Since you all haven't officially started cultivating yet, you won't really need to go to classes. You all have one month to get into the Collection Plane and then start your classes. Now you can head to the first floor of the library to collect the cultivation technique" The Head instructor of the Wind Hall said before dismissing the kids. magic

When Grey was about to leave, he was called up by a man among the instructors.

"I'm the head instructor of the Lightning Hall, you can call me instructor Blake" Blake said with a friendly smile.

"Hello sir" Grey said courteously. Blake looked sharp and handsome. He looked like someone in his early thirties and had a dignified voice. Well, it sounded dignified when he heard him speak just now.

"Actually, I'm the only instructor in the Lightning Hall, so I take all my new students of the Hall very importantly" Blake said seriously.

Grey immediately knew why he called up only him. 'Seems like I'm the only one who has an affinity with the Lightning element among all the new students' Grey thought. From this, one could see just how rare the Lightning element is.

"Come with me, you don't need to go over to the Library to take a technique. Besides, they are all low leveled ones" Blake said with a smile.

"Blake, what are you doing?" Grey heard a stern voice from behind Instructor Blake.

Blake immediately tensed up when he heard this voice.

"Nothing" Blake replied with a small voice.

Grey stared at Blake, completely shocked by his sudden change. One second he was a dignified man the next he was as meek as a child.

A.N: Sorry for the late update guys. Currently working on this current arc and also want to re-read previous chaps and work on them. My current uploading schedule will be Monday-Friday: 1 chaps and Saturday-Sunday: 2 chaps. Thanks guys

Chapter 26: Tricked

Grey stared in the direction of the voice was coming from and saw it was the Head instructor of the Wind Hall.

Blake turned around to meet the icy gaze of the lady. He instinctively took a step back.

"You should know we don't give special treatments to any of our students" said the woman in an icy voice.

"Instructor Lynn, I'm not giving him any special treatment. You know clearly that my Hall has the least number of students. So I try to help them as much as I can" Blake explained briefly.

"It changes nothing, all new students are required to have the same starting point" Lynn snorted coldly. She was quite surprised by Blake's behavior. He usually doesn't act like this towards a new student.

"Well, he will also be given an ultimatum if he accepts to take this technique" Blake said seriously.

"Ultimatum?" Lynn asked.

Grey raised his brow when he heard this. He didn't want to any special treatment from the Academy. Well, a special treatment would be nice but having an ultimatum attached to it isn't. He waited to listen closely to the ultimatum.

"Yes. Since he will get to use a better technique, the time required for him to break through is shorter also" replied Blake.

"How long precisely?" Lynn asked

"10 days" Blake responded

When Lynn heard this, she was surprised. Something like this haven't happened in the Academy before, so it was quite surprising. She felt something was fishy about all this.

"Since this ultimatum is attached to it. I will let it slide" Lynn gave in while giving Blake an understanding look. She knew this wasn't Blake's idea, it must have been from the higher ups in the Academy.

She turned to glance at Grey, "Well, do you agree this?"

Grey didn't really expect all this. He would be given a better technique but the deadline would be shortened. "I'll accept it" Grey said after thinking for some time. The first reason he accepted this was due to the fact that he loves challenges and this will stimulate him to work harder. The second reason was that he was already behind his peers due to his delay, so he wanted to do everything he could to advance at a quicker pace.

"Okay, since it's settled, you can head over to my office. I will be there shortly" Blake stated, clearly approving of Grey's decision to accept this challenge.

Grey asked Blake for directions to his office before leaving.

After Grey left, Lynn looked at Blake, "I know this wasn't your idea. Although you have the lowest number of students, you have never given any of them such treatments"

"I received this letter yesterday. It was from Chris" Blake handed a letter over to her.

"Chris" Lynn took the letter with a suspicious look before going through it. Her face changed a couple of times before returning it to Blake.

"Although he goes out for the test, he doesn't concern himself with the affairs of the Academy for a long time now. Why is he suddenly interested in this boy?" Lynn asked.

"He was the one who brought him over to the Academy. He was also present when he failed to awaken his element during his first test. So I think he developed an interest for him" Blake explained.

"But this is clearly the same cultivation technique as the one the other kids are going to pick up from the library" Lynn furrowed her brows. The technique the letter stated to give to Grey was exactly the same as the one the other kids would get.

"Yes it is. Chris said I should tell Grey this technique is better than the one the kids would take at the library" Blake replied with mixed feelings. He didn't want to trick a new student, but he couldn't say no to what Chris ordered.

"This will be difficult for him, but not impossible" Lynn was visibly shocked. Blue talents wouldn't have an issue breaking through within 10 days. Since Grey was a Dual Elementalist it was also possible. Since they didn't want to put too much pressure on the kids, they usually gave all of them the same time without differentiating the ones with higher talents.

"I have no idea why he said this, but that was what he told me to do" Blake gave a wry smile. Chris has always had an odd personality, so they didn't know what he was up to.

"Since it was his idea, we'll wait and see what happens" Lynn said before leaving.

Grey headed to the Lightning department and quickly found Blake's office according to the description he was given. When he got there, he waited patiently for Blake.

Blake arrived quickly. The both went in and Blake sat down at his chair. The office was well organized and a bookshelf could be seen at the side. There was a seat at the center of the room.

"Sit down"

Grey sat while still surveying the office.

"This is the technique, you have one day to memorize the patterns. After that, you must return it to me since you are not supposed to hold on to such a precious technique for longer periods" Blake handed over a scroll to Grey.

The scroll had the detailed description of how Grey was to cultivate. Grey looked at it before keeping it. magic

"Okay Sir" Grey left the office and headed back home to study the scroll perfectly to ensure there wouldn't be any mistakes while he was cultivating.

Chapter 27: New Friends

Grey went back to his house and immediately started studying the scroll. He had to return it by tomorrow, so he had to make use of his time well.

Just like the scroll he got from his mother, this one was also very detailed to ensure whoever was using it doesn't make a mistake. Making a mistake while cultivating can be very disastrous, worse case scenario, the Elementalist dies, best case scenario was getting bedridden for at least three months.

Grey studied the patterns described in the scroll and also the instructions. There were nine layers outside the body which will hinder the absorption of the elemental particles. Once one can get to sense these nine layers and break the first layer, it was a sign of entering the Collection Plane.

While in the Collection Plane, the Elementalist will have to break each of the nine layers. The process of breaking them indicates the advancement in the Collection Plane. For each layer broken, the Elementalist advances a stage in the plane.

The first thing stated on the scroll was to get into a meditative trance and try to sense the elements in the air. Once you are done with that, the next phase is to attract the elemental particles with the given technique to your body.

Grey didn't have an issue with getting into a meditative trance since he had been meditating for a year now, trying to comprehend the elements.

He quickly entered into a meditative state, and following the instructions stated in the scroll, he tried sensing the elements.

It would take an average kid a day or two to be able to fully enter a meditative state for the first time. Since Grey had already done it before, he could enter easily.

He calmed his mind and was able to enter a meditative state after ten minutes. He felt many silver colored specks floating around him, it was fascinating. He became excited when he sensed them and lost concentration, his excitement disrupted his meditative state and he was forced to exit it.

"Those silver colored specks must be the Lightning element" Grey said with excitement.

"Hmm, how come I was only able to sense the Lightning element" Grey felt stumped by what was happening.

Since he was a Dual Elementalist, he should have been able to sense both the Earth and Lightning element, but he only sensed the Lightning element with no trace of the Earth element.

"I'll try it again. I got distracted quickly, maybe that was the cause of me not noticing the Earth element" Grey quickly decided to try again.

He calmed his mind and entered a meditative state once more. This time, when he sensed the silver colored specks, he tried to focus more to see if he could sense the Earth element.

Unsurprisingly, he faintly started sensing the Earth element around him. Due to the fact that his talent grade for the Lightning element was higher than the Earth element, he could only sense the Lightning element first. Only after completely focusing his mind was he able to sense the Earth element.

The other reason he was able to quickly sense the Earth element was due to the fact that he was sitting on the Earth. Since an Elementalist had the advantage when they were in a place where their elements were abundant, Earth Elementalist basically have the advantage over other Elementalist since battles were mostly carried out on the ground.

After sensing the elements, it was time for Grey to try out the next phase. If he can successfully attract the elements to his body and break through the first layer, then he would have successfully broken into the collection plane.

He followed the instructions, but there was no result. Although the time given to him by the Academy was shorter than the one given to the rest of the children, he felt since he was given a better technique, he wouldn't have a problem in entering the collection plane within these ten days.

The next day, Grey went over to the Lightning Hall to return the scroll back to Blake. When he got there, he saw Eight students from the Lightning Hall, they were all around his age with only two looking slightly older.

When they saw him, they immediately focused their attention on him. They hadn't seen him before and students from the other Halls rarely comes to the Lightning Hall.

"Hello, I'm Grey" Grey introduced himself to them when he noticed them approaching him.

"Hello, I'm Alice" One of the girls in the group stepped forward and introduced herself.

"Are you new here?" Alice asked. magic

"Yes, I just completed my admission yesterday. I came over to see instructor Blake" Grey answered.

"Oh, you're a student of the Lightning Hall?" Alice asked again. She wanted to confirm if Grey was a student of their Hall also. Although students from the other Halls rarely came to their Hall, doesn't mean they don't come at all.

"Yes" Grey replied with a smile.

"Haha, then we are brothers" A boy in the group suddenly spoke up with a laugh.

Grey shifted his attention from Alice and stared at the boy who just spoke up.

"That is Reynolds. Students of the Lightning Hall are united since we have the least number of people" Alice introduced the boy who just spoke.

"You can call me Rey" Reynolds said smiling while stretching out his hand. Grey shook it with a smile also on his face. Grey and the group got along well, and he got to know the names of everyone in the group.

"What Plane are you in?" Reynolds suddenly asked after they had talked for a while. Since they were all in the same Hall, knowing each other more wasn't bad.

"Actually, I only just started cultivating" Grey said with an embarrassed smile.

When the group heard this, they looked at each other. Clearly not expecting this answer.

"How come you only just started cultivating?" Alice asked with surprise. Grey told them of how he was unable to awaken his element the first time and was only able to do it after four years.

They were all also surprised since Grey was a Dual Elementalist, they knew how rare the Lightning element was, being a Dual Elementalist and having the Lightning element as one of your elements was stunning.

"Oh, so that's the reason. Anyway, you can easily catch up since you're a Dual Elementalist" Reynolds encouraged Grey sincerely. Grey didn't expect they would treat that like it was nothing. He suddenly felt being in the Lightning Hall wouldn't be as boring as he thought.

They talked for some time before Grey asked to be excused, so he could go over and meet Blake.

Only after Reynolds asked of what was his house number before he allowed Grey to go. Grey went over to Blake's office with a smile on his face. He felt great since he got to have new friends.

When he got to the office, Blake was sitting lazily at his desk. Grey returned the scroll over to him. Blake asked him repeatedly of he had completely memorized the pattern, only after Grey had assured him repeatedly did he collect the scroll.

Although he was given an order by Chris, he didn't expect Grey to completely memorize it in a day. He only told him what he was told by Chris, but he had no problem with Grey holding on to it for another day if he couldn't memorize.

After Grey left the office, he went over to Klaus' house to check on him. After talking for some time, he immediately went back home to once again start meditation.

Chapter 28: Sorry! I Didn't Know You Were Busy

Two days passed without any notable progress. In these three days, Grey had tried multiple times to break the first layer but failed. He was able to successfully attract the elemental particles on the second day. magic

Grey had also searched for a place where he could continue his usual physical training. He was already accustomed to it, and after his battle with Derek the last time, he knew training his body has its advantages. He didn't want to be disturbed at the Academy so he chose to find some place else.

Grey soon found a spot, a mountain located right behind the Lunar Academy. Being located close to a mountain range, naturally there were many mountains close to the Academy.

Grey also went to take classes during these three days and decided he'll just stay at home. When he got to class one of the Lightning Hall, he was shocked by the number of students in the class. He was literally the only student in class one.

He later found out the Academy gives all new students a year to break through from the Collection Plane to the Fusion Plane, so all the previous class one students are already in class two. Most of the students of the Lightning Hall are in class two, with class three only have nine students. The total students in the Lightning Hall was a meager 24 including Grey.

Since he was the only student with the Lightning element among the new recruits, there was no way for class one to have another student, because students are recruited once every year.

Blake told him to focus fully on trying to break through to the Collection Plane. For now, there isn't anything important to teach him. So Grey just focused fully on his training.

Grey had only seven days left to break through. He didn't put pressure on himself since he was already very close to doing it. He felt it wouldn't take him up to the said ten days before he breaks through to the First stage of the Collection Plane.

On the seventh day when Grey was meditating, he heard a puncturing sound. That was the sound made when someone breaks through a layer. He had finally broken through to the First stage of the Collection Plane.

After breaking through, he felt his body strengthening under the influence of the elements which were rushing into his body. Although little, it still caused a little change for him. He felt stronger than before and also much lighter.

"What a great feeling" Grey said with delight. The feeling of breaking through was new to him, he felt great pleasure from it. His body was greedily sucking in the elements and improving his physique with each passing second.

Grey calmed his mind and continued his meditation, he had already broken through to the Collection Plane, so he felt totally relieved.

The next morning, he went to the mountain as usual for his physical training. He noticed his strength, speed, stamina, senses have all increased. Although by a little, since he trains every day, he was able to notice it.

Grey didn't stop his meditation after breaking through to the Collection Plane, he knew this was only just the beginning, and he needed to work hard if he wants to have any hopes of catching up with his peers. The strong became strong one step at a time and through achieving many accomplishments.

Grey was able to break through another layer before the tenth day, his speed could be said to be terrifying as it would take a new Elementalist at least two months to go through from the First layer to the Second given they had Purple talent. Even those with Blue talents would take at least a month and half to achieve this feat, only the most exceptional ones do it within a month.

Blake's office....

"Today is the last day, do you think he can do it?" Lynn asked thoughtfully.

"I don't know, but I told him to report to me today no matter the outcome of his training" Blake replied. He hadn't seen Grey since he told him to focus fully on his cultivation.

He wasn't confident in Grey breaking through within these ten days. If he had been given twenty days, then he would have been certain he would. But ten days, it was just too short for him.

"I can't believe you actually played such a trick on a new student" A soft voice filled with amusement rang in the office.

Blake looked at where the voice came from with a long face. The speaker was one of the instructors of the Water Hall. She looked like she was still in her early twenties.

"Delia, I've already told you it wasn't my idea. I'm not that free to play tricks on kids" Blake immediately rebutted.

"Enough you two. One more word from you and I'll send you out Delia" Lynn immediately stepped in. She knew there would be no end to it if they didn't stop it. Delia was the only instructor present who wasn't a head instructor.

"What is she even doing here?" Blake asked in displeasure.

"She heard about it and was also curious to see if Grey would succeed. She begged to follow, and I couldn't say no" The head instructor of the Water Hall shrugged while answering.

If Grey could successfully break through to the First stage of the Collection Plane within ten days, it would be the fastest of any student in the history of the Academy. This was the reason the head instructors were all present.

Only one student have been able to successfully break through to the Collection Plane in ten days. And that student was precisely Delia, she had a Blue talent and was a freak in cultivation. Although she was still very young, she had already caught up with most of the instructors who taught her while she was still a student.

Grey walked towards the Hall while humming a little tune to himself. He was in a great mood after breaking through to the Second stage of the Collection Plane the previous night.

"This technique is truly great. It only took me ten days to break through two layers" Grey couldn't help but praise the technique in his heart. He felt grateful to Chris for giving him this special treatment.

Knock Knock

Grey lightly knocked at the door.

"Enter"

Blake's voice could be heard from the office. Grey opened the door of the office and went in. He was startled when he walked in, he realized Blake wasn't alone in the office. The only person he recognized was Lynn.

"Oh sorry, I didn't know you were busy" Grey apologized and turned around quickly heading outside the office, he closed the door after going out without even waiting for a response.

Blake and the other instructors were dumbstruck, never expecting something like this to happen.

Chapter 29: Head Instructors

After Grey closed the door, he was about to leave when he heard a roar coming from the office.

"Grey where the hell are you going, get back here now" Blake's voice thundered from the office. Grey froze with fright when he heard the shout.

At the office.....

"Haha, what an interesting fellow" Delia covered her mouth while giggling. After the initial surprise at how quick Grey left the office, she felt amused by it.

Blake glared at her with a spiteful look. He was incensed when Grey just taken off without even waiting for a response from him.

Grey turned around and opened the door lightly. He thought Blake was having a meeting with the other Head Instructors, especially after he recognized Lynn. He never expected Blake would still have time to attend to him. He planned on waiting outside, probably seeing Reynolds and the rest before returning.

After entering, he closed the door gently behind him and looked up feeling slightly anxious. Blake stared at him with anger still visible in his face.

"Why did you leave the office?" Blake asked with slight annoyance. Lynn glanced at Blake then back at Grey, "Sigh, forget it" Lynn suggested. She knew Blake was only grumpy because of Delia and nothing else.

Delia stared at Blake with a mocking smile, Blake didn't even bother with her anymore as he knew she would just aggravate him.

"Grey, we aren't having a meeting. Actually, they're all here for you" Blake calmed down and spoke after seeing Grey was just looking at him saying nothing.

"Me?" Grey asked with a confused look. 'I have always been focused on training, how did they even know me?' Grey thought.

"Yes, you. They wanted to know if you would be able to break through within these ten days" Blake explained with a smile to disperse the slight unease Grey might be feeling with so many people present here.

"Oh that, I thought it was something else" Grey said in a relieved tone. He thought he had done something he wasn't supposed to, that was why they were here for him.

"You don't need to be tense, they are all Head instructors here like me. Except for a certain someone though" Blake stressed the last part of the sentence while looking at Delia. He had the 'She's the one I'm talking about' look when he was staring at her.

Delia snorted coldly when she heard what Blake said and the look he was giving her. 'Humph, if not for the fact you are still stronger than me, I'd have beaten you up for a long time now' She thought inside

Grey followed his eyes and saw the stunningly beautiful Delia. Grey greeted them with a smile, trying to look the best he could.

Delia looked at him, seemingly surprised by how handsome he was. The initial time Grey entered the office, she didn't get a chance to see him clearly. She was not the only one sizing him up, the other instructors who were just seeing him for the first time also did the same.

Grey also sized them up, he was most curious about Delia though. Since she was too young to be an instructor from his point of view. He saw the always serious looking Lynn, a well refined man with brown hair, the beautiful Delia who was flowing with the spirit of youth, a middle aged lady with blue hair and a man who had a masculine body with rough looking black hair. 'The rough looking one is definitely the Head instructor of the Earth Hall' Grey thought when he saw the man.

When Blake saw how they were all sizing each other up, he introduced each of the instructors to Grey. When Blake introduced the Head instructor of the

Earth Hall, Grey was surprised by the one Blake was pointing at. 'Maybe he made a mistake' This was what rang in Grey's mind.

"You're also an Earth Elementalist, very good. You should try visiting the Earth Hall. Although your talent for the Earth element isn't as high as it is for the Lightning element, the Earth element is very formidable" The Head instructor of the Earth Hall, Michael said.

"I will surely do. Since I was focused entirely on cultivation, I haven't had time" Grey replied gently. He was surprised the one who spoke to him wasn't the rough looking man, rather it was the refined looking man.

The Head instructor of the Earth Hall had brown hair which was starting to gray, with a well chiseled face and amber eyes which glittered with youthful mischief.

Grey was surprised by Michael's appearance, he thought all Earth Elementalist were crude looking. He didn't expect the refined looking man to actually be the Head instructor of the Earth Hall, he even looked better than Blake, although older.

Michael saw Grey's weird look and laughed, "What, you expected me to look crude?"

Grey smiled awkwardly, "Sorry, it's just the few Earth Elementalist I've seen were all crude looking." magic

The instructors all laughed when they heard this, Michael has already gotten used to getting this reaction from people the first time to know he was an Earth Elementalist. Due to the rough nature of the Earth element, most Earth Elementalist looked crude.

The elements usually reflects on the Elementalist, so it is not surprising most Earth Elementalists looks crude. Most Wind Elementalists looked nimble while Fire Elementalists almost always has a fiery personality.

"Okay, now back to the reason we are all gathered today" Blake said solemnly after the bout of laughter. The office once again went calm, with everyone focusing their gazes intently at Grey.

Chapter 30: It Expires?!

Grey walked closer to Blake with a calm expression. He knew he didn't have anything to worry about so he wasn't worried. magic

"So, were you able to break through to the Collection Plane?" Blake asked with little hope, although still slightly expectant. Being just at the Collection Plane, the elements won't be fully active in the body of the Elementalist, so although everyone present was already in a high plane, they wouldn't know without inspecting personally.

Grey smiled and said, "Yes". When they all heard his answer, they were all astounded. They never thought he would have been able to do it. "I was also able to break through another layer" Grey added unhurriedly.

The instructors were all visibly surprised when they heard his first reply. But on hearing the second part of his words, they were stupefied.

'How's this possible' This was the only word resounding through their minds.

"Grey, this is not a joke. Are you certain of what you just said?" Blake had to be sure. He thought Grey was saying this without any seriousness.

"Of course" Grey affirmed. He didn't know why they took it this way. 'You were the one who asked me, why would I be joking with you' Grey thought, feeling wronged.

"Give me your hand" Blake stretched out his hand. Grey placed his hand on the outstretched hand of Blake. When his hand was placed on Blake's palm, he felt a mysterious energy going into his body.

It was a strange feeling, as this was something he had never felt before. 'This must be what they call Spiritual energy' Grey thought will feeling expectant. He thought of how it would feel like when he would also be able to use Spiritual energy.

After some time, Blake's expression changed drastically. "Impossible, this...this" He stuttered with a voice filled with surprise. The other instructors looked at him with interest. Grey was also surprised by the sudden outburst from Blake.

"What is it?" Lynn asked. She had never seen Blake like this before. Her curiosity was seriously piqued by it.

"Check it out yourself" Blake said as he passed Grey's hand over to her. She held Grey's hands and, just like Blake, sent her spiritual consciousness into his body. After thoroughly checking, she was also shocked by the findings. Although, her reaction was not as excessive as Blake's reaction.

"You truly are a very lucky boy" Lynn looked at Grey with glittering eyes. Seeing the look from both Blake and Lynn, Grey was beginning to get curious about what was going on in his body. Not just him, but the other instructors were also getting curious.

"What is going on?" Delia couldn't hold it back anymore and asked. She saw how Blake and Lynn acted, she got curious and wanted to know what happened.

"He has a unique physique" Blake replied in a bland voice. Delia pouted when she heard how Blake replied her. When Blake saw her pouting, he was stunned and couldn't take his eyes off her.

When Delia saw how Blake was staring at her intently, she quickly dropped her head down to avoid his gaze. Her lips curled upwards, with her face blooming with a radiant smile.

Lynn cleared her throat to try to bring Blake back from his trance. When Blake's mind was clear, he felt awkward realizing he was staring at Delia shamelessly.

He thickened his skin and acted like nothing happened before explaining, "Well, it can't be referred to as a unique physique per se. But for some unknown reasons, his body has a high concentration of both Lightning and Earth elemental essence in it"

Everyone in the office were surprised when they first heard Blake say the word 'unique physique' including Grey. Although Blake later clarified it wasn't a unique physique rather it was a huge concentration of elemental essence, it was nevertheless a shocking thing to hear. For someone who just started cultivating having a huge concentration of elemental essence was unheard of.

Now they all understood what Lynn meant when she said he was very lucky, except for Grey. He still didn't understand what having such a high

concentration of elemental essence. He threw a questioning gaze at Blake, clearly wanting him to explain further.

"This simply means for the time being, your cultivation speed would be terrifyingly fast. We don't know when it will be used up, but from the amount you have, it should be able to get you to the Arcane Plane without any issues. And you'll also advance very fast" Lynn explained to Grey to clear up his doubts.

Grey's mood turned sour when he heard this, 'And here I was thinking I had hit the jackpot by having a unique physique, who knew this was a miracle with an expiring date' He complained grudgingly. But he couldn't hide the fact that he was also excited by the news.

With this, he wouldn't have an issue with closing up the gap with his peers. Although not everyone his age is at the Arcane Plane, those with Purple or Blue talent were already in the Arcane Plane. Except for the ones who weren't hardworking.

"Well with this, you wouldn't be far behind your peers. And you might have hope in participating in the yearly tournament at the Academy" Blake said with a smile. He had already gotten over the initial shock and with what happened when he lost himself looking at Delia, he wanted to talk as much as possible, hoping to take everyone's mind of it.

"What's the tournament all about?" Grey inquired.

"Students from each Hall will get together and have a little combat with each other to determine how far they had grown. This is done every year, although not compulsory," Blake calmly explained. The Academy always has an end of year tournament to see who the best student is for each class, although not all students participate.

When Grey heard the tournament was not mandatory and he could skip it, he was glad since he didn't have any interest in battling and currently wanted to fully focus on increasing his Plane. He planned on going into the forest to train with magical beasts when he got to the Arcane Plane.

Only after reaching the Arcane Plane before the Academy would allow any of the students to go out to train. The class three students rarely participates in the tournament.

Since Grey was already checked by Blake and it was already confirmed he was in the Collection Plane, he didn't have any reason staying at the office any longer and opted to leave. When he got out of the office, he could hear Delia calling Blake a pervert.

'What's up with those two anyway?' Grey asked himself as he walked out of the hall heading back to his house. On his way, he couldn't help but think of the reason why he had large amounts of Lightning and Earth elemental essence in his body.

'It must definitely be back at the Lightning mountain, but how come my body was able to store it even though I haven't started cultivating?' Grey was puzzled by everything, but he didn't dwell in it for too long. Since he couldn't find the reason for now, he'll just stop thinking about it.