

## Affinity 251

### Chapter 251 - Bad News

"Huh!" A confused expression appeared on the face of the mayor.

"No need to explain to you. If news of this gets out, then our months of hard work would be in vain. You didn't think I'll come here alone, did you?" The young man smiled lightly before using the wind element to forcefully push the mud around him.

He floated a few feet into the air before landing on dry land.

"The boy is ingenious, I haven't seen or heard of anything like this." One of the men who was an Earth Elementalist praised Grey before casually making an earth pillar rise from the ground where he was standing, taking him out of the mud.

He didn't only take himself out, he also did the same for the other eleven people.

"Have you notified them?" The young man looked at a man who was dressed in blue amongst his companions.

The man nodded before raising his hand, to show a small plaque-like item.

"What is that?" The mayor looked at the item curiously.

Firstly, it was like a plaque, but it gave him a unique sense.

"This is something we made recently, it can be used to communicate with others within a five kilometers radius." The young man stated proudly.

"Wow!" exclaimed the mayor, he was awed by this.

This gave him more confidence that working with these people was the best choice. The Qilin empire couldn't come up with something like this, well, none that he had heard of.

"Let's go, they should be heading to the city walls." The young man took a step forward before covering his feet with the wind element and moving at a breakneck speed. The mayor barely caught a glimpse of him.

Of the other twelve people, there were two Wind Elementalists, one Lightning Elementalist, Four Water Elementalists, two Fire Elementalists, and three Earth Elementalists.

The Lightning Elementalist was the one who followed behind, before the two Wind Elementalists. The others were slower since their elements aren't ones that drastically increases the speed of its user.

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Outside the villa.

After Grey left the villa, he ran towards the east. The city gate was located in the south. He and the group initially planned on staying in an Inn before leaving, but since they've been discovered, they need to leave the city as soon as possible. He ran from the mayor's villa to the nearest street.

Although it was already almost midnight, Grey noticed the city was still active. People were walking to and fro in the streets, and he could hear shouts from some parts of the city.

'Moving on the ground might delay me.' He thought while rubbing his chin.

'That's it!'

He jumped onto the roof of the building close to him and started running on top of it. The distance between each building was around five to ten meters, this was something he could cover in a single jump. He started moving from rooftop to rooftop, heading straight for the city walls.

The city walls stood at around twenty meters high. To Grey and his friends, that was a piece of cake.

It took him almost five minutes to get to the city walls. On reaching the walls, he leaped over it without much problems, to find the others waiting for him outside.

"So quick?" Klaus who was currently leaning on his knees was left stunned by Grey's speed.

It hadn't even been up to one minute that they left the city, yet Grey who was supposed to delay their opponents was already here. If not for the trust he had for him, he would have asked if he truly delayed them.

"Go!" Grey didn't stop.

The people from the Azure empire might have already reached the Fourth stage by now, he didn't know what their true strength was. All he knew was that, it was not something they should want to find out.

Alice and Reynolds immediately followed after him. Klaus who was catching his breath could only complain inside before chasing after the group.

They soon disappeared into the forest around the city. Using the normal pathway wasn't a good idea since they are trying to escape from their pursuers.

Another five minutes passed before the young man from the Azure empire showed up on the top of the city wall. This was the side Grey and his friends used.

"He's very fast." The young man said while staring in the direction Grey and his friends took. It was almost like he saw them running in that direction.

He had already reached the Fifth stage of the Origin Plane, yet he still wasn't able to catch up with Grey. This discovery left him dumbfounded.

The Lightning Elementalist was the next to appear on the city wall.

"Tell them to stop them." The young man turned to the Lightning Elementalist before jumping down from the city wall.

The Lightning Elementalist followed suit, just after they jumped off the city walls, the two other Wind Elementalist appeared on the wall, before going after them.

Two lights flashed through the night sky, heading in the direction Grey and his friends took.

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In the forest, Grey didn't stop running for one bit. Times like these were the times he wished he was alone.

Alice and Reynolds were fast, but not to his level, Klaus on the other hand was a drag. Grey literally had to carry him on his back after they ran for two minutes. This excited Klaus since he didn't have to bother with having to run anymore.

"Faster you two." He said while looking at Alice and Reynolds who were behind them.

Reynolds had the urge of beating him up, while Alice was already planning how she would beat him up once they escaped their current predicament.

Just when Klaus was about to continue mocking the duo for being too slow, he saw two flashes in the sky. His heart immediately sank.

"Bad news guys, two Overlord Plane Elementalist are coming in our direction."

Chapter 252 - Nothing Personal

"What?!" Alice, Grey, and Reynolds exclaimed simultaneously in shock.

"No need to panic yet, there's also the possibility that this is just a coincidence and they're heading in the same direction as us." Klaus tried to calm the others down.

"There's also the chance of them being sent by those guys, all in all, we're either doomed, or this is just like I previously speculated, a coincidence." He added.

"You're not helping!" Grey and the others felt like beating him up.

How does he have the courage to say those words in their situation? If they were actually being chased by Overlord Plane Elementalists, then they were toast! Who'd joke with that?

"I'm just saying guys." Klaus shrugged.

Grey felt like slamming him into the ground, this guy just doesn't know when to shut up.

Alice and Reynolds tried increasing their speed, but they were already at their highest speed. If they were truly being chased by Overlord Plane experts, then no matter how much they increase their strengths, they wouldn't be able to escape.

Grey looked around, trying to assess the situation. His only bet right now was using the Fusion State, it hadn't been long he used it, but breaking through helped him remove the excess energy in his body, so using it is safe. With his current stage, he should be able to advance to the First stage of the Overlord Plane since he had five elements which meant a boost of five stages. But he wasn't sure the Fusion State would take him into the next Plane.

'Can you sense their stages?' He asked Void who was on Alice's shoulder.

'Hmm, one of them is in the Second stage of the Overlord Plane, while the other is in the Fourth.' Void replied a few seconds later.

'Shit! It doesn't matter, I'll have to try.' Grey resolved his mind to use the Fusion State.

He was the man Grey's mother assigned to keep him safe. During the first time he was protecting Grey, he rarely did anything, other than the time he helped when he was about to be assassinated. However, since Grey entered the trial land, his life had not been the same. First, he was unable to enter the trial land, which made him almost go crazy from fear. He was confident that if anything happened to Grey, Grey's father might be lenient with him, but his mother would definitely kill him without a doubt.

When he saw Grey coming out of the trial land, it was the happiest moment of his life. He almost wanted to hug Grey at that time. Now, people had been trying to kill him, and it hadn't even completed four days that he left the trial land.

'Hmph! These people don't know who his mother is, or else, they would rather die than chase after him.' The man thought inside.

The two Overlord Plane experts who were already close to Grey and his friends suddenly stopped mid-air when they saw someone appearing all of a sudden.

Of the two experts, one of them had a robust body with an average height while the other who was taller had a smaller build. They both looked to be in their early fifties, with hairs that were already starting to Grey.

"Who might this venerable one be?" The robust one of the two men asked respectfully.

He was in the Fourth stage of the Overlord Plane, yet, he was unable to sense the man who appeared before them, he just appeared out of nowhere.

"Hmm, you're respectful, unlike the others I've encountered." The middle-aged man said while gently shaking his head.

All the people he encountered previously asked the same question, 'Who are you?'. And they all acted arrogantly, these two though were exceptions.

"You're a senior, of course, we should be respectful." The robust man said with a bow.

He had already noticed this man wasn't from the Qilin empire, so talking to him politely was the best choice. He still didn't understand what the man meant when he said they were respectful.

"What are you doing here?" The middle-aged man asked.

The robust man hesitated for a while before replying, "We're taking care of a small problem."

"Oh! You mean the boy?" The middle-aged man pointed at Grey and his friends who were getting further away.

"How did..."

"\*Sigh\* This is your greatest mistake, had you been going after something else, I wouldn't even be bothered with you." The middle-aged man interrupted with both hands clasped behind him.

"Senior, you..."

"Unfortunately, this is the end of the road for you two. Anyone who has the thought of harming the young lord is not allowed to be left alive. It's nothing personal, I'm just trying to stay alive as well." The middle-aged man shrugged.

The two men were fear stricken when they heard the middle-aged man addressing Grey as young lord.

"Senior we didn't..."

"Come, take me to your master. No need to try, that cheap trick of yours with that small thing can't deceive me." The middle-aged man interrupted the man once again.

He noticed they were trying to communicate with the young man with the small plaque-like device. Given his strength, blocking them from transmitting anything to the young man was not a problem.

The middle-aged man snapped his finger and they all disappeared.

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In the forest.

"Huh! They're gone." Reynolds said when he noticed that the lights not only stopped following them, but disappeared.

Grey asked Void to clarify if the Overlord Plane experts were gone, after getting confirmation, he nodded to the others.

"You see, I told you there's also the probability that this was just a coincidence." said Klaus who was still on Grey's back.

"Let's keep going, just to be safe. I'm sure those guys are still chasing after us." Grey said not stopping.

Klaus who was on Grey's back was the most carefree among the group.

#### Chapter 253 - Journey To The Academy

The group continued running for another fifteen minutes, it was only after Grey was sure they were no longer being chased did he stop. Of course, Void was the one who gave him confirmation.

As soon as he stopped, the first thing he did was to throw Klaus off of his back. Klaus who wasn't expecting Grey to toss him off his back landed b.u.t.t first on the ground and yelped in pain.

"Damn you! Couldn't you just drop me like a normal person would?" He glared at Grey.



If not for the fact that he couldn't beat him, he wouldn't mind teaching him a lesson.

"I could, but doing this is more fun." Grey chuckled as he took a seat on the ground under a tree.

They were still in the forest, and since they aren't being chased anymore, Grey suggested they rested here. He was a little skeptical about why the group from the Azure empire stopped chasing after them. Naturally, given how important the information they found out was, he didn't think they would let them go.

When Void told him they were no longer being chased, and that the group from the Azure empire disappeared, just like the Overlord Plane experts, it left him deep in thought.

However, no matter how hard he thought about it, he couldn't figure out why they stopped chasing them.

'We're lucky they stopped chasing us though since we're safe, that's all that matters.' He thought.

After all, it wasn't like he wanted them to keep on chasing them.

Alice and Reynolds saw how Grey threw Klaus on the floor, and couldn't help but laugh at his misfortune. He had been telling them about how slow they were, completely forgetting that he was being carried by Grey. They didn't think he forgot though, he was just a shameless individual.

"So now what?" asked Alice as she took a seat close to Grey and Klaus who was still rubbing his b.u.t with both hands.

"We head back to the Academy. Although I have no interest in this war, we should report it to the principal." Grey said after a moment of silence.

"Okay." Alice nodded.

With nothing left to say, she entered a meditative state since she had been using her lightning essence throughout the chase. Reynolds also followed suit, leaving Grey and Klaus awake.

"Hey, bud." Klaus moved closer to Grey, moving in a very odd way. He still in a sitting position, so he dragged himself along the ground before getting close to Grey.

Grey shook his head when he saw Klaus doing this, "Huh?"

"Why don't we take some wine and reminisce about the trial land." suggested Klaus.

He didn't need to recover his elemental essence since he didn't use any. He wasn't feeling sleepy as well, so why not have a good time with his friend.

"Sure, but we're not drinking that wine." Grey agreed to them drinking, but they were not to drink the special wine.

Klaus agreed since he wasn't really too bothered about which wine they drank, as long as it was not terrible, he was fine with it.

Grey brought out one of the wines he took from Smith's room, he also had silver cups in his storage ring.

The duo stayed up all through the night drinking and chatting, while Void was the one who was mostly on the lookout given the massive range his senses can cover. They spoke about their times in the trial land, Grey told him about the times when he was chased by a horde of Lightning Apes. He almost accidentally also spoke of the bunnies when he was speaking of the times he had to run away, but luckily, he stopped himself on time.

If Klaus hears about that, his life would be hell since Klaus would definitely mock him with it.

As soon as the sun rose, the group continued their journey once again. They left the forest and used the normal pathway. Klaus was against them walking and suggested they bought a horse once they got to the next city, but the others thought it would be fun if they walked to the Lunar Academy. This would provide them more time to talk about their experiences in the trial land.

They passed through multiple small towns before they got to the next city. Klaus refused to leave the city if they didn't get horses. Grey and Reynolds tried convincing him, but he refused. It was only after Alice stepped in did he agree to it, but it was only after she said they would get a horse once they got to the next city after this one.

It took them three days to get to the next city, and it was surprisingly the same city Grey and Chris stopped in when he was being carried to Lunar Academy after his test. This brought a lot of memories back to him, he couldn't help but laugh when he recalled how Chris was eating when they stopped at the restaurant.

He took the group to that same restaurant, telling them how he and Chris stopped here. The food was good which brightened Klaus' day. Grey had refused to cook since they started the journey, even after being bugged by Klaus and Reynolds.

They stayed at an Inn, and on the next day, they followed Klaus' wish and got a horse. According to their current pace, it would still take them about four days or so before they get to the Academy. If they were walking, it would take about a week at least before they got there.

Grey took his time to take in all the sceneries as they headed to the Academy, they passed through different terrains, mountains, swamps, valleys, canyons, and so on.

There was a time when they had to cross a river, Grey and the others wanted them to take a boat that was carrying people to the other side, but Klaus had other ideas.

#### Chapter 254 - What Are You Planning Now?

On a river, a ship could be seen transporting people from one side of the river bank to the other. The river was around seven kilometers wide. The ship was around one hundred meters long and extended around twenty meters wide. The ship had three floors with each floor having around forty cabins.

On the deck of the ship, some people could be seen resting while enjoying the midday sun.

"Look!"

A young girl that looked to be around fourteen suddenly yelled and pointed behind the ship. Her surprised scream caught everyone's attention, and they all rushed to the deck to see what the young girl was pointing at.

Seeing the sight before them, most of their mouths were left agape from surprise.

Klaus could be seen sitting proudly on his horse, with his hair dancing in the wind as his horse ran on top of the ice bridge in front of him, his right hand was outstretched, and snow could be seen coming from it, creating the ice bridge as they went on. His handsome visage caught the attention of most of the young ladies in the ship, making a few blush. The young ladies weren't the only ones who his face caught their attention, the young men on the ship who were planning to speak to the young ladies had sour faces since Klaus had ruined their chances, seeing how most of the ladies were reacting.

When Klaus noticed how they were looking at him, he made the ice bridge go closer to the ship, while also taking it higher so he could be at the same height as the deck of the ship.

Grey, Reynolds, and Alice who were behind him looked at each other lost for words. When Klaus told them of the idea, he said he didn't want them to waste their hard-earned money. Now, they already knew he only wanted to show off.

"No wonder he waited till the ship set off before he said we should go as well." Grey said in enlightenment.

"Yeah. But, this is not the most shameless thing he has done, so I'm not surprised." Reynolds nodded.

They've already gotten used to Klaus' shamelessness, so whenever he does things like this, they are never really surprised.

Alice looked behind them to watch as the ice bridge was steadily thawing out. When she asked him why he didn't make it last longer, he said this would make it more dramatic.

Klaus was almost ten meters ahead of the trio, the reason for this was simple, he didn't want to be close to Grey.

"Wow! So handsome!"

"And he's powerful too!"

"He must be from the greatest Academy."

"Yeah, just look at his dazzling hair."

Some young ladies exclaimed in awe, from Klaus' appearance, it wasn't hard for them to figure out he was around their age.

Klaus smiled softly when he heard all this, but he didn't look at them. His smile got even wider when he heard a lady saying she wouldn't mind being his servant girl. Most of the young people here were around the Fusion and the early Stages of the Arcane Plane, none could use their elements as well as he does.

Just as he was having a great time, what he expected happened.

"Wow! The one behind him is even more handsome!"

"He's beautiful."

Louder exclamations rang out when Grey's horse got close to the ship. Klaus almost felt like kicking the young ladies, they didn't even praise him close to five seconds before they all turned their attentions to Grey. It couldn't be helped, Grey was just too handsome.

Grey was the only guy his age he had seen that had superior looks to him.

Alice who was with them looked at the girls who were screaming loudly, she didn't know why they were acting this way. When she first saw Grey, she couldn't deny it, his face left her dumbstruck for a few seconds, but she didn't have the kind of reaction these girls currently had.

Unlike Klaus, Grey felt a little embarrassed being stared at in such a way. It made him a little uncomfortable, he knew he was handsome, but isn't their reaction a little over the top?

Klaus who wasn't being stared at by the young ladies anymore quickly lowered the ice bridge, before giving the ship some distance.

The people on the ship watched as the moving ice bridge disappeared from sight.

'Well, at least I got to enjoy the feeling, even though it was only for a few seconds, it was worth it.' Klaus thought, trying to encourage himself.

"You're a nutjob." Reynolds said.

"Haha, if only you're as handsome as we are. Then, you'll know why." Klaus laughed before throwing a glance at Grey.

"How did you end up like this?" Grey shook his head as he asked.

The only reason Klaus made the ice bridge was that he wanted to show off.

"It's a gift. Now tell me, how did you feel a few seconds ago?" Klaus asked.

"Uncomfortable." Grey said with an odd expression.

'This is going to be hard, with this mindset, he will never get a girlfriend. Which boy feels uncomfortable when being stared at by so many girls?' thought Klaus.

Klaus was almost one hundred percent sure that if Grey had his skills, then he would get more girls.

Grey's answer made him take the decision of wanting to make sure Grey had a girlfriend soon.

"Do you hate girls?" asked Klaus.

"No, why would I?" Grey replied.

"Do you, you know, like boys?" Klaus brought his horse closer to Grey and whispered to him.

"Of course not! Where's this going?" Grey almost pushed Klaus into the river.

Klaus looked at Grey, as if sizing him up, while occasionally nodding his head. His stare frightened Grey because Grey knew whenever he's acting this way, it's that he's planning to do something crazy.

"What are you planning to do now?" questioned Grey.

"Oh! nothing." Klaus shrugged.

His reply scared Grey even more.

Chapter 255 - It's All About Perspectives

After getting to the other side of the river, they continued their journey to the Academy. The group would occasionally stop at different cities and towns so the horses could rest.

One week later.

Grey, Alice, Klaus, and Reynolds could be seen riding towards the huge compound of the Lunar Academy.

It surprisingly took them a week to get here, even though according to Grey's calculations, they were supposed to reach here three days ago.

"If only you agreed to us taking the route Reynolds suggested, we would've been here sooner." Grey said turning around to face Klaus.

"I knew that route was longer, that was why I picked it in the first place." Klaus said not admitting he was wrong.

"Bullshit! The only reason we took the route was that you said we should take it since it was shorter." Reynolds said, imitating Klaus when saying the last part of his statement.

"Your route was boring, mine was great." Klaus didn't back down.

"How is being almost robbed great?" asked Reynolds.

"By people who just broke through to the Origin Plane. Didn't you enjoy whooping their asses? Cause I sure did. Also, when we saved that small village from being destroyed by a horde of al beasts, didn't you feel like a hero?" Klaus said putting a heroic posture as they rode closer to the Academy.

"I get the part where we were almost robbed, but since when did killing the last beast make you the hero of the village?" Grey looked at Klaus with raised eyebrows.

When they defeated the bandits who tried to rob them, they took them to the city close to where the bandits' hideout was located. After they dropped the bandits off to the guards there, they continued their journey only to see multiple dead bodies of people and al beasts on a path.

They followed the trail and saw that a village was being attacked by a horde of beasts, but the villagers were already close to victory with only a few beasts still alive. Before they got to the village, there was only one beast left alive, and the warriors of the village had no problem in killing it since it wasn't the strongest beast anyway. But before anyone could attack it, Klaus created a huge ice shard that he used to stab it.



The villagers naturally were grateful, although Klaus killed only a single beast, it showed he was trying to be helpful since the villagers noticed that they only just arrived.

"Grey my friend, let me tell you something you still don't know, it's not about the journey, it's about the beginning, and the ending." Klaus said putting on the air of an otherworldly wise old man.

"What do you mean not about the journey? What if you die on the journey?" Grey felt like using a boulder to smack Klaus' head, maybe he would start thinking properly then.

"If you die in the journey, then technically, that's the end of your journey. Everything has an end, that why you should make the most out of your life, like me." Klaus said thoughtfully.

"Where do you hear all this?" Grey couldn't help but ask.

"From a wise old man." Klaus said respectfully.

"You mean the crazy old drunk who sits by the side of the road close to The Garland tavern in the city?" Grey easily guessed the identity of the wise old man Klaus was speaking about.

In Lunar City, Klaus loved going to two places whenever he wants to drink and have fun. One was The Cony tavern, and the other which Grey personally prefers going was The Garland tavern.

"You see, it's all about perspective when we view things. From your perspective, he's a crazy old drunk, but from my perspective, he's a wise old man. It's amazing how two people see the same thing in different ways." Klaus didn't try to deny that the wise old man was the same person Grey was talking about.

"Where did you hear this as well? No wait don't answer that, it's also from the wise old man." Grey asked but answered the question himself since he knew Klaus was going to give him the same answer.

"You should take some life lessons from him, two silver coins could make you a whole lot wiser. Rey, I don't think he can help your case though, I brought your issue up to him some time back, and he was

flabbergasted by how your head works." Klaus said to Grey, before patting Reynolds' shoulder sympathetically.

"I under... Wait, what?!" Reynolds almost jumped out of his horse to attack Klaus.

Other than being stronger than Klaus, Klaus defeats him in every other aspect, especially when it came to cursing. Sometimes he wonders how great Klaus would be if he actually decides to spend the time he uses in annoying someone in thinking of something good.

Klaus' quick-wittedness when it came to annoying a person was insane, it makes him wonder about the purpose of life sometimes.

"Nothing." Klaus refused to speak on the issue any further.

Grey looked at the duo and smiled softly, Klaus seems to always think of ways to annoy Reynolds.

"Does this mean you're going to end up like a 'wise old man' as well?" Grey asked with a smirk.

"Yes." Klaus nodded, but his expression soon changed when Alice and Reynolds started chuckling, "Wait, no, no. We don't know what the world has in store for us."

"But you said to make the most out of your life, the wise old man sure is doing it. He does what he loves doing, that is drinking, you on the other hand are not far from that." Grey continued with a smile.

He had finally gotten a chance to win Klaus in a war of words, this was a once in a lifetime opportunity, how could he dare waste it?

"Well played Grey, well played." Klaus said with squinted eyes while nodding.

Grey and the others burst into laughter when they realized Klaus admitted defeat.

'Reynolds should be happy, Grey just took the baton from him without him asking.' Klaus thought.

The baton in this case was who he would naturally annoy.

Chapter 256 - He Must Be A Bigshot!

"Finally, I've missed this place." Grey took in a deep breath when they got to the gate of the Academy.

It had been six months since they left, and now they've returned, stronger than before. The Academy's gate wasn't as deserted as it has always been which was came as a surprise to the group. They would rarely see people at the Academy gates whenever they came back from a mission, but there were surprisingly almost ten people who were walking into the Academy at the time they got here. The group didn't bother about it, after all, it wasn't like there weren't people in the Academy.

Of the group, Alice could be said to be the one who didn't have a major power-up other than increasing her Plane and elemental grade with the Great Earth Essence Liquid, she got nothing else.

Klaus was able to learn a move that increased his ice ability to a terrifying stage, and it was still on the increase. Reynolds became a high-grade summoner. While Grey awakened two more elements, got a spatial ring, formed a bond with an amazing cat who introduced the space element to him. The flame of the fire element that he recently awakened was blue, while also having a never before heard of cyan elemental grade. All these are added to the fact that he still got a multi-elemental weapon.

If anyone were to get just one of these things, they would feel extremely lucky.

"I didn't miss it much, the trial land was more fun." Klaus said while highlighting his horse.

"It's safer here, but you're right, that place was fun." Grey followed suit.

Alice and Reynolds came down as well. Void had been with Alice almost all through the journey.

Just as they were about to go in, Reynolds asked a question that Grey wanted to ask the last time he came back with a horse, "What happens to the horses?"

"Huh?" Klaus looked at him with a confused expression.

"You know, the horses. I've never seen any horses in the Academy, and I never get to see the ones I leave outside whenever I come back out." Reynolds pointed at the horses that were tied on the side of the Academy gate.

"Hmm, I don't know. I'll ask my dad once I see him." Klaus said.

When Grey heard Klaus speaking about his father, he suddenly recalled his Teacher.

"You guys head in first, I'll go see someone." He turned around and started walking out of the Academy compound once again.

When Void saw this, he quickly vanished and appeared on Grey's shoulder. Leaving two young boys who were about to walk out of the Academy dumbstruck.

"Come back soon, we'll wait for you at my place. You know we have to report to the principal about what we heard." Klaus said.

"I won't take long." Grey nodded before heading to the back of the Academy.

He passed a group of youngsters that were around twelve to thirteen years of age, he couldn't help but reminisce about the first time he went for the test. It was a depressing moment in his life.

'Looks like they've just been admitted.' He thought to himself.

When he got to the back of the Academy, he soon got to the area he does his daily physical training, he smiled softly before advancing on his journey. After he got to the place where he tried fusing the elements for the first time, he couldn't help himself but burst out into laughter.

The trees around had already started growing once again, and all signs of the destruction he caused here were gone.

Void who was on his shoulder couldn't help but look at him in a strange manner, he didn't understand why Grey suddenly started laughing.

'Why are you laughing?' Void couldn't help but ask.

'Oh, it's nothing much, I just recalled something that happened here some time ago...' Grey went on to tell him about how he almost lost his life to his experiment.

He didn't tell Void he got the power or the technique from the Chaos God, so telling him about it wasn't a problem.

'Haha, to think you actually almost killed yourself.' Void laughed when he heard how Grey ran for his life when he lost control of the orb.

'Yeah, funny.' Grey said while staring at his open palm.

He slowly clenched it with a smile, that technique turned out to be very important during his time in the trial land. If not for it, he wouldn't have been able to defeat the last golem in a short time. It has also been greatly beneficial to some of his battles.

He walked past the place, before getting to the rock that led to the valley where Chris stayed. It has been so long he met his Teacher, he couldn't help but wonder how he was doing.

Thinking of Chris made him chuckle once again, 'I think the first thing he'll tell me to do once he sees me is to cook him a meal.'

The thought made him laugh out again, before making weird hand seals and hitting multiple places on the rock. Even though he didn't sense anyone following him, he has already gotten used to making hand seals before opening the rock.

'Oh! A secret passage?' Void exclaimed softly.

'Yeah, my Teacher stays here.' Grey said as he walked into the tunnel.

'Your Teacher? He's separate from the ones at the Academy?' asked Void.

'Yeah, I don't think he teaches anyone else in the Academy. Also, behave yourself, he has a fiery temper, he might probably want to cook you if you make him mad.' Grey warned as they got closer to the end of the tunnel.

'Hmph! If he can catch me.' Void snorted.

'I might not think anyone else can catch you, but my Teacher doesn't count as anyone. I don't really know much about him, but I heard even the emperor of the empire doesn't want to offend him.' Grey stated proudly.

'Wow! He must be a bigshot!' Void was amazed by Grey's Teacher.

'Of course, do you think someone mediocre could teach me?' Grey asked smugly.

Void didn't reply and waited patiently to see who Grey's Teacher was.

Chapter 257 - Your Teacher Lives Here?

Grey walked out of the tunnel and into the valley, hoping to be welcomed by Brown.

"Huh! He's not here." Grey looked around when he didn't feel nor see Brown jumping on him.

After looking around, he quickly discerned that they weren't around. He thought of the possibility of Chris being sent to become a representative, but he threw that thought away when he recalled seeing youngsters while he was coming here.

"Hmm, looks like he went out." Grey mumbled as he walked towards Chris' house.

'There's no one here.' Void said after sweeping the area with his spiritual sense.

"Yeah, looks like Teacher went out." said Grey as he stood in front of the door.

He looked to the side and noticed the small barn where Chris used to train rabbits and chickens were empty.

"He must have been gone for a long time now." Grey speculated.

'Your Teacher lives here?' asked Void.

Grey nodded, before turning to look at the lake in front of Chris' house. He gently c.a.r.e.s.s.ed the chair Chris used to seat on.

'Like in this small wooden house?' Void asked scrutinizing Chris' house.

'No.' Grey replied with a blank look.

'Oh, thank...'

'Of course, he lives here, what's so bad about it?' Grey glared at him.

'Nothing, it's great, very peaceful.' replied Void.

'How can a bigshot live in such a place? There are no shiny things here!' Void thought internally.

But of course, he kept his thoughts to himself. Over the time they had spent coming to the Academy, he had seen how lavishly people who regard themselves as bigshots live in those cities and towns, even a

small village's bigshot possessed some shiny things. Yet, Grey's Teacher who according to him the emperor was wary of didn't have any, how preposterous!

'Shiny things are a symbol of power, yet such a powerful man doesn't have any, such a shame.' Void shook his head while saying to himself.

"\*Sigh\* Let's go, instructor Blake would know where he went to." Grey sighed before heading back to the tunnel.

He took another look at the valley before stepping into the tunnel.

After leaving the valley, he headed straight for Klaus' building and was surprised to see the two boys cleaning Klaus' house.

"Haha, good thing you're here. Join us." Klaus invited Grey the moment he saw him.

"Where's Alice?" Grey asked when he didn't see Alice around.

"Seeing how dusty my house was, she decided to go clean hers." Klaus said.

"Then why is he here?" Grey pointed at the hardworking Reynolds.

"Oh, I promised to help him when he's cleaning his house as well." said Klaus with a mysterious smile.

Grey looked at him, then at Klaus, before shaking his head. Klaus was probably trying to take advantage of Reynolds, this would most definitely not end well for him. All Reynolds needs to do is summon his Elemental Warrior, and Klaus is toast.

"Why are you looking at me that way?" Klaus asked disapprovingly when he noticed the look Grey was giving him.



"Nothing." Grey didn't bother to advise him, sometimes, it was best to just let some people suffer for their stupidity.

"You think I'm not going to help him?" Klaus asked with a long face.

"Your smile said so." Grey didn't deny it.

"Of course I'll help him, it's a deal after all." Klaus said thumping his c.h.e.s.t.

"Although I don't believe you, I'm not going to speak about it. But why are you the one outside, and he's inside." Grey asked thoughtfully.

"So that I can receive the guests." Klaus responded, making Grey roll his eyes.

It wasn't hard to see that Klaus was only trying to avoid doing most of the work.

"Yeah...good luck with that. I'm going to go clean my house now, it must be in a terrible state by now." Grey said before heading straight for his building, not minding how Klaus and Reynolds were going to settle their upcoming dispute.

"Okay, we'll head over once we're done with Rey's house!" Klaus waved at him before getting back to work, this time, he went inside.

'I still think Rey is going to beat him up.' Grey said to Void.

'Fat chance, Klaus will think of a way around it. Also, I think he's going to try to get revenge for the time he carried Reynolds, and Reynolds refused to carry him.' Void speculated.

'Revenge, that's very likely. Heh! Rey is still going to beat him up.' Grey stood by his first statement.

Getting to his house, it was just like he left it, only, dusty. The chairs not only had dust, but cobwebs as well. Without wasting any more time, he quickly got to work.

The wind and the water element were quite useful since they made the work easier for him. He used the wind element to blow out all the dust in the parlor, before using the water element to wipe every part of it clean. It didn't even take him up to ten minutes to completely clean his house. After all, all he had was a parlor and a single room.

Given the huge space each compound had, it wouldn't be easy for anyone to build a villa or a mansion in their compound. Even after building it, there would still be some space left.

Of the group, although Grey was the last to come back, he was the first to get his house to its previous clean state. He noticed that the building on his left was currently occupied.

With nothing left to do, he sat outside his house, on a small lawn and waited for his friends to come over so they could all report to the principal's office.

Klaus and Alice were popular amongst the students, so a few had already started spreading the rumor of their return. Grey was also very popular because of his face, but since he's not as social as Klaus, there were very few people he spoke with other than his three friends.

#### Chapter 258 - Visiting The Principal's Office

"You guys are early," Grey said when he saw Klaus and Reynolds walking into the compound.

He was a little taken aback when he realized Klaus was actually looking okay, he initially expected Reynolds would rough him up when he refuses to help him clean his house.

"Why wouldn't we?" Reynolds asked before taking a seat close to Grey.

Grey threw a glance at Klaus, and Reynolds immediately understood why before bursting out into laughter.

"Of course I'd help him, we're friends after all," Klaus said in discontent before glaring at Reynolds which increased Reynolds' fit of laughter.

Seeing this, Grey knew something definitely happened. He gave Reynolds a questioning stare.

"Actually, when we got to my house, he said he wasn't going to help me, and I summoned my Elemental Warrior." Reynolds chuckled while saying.

"I told you, it was a joke," Klaus explained.

"And my Elemental Warrior only appeared so he could laugh at the joke," Reynolds said, making Grey laugh alongside him.

"Did you, you know, beat him a little?" Grey whispered to Reynolds.

"Nah, he immediately started helping when he saw the appearance of the Elemental Warrior," Reynolds said with a little remorseful, he would have loved to teach Klaus a lesson or two. After all, this was the only advantage he had over him.

"Hmph! Don't get ahead of yourself, do you think I can't beat that little summon of yours?" Klaus snorted coldly.

"No, no you can't." Grey was the one who answered with a sneer.

"I don't like outside interferences when fighting, if he knows he a man, then he should face me one-on-one, without any summons." Klaus glared at the duo.

He knew there was no way for him to beat them in a fight, well, if Reynolds doesn't use his Elemental Warrior, then he had at least a sixty percent chance. But since he knew that was impossible, and he couldn't beat them in a fight, he would defeat them with words.

"Let's head over to Alice's place, you know we still need to report to the principal," suggested Grey after they were done laughing at Klaus.

"Why don't we go to the city instead?" Klaus looked at the two, making Grey facepalm.

"This is an information that will save thousands of lives, we've already wasted so much time cleaning our houses, now you want to have fun instead?" Grey almost felt like knocking some sense into Klaus.

"I'm joking. Why are you all so serious? Take life as it comes, you'll live better, although not always long, but better." Klaus advised.

"Another one of the wise old man's teaches?" Grey asked with furrowed brows.

"Yeah. Don't always get too worked up or serious, I know sometimes it's good to be serious, but not always. Always being too focused on the goal will make you lose touch with the things around you." Klaus continued his advice.

"From the man as well?" Reynolds asked.

"No, this is from me." Klaus shook his head, feeling proud that he managed to come up with something like this.

'I should write it down, I'll write a book about all my teachings about life and spread it across the entire empire, no, the continent.' He thought in excitement.

They left Grey's house and headed for Alice's place, with Klaus deep in thought. He would occasionally nod his head while rubbing his chin.

His strange behavior confused Grey and Reynolds who were walking behind him.

Getting to Alice's place, they saw her coming out of her house. She looked fresh and clean, and even put on new clothes which reminded the boys that they didn't even bother to bathe after cleaning their houses. They have been wearing the same clothes for weeks now.

Alice was slightly taller than the time they left for the trial land, which made the clothing she wore a little short, but it wasn't too noticeable. She wore a long scarlet red dress that extended to her knees and light blue trousers which were just above her ankle. Her brown hair was tied into a ponytail, bringing out her youthful face.

"Why are you all still wearing the same clothes?" She asked seeing the trio.

Grey laughed awkwardly before replying, "We wanted to make sure we got to the principal's office without wasting any more time."

Alice looked at them, seeing their expressions, she knew they didn't even think of wearing new clothes. She was more surprised about Grey since he usually baths a lot before they went to the trail land.

"Heh! Pigs." She sneered before skipping in front of the trio, leading them to the principal's office.

Grey didn't reply and followed behind her, Klaus gave Reynolds a look before joining Alice and Grey. Reynolds was left surprised by the look Klaus gave to him, it was almost like he was saying, this was your fault.

On their way to the Academy, they encountered a few instructors who followed them to the Capital. Seeing the improvements made by the students exhilarated them. Grey's improvement was particularly extraordinary, he was already at a stage where he could even decide to be an instructor in the Academy. To become an instructor in the Lunar Academy needed to be at least in the Fourth stage of the Origin Plane. The requirements were a little lower in the other Academies, as long as you have broken through to the Origin Plane, you're eligible to become one.

On getting to the principal's office, Klaus stepped forward. Although they had a piece of important information, if not for the fact that the principal was his father, there was no way they would've come here. They would've at most, gone to meet an instructor, someone like Blake, then he would then bring them here.

Klaus softly knocked on the door, after waiting for a few seconds and not getting a reply, he knocked on it again.

"Come in, son." Oliver's voice came from inside the office, "You three as well."

The group wasn't surprised by the fact that the principal knew Klaus was the one knocking, they would have been surprised if he didn't.

Chapter 259 - What Do I Do Now?

"Hmm, this is a very important information for the empire." Oliver said with both fingers interlocked, supporting his chin.

After the group entered, before he could ask how their experience in the trial land was, they told him about what they found out in Zivia City, it was something he couldn't neglect.

"I can see you all made great improvements." Oliver nodded with a smile while examining the youths.

Klaus was already sitting opposite Oliver, while the others were still standing. They couldn't take a seat without being invited, unlike Klaus.

He asked a little about what they faced in the trial land which the group answered accordingly. Of course, they didn't tell him everything since it wasn't necessary.

"You can leave now, except for you two." He said pointing at Klaus and Grey.

"Also, call Blake over." He added before Alice and Reynolds left the office.

"Okay sir." The duo bowed before leaving the office.

Grey was a little confused because since he got admitted into the school, he had never had any interactions with the principal, the only time he saw him was when Chris took him to the Capital.

"Take a seat." Oliver showed Grey the second seat that was in front of the desk.

"I know you must have gone to check on your Teacher." Oliver asked with a small smile.

"Yes sir, but he's not there." Grey replied a little surprised that Oliver guessed he went to see Chris first.

"Wait, you have a Teacher?" Klaus asked before Oliver could continue speaking, he didn't mean to interrupt their conversation, it was just that he was dumbfounded by the discovery.

"Yeah, I thought I told you about it?" Grey asked with a confused expression.

"No, no you did not." Klaus shook his head while still wearing a shocked expression.

"Crap, it must have slipped my mind. But yeah, I do. How else do you think I learned inscribing?" Grey asked with a thoughtful expression.

After accepting Chris as his Teacher, he didn't tell them about it, and since he usually trains outside, his friends didn't ask. When they left for the trial land, he had completely forgotten about not telling them that he had a Teacher.

"Oh, so who is it?" Klaus asked curiously.

Oliver who was sitting in his seat looked at the two youngsters with a smile, he couldn't help but recall his friendship with Chris. When he was younger, although he wasn't as playful as Klaus, compared to the always serious-looking Chris, he was better. As they grew older, he started changing to the serious one, while Chris turned to the one who doesn't bother about anything and lives a carefree life. Sometimes, he wonders if his decision to become the principal of the Academy was the right choice.

He coughed lightly to draw the duo's attention back to him, "Your Teacher has been gone for quite a while now, no one knows where he went to, or when he'll return. I asked you to stay to see if you might know where he might have gone to."

He felt since Chris took Grey as his disciple, he must have a special place in his life, so maybe he might've told him about a secret place he usually goes to.

"No, I don't." Grey shook his head without thinking about it. There was no need to, other than teaching him, Chris rarely speaks about other things, well, except for food.

"Oh, okay. You can leave now, I'll call you if I need you." Oliver replied before switching his attention to Klaus.

"Goodbye sir. I'll be waiting outside." Grey stood up from his seat and bowed to Oliver before saying to Klaus.

"I don't think you'll need to wait." Oliver said gently.

"Alright." Grey responded before leaving the office and heading straight for his house. He needed to take a bath.

"Dad, is anything wrong?" Klaus asked when he saw Oliver's serious expression after Grey left.

Oliver is usually almost always serious, but not when they were alone together.

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On getting home, Grey found Void sleeping casually on the bed. He didn't bother about him and went straight to the bathroom.

Since he had the fire and water elements now, he didn't need to get water, or boil it before bathing, all he needs to do is make water appear on the bathtub, then place a finger into it, heating it to the temperature he feels will be comfortable for him.



That day turned out to be uneventful since he didn't see Klaus for the rest of the day, Alice and Reynolds seemed to have plans hence he was unable to see them as well. With nothing left to do, he decided to rest for the rest of the day.

The next day.

Grey woke early the next morning and headed straight to the forest at the back of the Academy, accompanied by Void. It had been a long time since he trained his physical body.

Void watched Grey running around a certain area, doing pull-ups, push-ups, squats, and so on.

'You do this daily just to have a strong body?' He couldn't help but ask.

'Yeah. This is why compared to other Elementalists in the same stage, I have a far greater speed.' Grey replied.

He was grateful that when communicating with Void, he didn't always need to speak out. In his current worn-out state, he was already struggling to catch his breath, there was no way for him to speak properly in that state.

'That's quite a lot, we don't need all this to have our superior bodies.' Void said proudly.

'Have you seen yourself?' Grey asked sarcastically.

He found Void classifying himself as part of all beasts with superior bodies funny.

'Of course, do you think you humans can compare with us when it comes to better physiques?' Void asked mockingly.

'A dragon, no. But you, heh!' Grey smirked, he didn't complete his statement, but his reaction said it all.

Void was annoyed by Grey belittling him, but Grey didn't bother to argue with him. He had other things on his mind.

'Since Teacher is gone, and given my Plane, there's little I can learn from the Academy, what do I do now?' He asked himself.

## Chapter 260 - The Forge

'Hmm, I have multiple elemental techniques, they should be able to help me with my other elements. Then there are the items I obtained in the trial land.' Grey thought to himself.

He was currently stuck between selling them or doing something else with them.

'I recall the Academy having a forgery class or something.' An idea struck him, since he wouldn't be going to elemental classes anymore, he would go for one that creates things.

After joining the Academy, his main focus was getting stronger, therefore, he didn't take his time to fully explore the Academy. All he did was to go to elemental classes, once he's done, he would go for his personal training. The only time he heard about the Academy having a forgery class was when he overheard it at the library. He still wasn't too sure.

The truth was, each Academy has Blacksmiths and Physicians. They are the ones who create the weapons, as well as the tonics that the students had access to. There are even array classes. But Grey never looked around. It was just as Klaus said, he was too focused on his goal that he lost sight of the things around him.

'Alice should be aware of it.' He immediately came to a decision and went back home.

There were a ton of materials in his storage ring, he planned to try out forgery. If he could become a blacksmith, then maybe he could create weapons for himself, there's even the chance of creating something like the multi-elemental sword.

The sword says the reason he thought of this, its essence consumption was too high that even in his current state, he couldn't use it to unleash more than four moves. One has to recall that his elemental essence was more than double of what any other Elementalist his stage has. The high consumption led

him to thinking maybe there was a problem with the sword, if he could learn forgery, then he might be to figure out how to reduce it.

On getting home, he quickly took a bath, changed into better clothes before heading straight for Alice's place. Getting there, he asked if there truly were forgery classes in the Academy, leaving Alice dumbfounded.

"You've been in the Academy for over two years, and you're saying you didn't know there were forge classes?" Alice couldn't help but ask again.

Grey scratched his head before nodding awkwardly since he knew it was quite weird for someone to be in a place for over two years yet know only three or four places. He had never been to the Water Hall, nor the Fire Hall, and because he didn't have the elements at then, he felt he didn't need to.

"Didn't you take arrays classes?" Alice asked still shocked.

The forgery class was right next to the arrays class, there was no way he would be that oblivious and miss it.

"Wait, there are arrays classes?" Grey asked with a shocked expression.

"Of course there are arrays classes, unless, you learned arrays from somewhere else." Alice said while giving Grey a suspicious look.

"I have a Teacher." Grey said but made sure to take two steps back.

"Oh, in the Academy?" Alice asked.

"I don't really know if he's part of the Academy, but you should know him." Grey went on to tell her about Chris which stunned Alice even more.

She was from a big family and was fully aware of how highly regarded Chris was. Chris could be said to be the reason the Lunar Academy was at its current height. He might not be an instructor, but his presence was more than enough.

After managing to calm herself down, she told him where the forge was, and also where students take forgery classes.

With Alice pointing him in the direction, he headed for the forge first. He had never been to a forge before, other than seeing the few blacksmiths shops at Red City, he didn't see the actual forge, the place where all the weapons and tools were created.

On getting to the forge, he was surprised to see a huge building in front of him. He had always thought that a forge would be a small place.

He went in to see what it looked like inside, on getting inside, he was greeted by the sight of two people working. It was just like a normal blacksmith's workshop, with a furnace at the extreme end of the building, a boat-like wooden object with water in it, it was probably what was used in cooling the items after they were shaped. There was a normal-sized table inside, Grey didn't know what it was used for, there was also a hammer which looked too shiny, he guessed it was rarely used here since it was lying close to a man who was working on what looked like a shield.

He saw coals staked up close to the furnace, and a young man who looked around his age could be seen putting some in the fire underneath the furnace. He would also occasionally use his fire element to increase the temperature. The use of the coal is so that the furnace could maintain a steady temperature since the Fire Elementalist couldn't release fire constantly for long.

The man who was working on the shield was an Earth Elementalist, he created a huge earthen hammer that he used in shaping the shield.

Grey stood at the door of the forge for over ten minutes just watching how forgery works. The man working on the shield saw him when he entered, but didn't bother about him. A lot of students come to the forge, but after seeing the strenuous work, they always run away, he didn't see the need to chase this one since he would leave on his own.