

## Affinity 261

### Chapter 261 - Forgemastering

Grey watched on for a little longer before leaving the forge, now, he wanted to check out the forgery classes. For someone who woke up every morning to train his physical body, before doing his normal elemental training, and then cultivating later in the day, he didn't see the process of forging to be strenuous. He actually looked at it as another way of practice.

The man watched on as Grey left the forge, but didn't even say anything. Over the past two years, only five students had stayed in the forge for longer than a week. They all had the same excuses, 'How could top experts become blacksmiths?'.  
  
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The building where the forgery classes take place was close to the actual forge. Grey walked in and was surprised by how few the people taking the class were. Doing a headcount, there were only about thirty plus people, and most of them had uninterested looks.

'If they aren't interested, why did they bother to come?' He couldn't help but ask himself.

The instructor was a middle-aged man who had shoulder-length blonde hair, he stood at around six foot two and had a burly build. He had a mustache which was the same color as his hair and was dressed in brown loose clothes.

"Come in, the class is just about to start." The man said when he saw Grey standing at the doorway.

He thought the reason Grey didn't enter was that he felt the lessons had started, and barging in without invitation was rude.

Grey was surprised since he originally didn't plan on coming in today, he only wanted to take a peek at the class then go back home to contemplate.

'Oh well, it's not like I have anything to do anyway.'

With a shrug, he calmly walked into the class while being watched by the over thirty people in the class. He wasn't really bothered by the looks they were giving him, finding an empty seat at the front, he took it without much deliberation. Since he came here to learn, then of course he would be at the forefront so he could hear every single thing the instructor says.

"Hello students, my name is Instructor Scott Dunstan, and I will be the one who will teach you all you need to know about forgery before you go for the practicals. Usually, forgery classes are mostly practicals, but there are some things you should be aware of before going."

"Firstly, there are two branches of forgery, which are forgery, and forgemastering. The difference between both is simple, arrays. A forger can forge weapons which are used by those in the Collection and Fusion Planes, they also forge tools used for daily activities."

"Forgemasters on the other hand, create elemental weapons. Unlike normal forging, a forgemaster will have to inscribe arrays in the object, while forging it."

"I presume most of you should know about this. Also, this class only accepts two kinds of Elementarists, Earth and Fire Elementarists. Since some of you are still in the Fusion Plane, the class will be divided as those in the Arcane Plane, and above will need actual practicals. But for now, I'll distribute these books to you all, you have thirty minutes to go through the first three chapters."

The book was surprisingly smaller than what Grey expected, being someone who enjoys learning new things, he quickly dug into the new world of forging that he had discovered. Luckily, he left Void with Alice, or else, he wouldn't have been able to focus with him around.

Hearing about forgemastering excited some of the students, every single one of them here is either an Earth Elementalist or a Fire Elementalist, a few of them is actually both.

They all enthusiastically took the books to study their content. The first three chapters only contained the basics of forging as well as the types of forging.

It glossed a little at forgemastering, and some of the mistakes to avoid.

Arrays can only be inscribed in the weapon just before the start of the tempering phase. It is a very fast process that only those that are proficient in arrays can do due to the small timeline given.

Thirty minutes later, Instructor Dunstan stood up, "Students above the Fusion Plane should step forward."

Grey and about twenty more youths stood up, of the other twenty, eight of them were ladies.

"Hmm, come with me. As for the rest of you, continue studying the book, I'll send someone over."

Instructor Dunstan led Grey and the twenty other youths to another room that was on the upper left side of the class. The room was bigger than the previous one, and as soon as Grey stepped in, he recalled the forge he saw earlier, only, this one only had furnaces. There were at least fifty furnaces in the room.

"Forgery is all about practicals, without sufficient practicals, you can't actually do anything." Instructor Dunstan said as the group entered the forge.

"Here, you all will be tasked with different practicals, of course, the materials you will be using are only cheap metals which the Academy has in tons."

"There are different steps in forging, but for now, we'll focus on the heating step. Here, you will all be tasked to regulate the temperature of the furnace to the required intensity to be able to melt the items inside the furnace."

"Because of the properties of each material, they all require different temperatures. Since you're all students, we can't use actual high-end materials, for now." Instructor Dunstan said with a smile.

Grey listened intently as Instructor Dunstan continued speaking on the temperature needed for melting. Instructor Dunstan further went on to give them an example, he was surprisingly a Dual Elementalist, being a Fire and an Earth Elementalist.

After he was done with his example, "This process is better for Fire Elementalists since it's easier for them to regulate the flames. Of course, the others are allowed to give it a try."

## Chapter 262 - Forgemastering II

"Now, each of you, pick a furnace." Instructor Dunstan ordered.

Grey and the other students went on to stand in front of different furnaces. The one Grey picked was on the right side of the room.

There were damaged ingots of low quality close to the furnace, as well as coal. Instructor Dunstan's example wasn't long, only about five minutes or so. He explained the process of regulating the temperature, and when and how to know when to increase, and decrease the fire.

Grey placed the ingots in the furnace, before placing them in coal.

"Too much." Instructor Dunstan's voice sounded beside his ear.

"If the amount of coal placed in is too much, it would increase the difficulty of the heating process, of course, given your Plane, you shouldn't have any problems with controlling the intensity of your flame." He added.

Just like Grey, Instructor Dunstan was still in the Origin Plane, although he was in the Ninth stage, he couldn't compare himself with Grey. From Grey's appearance, he guessed he wasn't over twenty.

He had never seen anyone Grey's age that was already in the Origin Plane, much less in the Fifth stage.

'He must have been one of those who went for the special training.' He thought to himself.

"I'm not really proficient in regulating the intensity of my flame, I'll still need your guidance, Instructor." Grey said with a light bow.

Instructor Dunstan nodded slightly before heading over to assist the other students. Of the twenty others, three were Earth Elementalists, so they had to use the more traditional way in the heating process.

Grey took out some coal, before lighting up the furnace. His rare blue flames once again caught the attention of everyone in the room.

Instructor Dunstan was dumbstruck when he saw Grey's flame. This was the first time he was seeing a special flame, and he felt overwhelmed by the difference between it and normal flames. He was further left speechless when he recalled how effective special flames were in forging.

There are three grades of special flames, and Grey's blue flame was surprisingly in the mid grades. Seeing something like this, to a blacksmith like Instructor Dunstan was a dream come true.

He didn't go over to Grey though, rather, he urged the other to continue what they were doing. Giving Grey a special treatment because of his flame was not something someone of his character would do, it was not something that was allowed in the Lunar Academy. In the Academy, all students must be treated equally by the Instructors.

Oliver places this law in the Academy to improve the courage of some of the students. There are some people that naturally have low self-esteem, seeing others getting special treatments would further decrease the already low self-esteem, this will in turn affect their cultivation life.

Grey and the others stayed in the room, practicing their flame control as well as the intensity of their flames.

After staying in the room for almost three hours, only one student made substantial improvements, and it was unsurprisingly not Grey.

In the aspect of learning, Grey couldn't be said to be the brightest, this was proven with his time learning arrays. His advantage was his dedication and inhumane hard work.

The student was a young lady called Aella. Grey didn't know her full name, just the name she was called by her friends. This motivated Grey to trying harder so he could make some improvements, but even after staying two more hours, his control only increased by a little.

'This is good, at least there are some improvements.' He thought to himself.

Luckily, Void wasn't here, or else he would have laughed him to no end. Of the twenty-one students, Grey could be said to be average in terms of improvements, this was with the fact that he had a higher Plane, and a better fire.

Instructor Dunstan was flabbergasted by how small Grey's improvement was. He didn't expect that he would make such small improvements.

But seeing the look of determination on Grey's face, he could only encourage him to try harder. It wasn't like they wouldn't come again, so no need to pressure them.

When the students were walking out of the room, Grey called out to him.

"You want to stay a little longer?" Instructor Dunstan was stumped by Grey's request.

Most students want to leave this place as soon as possible, yet, Grey wanted to stay longer.

"Yes, you see, I feel I could improve a little further today. So I plan to stay longer." Grey nodded with a determined look.

He wasn't only learning to forge, but also training himself. If he went home now, he would only continue his training, so why not stay here a little longer?

Instructor Dunstan looked around still not sure of what to say, the materials in the room that were prepared for their training were already finished. He could only get a new batch the next day, getting more today would be difficult.

"I can cover for the cost of the materials." Grey suggested when he saw Instructor Dunstan's look.

"Hmm, it's okay, no need to. Stay here, I'll go get more materials. But there's a limit to how much I can bring." Instructor Dunstan said.

To him doing this was already giving Grey special treatments, but since this was Grey's request, he couldn't deny it.

He left Grey and headed to the forge, he came back with some materials, but not really enough to last Grey for long.

"This is all I can get my hands on, from tomorrow, you can prepare your materials." Instructor Dunstan said, since Grey could get the materials, there was no need in taking the risk of getting them for him.

#### Chapter 263 - Checking The Loot

"Thank you sir." Grey thanked him sincerely.

Just as Instructor Dunstan was about to leave, Grey called out to him again. The reason Grey called him this time was to know if he could get books on forging from the library.

Grey was elated after knowing there were books about forging and even forgemastering in the library, well, he expected the Academy to have some in the first place.

"Won't you be going to the arrays lessons? If you want to be a good forgemaster, you must be proficient in arrays." Instructor Dunstan asked when he was about to leave.

It was already mid-day, and array lessons were just about to start. He felt it would be beneficial for Grey if he went to the array lessons.

"Not today Instructor, I'll focus on this for now." Grey said, he was already good in arrays, and his time in the trial land, having to break those complex arrays increased his proficiency.

He wasn't even sure his Teacher knew arrays that were as complex as those ones, else, he would have taught him, or at the very least told him about it.

Instructor Dunstan left Grey alone after his refusal to go to the array lessons, he didn't think his decision not to go was wrong though, after all, some people only started learning arrays after they were good in forging and vice-versa.

Being left alone, Grey quickly got to work with the items. Some of the materials brought in were different from the last ones they used, in this small batch, there were three pieces of a bronze plate, and a small piece of a silver horseshoe.

The different items needed different temperatures to melt them, this helped Grey within the time he was there, and he almost had the thought of trying out one of the weapons he had with him.

He took so many weapons from Aetonth's cave that he still didn't know what to do with them, he hadn't even studied them properly. After much consideration, he decided to check them out when he got home today. That way, he'll know what to keep, and what to discard.

After staying for almost two hours, he ran out of materials, with no other choice, he left the room.

'There's still some time before it gets dark, I'll go to the library to take some books home. I need to check up on Klaus, it's weird he didn't come to find me after leaving his father's office yesterday.' Grey thought as he headed to the library.

He initially wanted to read in the library, but thinking about how much time he had spent on learning forging, he felt it wasn't a good idea.

Twenty minutes later, he was in front of Klaus' house, and Klaus wasn't around. Not expecting this, he decided to see if he was in Reynolds' house.

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"Hey Rey, have you seen Klaus today?" Grey saw Reynolds sitting in a very relaxed manner outside his house, so he asked while walking into the compound.

"No, I was planning to go see him." Reynolds shook his head before sitting straight.

"There's no one in his house, that's why I came over." Grey explained.

"Hmm, strange." Reynolds stood up, finding the fact that Klaus wasn't in the Academy strange.

"We shouldn't bother about it, he's probably spending time with his dad." Grey waved it off.

If not for the fact that he still couldn't find his mother, then he would've already gone there to spend some time with her.

"Okay, I'll be going home in a week time or so." said Reynolds.

It had been almost a year he saw his little brother, after having a close call with death in the trial land, he wanted to see him again, his parents as well.

"That's good to hear." Grey said with a smile.

He felt sad inside since he couldn't see his mother or father. It has been so long, yet no words from his mother. The thought that something bad might have happened to her scared him.

He stayed with Reynolds a little longer before going over to Alice's so he could get Void. The little guy was having a great time at Alice's and almost refused to leave.

When Grey got home, he went to his backyard, and slowly started taking out the items he got from Aetonth's cave one by one to inspect them. Behind his house, other than the school fence that separated it from the forest, there was nothing else.

He created to high walls on each side to block anyone from seeing his backyard from the other two houses.

Taking a look at some of them, he was stunned when he realized they were just shiny, nothing else. But there were at least twenty which were good. The only elemental weapon that caught his eye was a bow, it was a wind elemental weapon that increased the speed of the arrow to a terrifying level. However, other than the dual blades he previously used, he had never trained with any other weapon.

'Hmm, I'll keep it.'

He took out the blue vest he got from Aetonth's cave, it was the only defensive elemental weapon he found, but he didn't know how it worked.

He used the earth element to create a man-like statue, before putting the vest on it. Taking a few steps back, he sent a wind blade towards it.

Bang!

'Well, that's hopeless. I thought it would at least reduce the impact of the attack.' Grey shook his head as he walked towards it.

Void watched Grey as he walked closer to where the statue was shattered, he took a peek at the shiny things that Grey stacked on the side.

After finding out that some of them were useless, he kept them aside, hoping to use them in his forging lesson the next day. They were good materials after all, and most of them were even silver.

Seeing that Grey was distracted by the vest, Void vanished from his position. By the time he reappeared a few seconds later, two items from the weapons stacked had gone missing.

They were shiny, although not as shiny as some of the things he stole, they weren't that bad.

## Chapter 264 - Getting The Better Of Void

After studying the vest a little longer, Grey tried infusing elemental essence in it. Seeing that it was blue, he infused water elemental essence into it.

As soon as the water elemental essence entered the vest, it lit up with a light blue color.

"Oh, guess it was only out of energy." Grey mumbled with a soft exclamation before continuing to feed the blue vest with elemental essence.

While he was focused on the vest, the shiny weapons he kept on the side were slowly starting to get smaller in numbers. Void would occasionally disappear, then appear. His little face had a wide smile plastered on it.

After five minutes, more than half of the items were gone, without a trace.

Grey decided it was time to test out the vest again after he infused it with water elemental essence.

Creating another statue, he wore the vest on it, taking a few steps back, he attacked it with a wind blade.

Bam!

When the wind blade got within three meters of the statue, a blue light shot out of the vest, covering the statue and everything within a one and a half meters radius of it. It was almost like an ice sphere, only, it wasn't as solid as ice.

The wind blade came in contact with the blue light, but other than making a small sound, it didn't go further before disappearing.

'Hmm, this should be the attack power of a Peak Arcane Plane Elementalist.' Grey thought to himself.

When attacking, he reduced the strength of the attack greatly, to gauge the defensive power of the blue light.

'Isn't it a little too dangerous, you know, doing this experiment here and all?' Void couldn't help but ask when he saw how freely Grey was showing his assets.

He might not have been in this world for long now, but he knew all too well about greed. He was a greedy cat after all.

'Aren't these enough to keep the prying eyes of people out, and besides, you're also here. I don't think there's anyone here who can escape your senses.' Grey said a little too confident in Void's sensory ability.

Other than Overlord Plane Elementalists, there was no way any other person could spy on him, and since Void could easily sense the stages of those two Overlord Plane experts back at Zivia City, Grey felt he shouldn't have a problem with sensing any other person in the Academy.

'You're right about that, but the sooner you get done with this the better.' Void advised.

'I'll be done soon.' Grey nodded, he took a glance at Void before turning around.

Just as he turned around, he looked back again, this time, at the items he wanted to use as materials. Although he didn't know how many they were, he knew they weren't that small.

'There should be at least fifty there, how come it isn't up to twenty now?' He asked himself.

'Unless...!' His eyes darted straight at Void who acted like he wasn't seeing him.

'Void, keep them back. I need them for forging.' Grey said.

If he didn't have any uses for them, then he didn't mind giving them to Void. But now, he needed materials, and Void was stealing the few he had managed to acquire.

'How can you destroy shiny things because you want to learn how to forge shiny things?' Void asked disapprovingly.

It just didn't make sense, Grey wanted to learn how to make shiny things, so why did he want to destroy the ones he already has?

'Because you have to destroy to rebuild.' Grey said.

'Well, that's just dumb.' Void said not wanting to give the items back to Grey.

'Void, they're mine. You saw them but your greed made you steal the crystal instead of them.' Grey sneered before walking closer to Void.

'Fine, I'll give them back to you. It's not like they're great anyway.' Void snorted and waved his paws.

Ten weapons appeared on the ground. Seeing them made Grey smile while still looking at Void, he could see the pain in Void's eyes as he returned them, but it was not his concern.

'That's all I took.' He said angrily.

'Heh! Only a fool would believe you.' Grey smirked.

For Void to release twenty, meant he still had at least forty with him. There was no way he would believe this was all he took.

'I'm telling you, this was all I took.' Void tried to persuade.

Grey didn't buy it and continued staring at him, seeing that he still didn't want to return it, he threatened, 'Hmm, looks like you wouldn't be eating for the next five days.'

'You're such a heartless person.' Void said before making another ten more appear.

'Three days then.' Grey showed Void three fingers, making him anxious.

'Fine, take it. This is all I took.' Void said before another twenty-three weapons appeared on the ground.

Grey had a smile on his face before dropping a single finger. Now, he had two fingers up, which meant Void wouldn't eat for two days.

'I swear, that's all.' Void almost wanted to cry. He was telling the truth, that was all the items he took, unfortunately, Grey didn't believe.

'You're such a despicable person.' Void said before taking out ten more from his storage to hand over to Grey.

They were the worst of the worsts in his spatial storage, but he still almost couldn't bear with parting away with them.

Grey smiled before turning his attention back to the vest, he had managed to see what Void liked, although he didn't like it more than the real shiny things, he still liked it, and it was food.

Void's appeal for food was almost on the level of shiny things. Grey knew he was only able to take these items because they weren't a treasure, and weren't that shiny. Had they been on the level of the crystal Void took from Aetonth, then he would never return it. Even if it meant starving for two weeks.

## Chapter 265 - Connor Aella

Grey finished with his experiment on the blue vest and noticed its defensive prowess was amazing, although, he couldn't use his full strength since he didn't supply the vest with enough energy. But it didn't have any problems with defending an all-out attack from a Fourth stage Origin Plane Elementalist for a short time.

When he was done examining the blue vest, he started studying the books he got from the library, completely neglecting Void. The day ended without much happening.

On the morning of the next day, he went for his usual training, came back, and prepared to go for forging classes. The books he read increased his knowledge of forging overall, and he would like to implement some things when practicing.

Grey was currently stuck in a dilemma, given Void's love for shiny things, he was scared to take him into the Academy, but he couldn't always leave him with Alice, and he refused to stay at home, alone. Left with no other choice, he had to repeatedly warn Void not to take anything.

Void nodded grumpily, asking him if he looked like someone who would steal other people's things.

Grey didn't reply, but he knew the answer in his heart, as long as it's shiny, Void would most likely forget it belongs to someone else. He dared to steal a treasure from a horde of Lightning Apes, and an Ice Dragon, there was nothing Grey didn't think he wouldn't dare to do for shiny treasures.

Taking Void with him, Grey headed for forging classes. This time, there were only three students in the class when he stepped in, the young lady from the previous day was amongst them, Aella.

She was a Fire Elementalist who was in the Third stage of the Arcane Plane, with a heart-shaped face, and waist-length black hair, she was the dreams of some of the boys here.

When she saw Grey step in with a strange, cute black cat, she was stunned, not expecting Grey would have such a pet. During the entire lesson the previous day, Grey was the one who spoke the least, he was always focused on what the Instructor was saying.

Being annoyed by the two boys who were bugging her, she decided to switch seats, taking the seat close to Grey, she turned to him after sitting, "Hello, I'm Connor Aella."

Grey raised his head to look at the hand stretched towards him from the next seat, "Grey."

He said before shaking her hand. Aella looked at him a little oddly, not expecting he would be this bland. Due to her looks, she always tends to attract attention from every single boy around her, there were even some who only came to forging classes just because they wanted a chance to get close to her, like the duo who were bugging her a moment ago.

"That's a strange cat, I haven't seen anything like it before, can I touch it?" She asked still smiling.

She felt more free speaking with Grey when she noticed he didn't really care about her looks. But thinking about it, she didn't find it strange, given Grey's facial appearance and calm demeanor, he must have gotten countless girls more beautiful than she was. And besides, she didn't have any plans with being with him, she already had a partner.

"Sure, he's a little grumpy at times. But, it should be fine." Grey replied with a small smile.

He would do almost anything to get Void off his hands right now, since an opportunity had presented itself, then he didn't mind the young lady looking after Void for him. He wanted to place his entire focus on the lesson, and with Void, he couldn't.

He passed Void over to Aella, and he noticed Void gave him a knowing look.

'Sorry bud, you'll enjoy her company more. I really need to focus on this lesson.' Grey apologized to Void.

'Hmph! You'll have to cook something... Oh...yes, that's the spot.' Void who was speaking to Grey stopped midway when his stomach was being scratched by Aella.

"His name's Void..." Grey told Aella a little about Void before opening the book he brought with him to the class.

A few boys who recently entered the class were speechless when they saw Grey actually focused on reading a book when a nice-looking young lady was sitting close to him. Even Void didn't think Grey was this addicted to learning, but when he thought about how he always looked serious whenever he was telling him about new things, he just shrugged it off and continued enjoying his time with Aella, she was a good belly scratcher, almost at Alice's level.

After a few minutes, Grey closed the book and started speaking to Aella who placed her focus on the black cat on her l.a.p. There wasn't really anything to talk to Grey about in the first place, and the only



reason she approached him was to ward off the boys disturbing her. Her friends hadn't arrived yet, and they most likely won't since they didn't like the lessons the previous day.

"Oh that, you see, I come from a family of forgemasters, so I already have some experience." She said.

"It doesn't change the fact that you made such a huge improvement. If you were already good with it, you would've skipped that part, unless, you just want the attention, which I think you don't." Grey looked behind her while speaking of the part, only to see almost half of the boys staring at him evilly.

"Sorry, but compared to them, I'd rather talk to you. Although, I don't think you have any interest in speaking to me." Aella apologized.

"The truth is, I don't like being disturbed when I'm learning. But these guys wouldn't really be able to do anything to me." Grey shrugged.

He wasn't lying, being disturbed when training or learning was something he hated. Being a slow learner, every single second was precious to him. The reason he entertained Aella was because he wanted to learn some things from her, since she made good improvements the previous day, she must know some things about forging.

Grey spoke with Aella for about ten minutes, and just when he was about to complain of being too early, Instructor Dunstan finally arrived. When he saw how the number of students had decreased, he smiled softly but didn't bother about it.

Most of the Fusion Plane students didn't attend the class, it looked like they were waiting till they broke through to the Arcane Plane before continuing. He expected to see Grey, given how enthusiastic he was the previous day, the only thing he didn't expect to see was Aella sitting close to him, but it was none of his concern.

Without further ado, he started the lesson for the day, speaking on the different materials as well as the temperatures needed to be maintained.

For the second day running, they would be focused on temperature once again, this time, he told them to keep the furnace within a particular range of temperature. They were going to use lead for the

practicals today, and they needed to keep the temperature around three hundred to three hundred and fifty degrees Celsius.

Grey immediately started the training, due to the superiority of his flame, he had some problems with lowering it to such temperatures. But with the practice from yesterday, he managed to reduce it.

Keeping the furnace in the temperature though, was another story. He had to occasionally put coal in the furnace, while also occasionally sending flames inside.

The practice ended one hour later, and just like the previous day, Aella was the one who had the best results of the students. Grey was below average in this practice, because of the natural high temperature of his flame.

Grey decided to check out the array class, he couldn't say he was already the best when it came to arrays, and learning more about it wasn't too bad.

Unfortunately, other than things he already knew too well, they didn't speak about anything else in the array class. But getting to listen to the lesson gave him new conjectures about arrays, so he didn't take it as a waste of time.

Void was with Aella all through the time they were in Forging class, to when they went for the array class, all in all, he had a pretty good day since Void didn't get to disturb his learning.

"Thank you for your help today." Aella said before returning Void to him.

"You were more helpful." Grey smiled lightly while taking Void.

Void jumped out of his hand, landing on his shoulder like he usually does.

Turning around, Grey saw Klaus, with a smile plastered across his face. Knowing him, he knew he must be definitely thinking of something.

"Hey, bud." Klaus called out to Grey before Aella could leave.

#### Chapter 266 - I'll Kill Him!

Grey almost facepalmed when he saw Klaus coming over with a strange smile, from his encounter with Klaus, he knew he was definitely thinking of something bad.

"Hey, I've been waiting outside for almost an hour." Klaus said before lightly tapping Grey on his shoulder.

"Hey Void, how have you been?" He asked while looking at Void. He only turned his attention elsewhere after Void nodded.

"Why didn't you just come in?" Grey asked when he saw Klaus was done with his pleasantries with Void.

"Oh, I didn't want to disturb you. I know how much you love learning. It's quite a weird habit though." Klaus said thoughtfully.

"We'll talk when we get home." Grey said before turning to Aella, "This is my friend, Klaus. Klaus, this is Aella."

Aella looked at Klaus a little surprised that he was friends with Grey, when she first saw Klaus, his handsome face stunned her almost as much as Grey did. Had she not seen Grey, then Klaus would've been the most handsome guy she had ever seen. Other than his handsome face, she also felt a little sense of familiarity, like she had seen him somewhere before.

"It's nice meeting you, I've heard so much about you." Klaus said while shaking her hands, leaving her stunned and confused at the same time.

Grey almost passed out, while Void was laughing inside.

'What the f.u.c.k is he doing?! I'll kill him!' Grey almost screamed out loud, but since he didn't want to look like a psychopath, he held himself back.

"You, you have?" Aella asked with a confused expression.

"Yes, my friend speaks a lot about you." Klaus said after glancing at Grey.

"He does?" Aella was lost for words.

She only spoke with Grey today, so what did he know about her that he said to his friends.

"Of course, I have to always beg him to stop before he does." Klaus chuckled.

Grey was literally on the brink of passing out.

'What the hell! I'm dead, I'm dead. He's taking revenge on me.' Grey wanted to cry but no tears came out.

What did he do to be cursed with such a friend? Who did he offend? Klaus is probably going to kill him with a heart attack someday.

Although he was a little panicky inside, he still put on a calm and collected expression. Other than his mouth which twitched a few times when Klaus was speaking, he basically had the same expression as when Klaus first came.

"Oh, I didn't know." Aella glanced at Grey a little perplexed.

She couldn't assimilate the Grey she spoke with in the class today to the one Klaus was speaking about. Her initial impression of Grey was that he was someone who didn't care about her beauty, but from what his friend is saying, it looked like he was actually into her.

'But, why does he have such a nonchalant expression?' She thought when she looked at his calm face.

Seeing her glance towards her made Grey feel as if the ground should open up and swallow him. He couldn't stop Klaus from speaking, because if he did, it would look like what he was saying was true. But if he didn't, then Klaus would say more.

Void was shaking from laughing too hard, he had truly missed Klaus.

'Haha, this guy is amazing. Things are always lively when he's around.' He said while laughing.

'Well, he wouldn't be alive for long. I already have ten different ways to kill him. F.u.c.k! Since when I have spoken about this girl? I haven't even seen the idiot since leaving the principal's office!' Grey said a little annoyed by Klaus' prank.

Klaus glanced at Grey and smirked inside, he knew Grey wouldn't reveal his true expression, but he must be screaming inside.

'Hehe, this will teach him not to mess with me.' He thought before looking in Aella's direction.

Aella was currently speechless, she originally thought she had made a new friend in the forging class, but if he liked her, then that would make their relationship awkward. She was thinking of ways to politely reject Grey when Klaus dropped another bombshell.

"He said he wanted to spend the rest of his life with you. Tsk, tsk, you sure are lucky." Klaus said while shaking his head with a faint smile.

Aella was left wide-eyed, and Grey who had been keeping a cool expression didn't know when his mouth opened wide.

Void laughed so hard when he heard this that he nearly fell off Grey's shoulder.

'Shit! This has to stop.' Grey couldn't allow Klaus to speak any further.

Aella stared at Grey who had a different expression for the first time, and it was almost like what Klaus said was correct, given his expression. Grey currently had the shocked expression of someone whose secrets had been made known to everyone.

If only she knew Grey was currently planning ways to kill Klaus, he originally had ten ways, but new ideas just keep popping into his head.

Just as Klaus was about to continue speaking.

"Enough Klaus!" Grey stopped him.

"Enough of what? Does it look like I'm talking to you?" Klaus asked while glaring at Grey before returning his gaze to Aella.

"By the way, how's Cleo? I haven't seen him since I returned." He asked when he noticed Aella was looking at him.

"Cleo? Wait, you know him?" Aella asked with a dumbfounded expression.

"Yes of course, he's my friend." Klaus nodded before looking at Aella, and then Grey acting like he didn't know what he did.

"Wait, you thought I was talking about him?" Klaus pointed at Grey, almost on the verge of bursting into laughter, and asked, "And you, you thought I was talking about you?"

"Wasn't that the case?" Grey and Aella asked simultaneously.

They couldn't be blamed for thinking this way, the way Klaus said everything sounded like he was talking about Grey.

"Pfft! Of course not." Klaus laughed out loud while holding his stomach.

Chapter 267 - What Are Your Plans?

Grey and Aella had awkward expressions while Klaus and Void were laughing their hearts out. Grey knew Klaus did this on purpose, but there was no way he could scold him in front of Aella.

"Oh, it's you, the son of the mayor!" Aella almost exclaimed.

After Klaus revealed he knew Cleo, she knew the sense of familiarity she felt was true, so when she calmed down while Klaus and Void were laughing, she thought hard about where she saw him.

Klaus' handsome face wasn't something one could see every day, and there was only one person she had seen that had left a deep impression on her with his facial appearance other than Grey and Klaus, and it was the son of Lunar City's mayor.

Cleo who Klaus was speaking about, was her boyfriend. Her family and his family had close ties, and they had been friends since they were young. About a year ago, Cleo took her to a gala held in Lunar City, that was where she met the charming Klaus.

Being the son of the mayor made Klaus a highly respected figure at the gala. She didn't expect her boyfriend would be friends with such an individual, and because of how free Klaus was, made her have a great impression of him. Only, it had been so long that she saw him, so she wasn't able to recognize him immediately. The fact that he was able to recognize her shocked her, to say the least.

"Yeah, I knew you would recall me. I mean, who would forget seeing such a face." Klaus said with a playful laugh.

"If you're standing next to him, it's hard to remember you." Aella giggled while pointing at Grey.

After knowing that Klaus knew her boyfriend, she was freer with him, especially after seeing his nature. There are only a few people in the world that would have a status like Klaus yet still be so carefree. If not for the fact that she recognized him, she wouldn't have believed he was the son of the mayor of such a big city.

On the way back to their living quarters.

"I know you did that on purpose." Grey said while they were walking.

"Did what?" Klaus pretended like he had no clue about what Grey was talking about.

"You... I really don't know what to do with you." Grey shook his head in defeat.

Klaus was just a shameless individual, and there was no way he could get him to admit that he did it on purpose.

"It's not my fault you misunderstood me." Klaus said with a grin.

Grey wanted to argue, but thinking about it, was it truly Klaus' fault that he misunderstood him? The answer was no.

"Where have you been for the past two days?" Grey changed the topic as they approached Reynolds' house.

"Oh, just bonding with my dad. You know I'm all he has, so he wanted to know about everything in the trial land." Klaus scratched his head with a sad smile.

They continued speaking as they got to Reynolds' house. They walked right in without knocking. Other than Alice, the others pretty much act this way in each other houses.

"Hey Grey, I see you've finally been able to bring him back." Reynolds said while walking out from the kitchen.

"Nope, he came back on his own." Grey said as he took a seat.

Klaus looked at Reynolds and couldn't help but ask, "What were you doing in the kitchen?"



"Well, you see... I was trying to cook something." Reynolds revealed which threw Klaus in a fit of laughter.

"Let me tell you something bud, there are things you can do, and there are things you can't. Cooking wasn't made for everyone, just let Grey do it." Klaus said seriously.

Grey flicked his right hand and wind blew in Klaus' face, messing up his hair.

"But there's no harm in trying." Reynolds shrugged.

"Hmm, I'll leave you to your demise then." Klaus sneered.

He didn't know why Reynolds was even bothering, if it were something else, he would say there was a possibility he might be able to become an expert in it, but as for cooking, he should forget about it. Only monsters like Grey who were blessed by the God of cookery could attain something like that. And even if by some means Reynolds was able to learn how to cook, its taste would be either average or below average.

"So, what are your plans now?" Klaus asked after Reynolds sat down.

"I'm thinking about joining the empire's forces. Unlike you, I don't have a good family background, so this is the best option for me and my family. Although, I'm also thinking about becoming an Instructor. This is why I want to go back home and discuss it with my parents." Reynolds said.

At his current age and Plane, he could take decisions for himself. But sometimes, it's good to seek advice from those older than you. Once his parents tells him what they feel is the right choice for him to make, he would analyze it as well.

Klaus nodded, expecting Reynolds to make such a decision.

"How about you?" Klaus asked looking at Grey.

"I've not really made a decision yet." Grey smiled lightly, "I think it's best we talk about this with Alice as well. It would be bad if she's not included in this conversation."

"Yeah, I have an announcement to make. We should head over there now." Klaus said, his previous playful smile was gone.

Grey's gaze turned intent before nodding, just as they got to the door to leave Reynolds' house.

"What's burning?" Grey asked after sniffing the air.

"Nothing." Reynolds waved before trying to open the door.

Klaus' previous serious expression was gone because he was currently laughing.

"I knew you didn't have any chances of becoming a great cook." He laughed out.

"Shit! My food!" Reynolds exclaimed before dashing back into the kitchen.

Chapter 268 - Sad News

The group went over to Alice's place with Klaus and Grey laughing at Reynolds for burning his food.

"Why are you two laughing?" Alice asked after opening the door.

From Reynolds' expression, she could tell the other two were laughing at his expense.

Klaus went on to tell her how he forgot he was cooking.

"At least he's trying, unlike you." Alice comforted Reynolds which lifted his mood, only by a little though.

Klaus suggested they headed over to the Silver Moon Restaurant, the time he spent outside waiting for Grey, and Reynolds' attempt to prepare a meal made him want to eat something.

Reynolds quickly agreed to it, Grey had no problems with them going to the restaurant, and neither did Alice.

They spoke about what they've been up to in the past two days, and other than Grey, the rest of them were actually resting, Alice included.

Grey was the only one who immediately started learning something new.

The group soon got to the city gate, Lunar City is always bustling with activity, from the multiple carriages entering the city, to the people exiting it. There are times when people would actually need to slowly walk in like they were standing in a queue.

"Bud, I think you need to take it slow with your training. I know you want to be strong and all, but you still need to look at other aspects in life." Klaus advised as they entered the city.

Alice and Reynolds nodded simultaneously. Grey trained too much, and this had made him kind of antisocial. The only reason they were able to become friends with him was that they had befriended him just after he came to the Academy. Even with that, they still don't get to see him often.

"Like what?" asked Grey.

After the time he took the first test, his whole life had revolved around training. Other than learning about new things, he technically didn't have another hobby.

"Go out, make more friends, see things. You could even decide to travel around the empire now given your Plane." Klaus suggested.

"You guys are enough." Grey said.

"Yeah, but we won't always be with you. Let's face it, a time will come when we will have to take different paths. It's not like we wouldn't see each other again, but not as frequently as we do now." Klaus said as the group headed towards the Silver Moon Restaurant.

"Yeah, you're right about that. I'll think of something else, but for now, I want to focus on becoming a forgemaster." Grey replied.

Because of the experience he had after his first test, he made becoming stronger his goal. After training every single day for three years, he kind of got used to the feeling, for three years, his mother was the one he spoke with the most. Even at the time he came to the Academy, he wasn't all that optimistic about making friends.

Klaus was the first friend he made, and from all the people who were always with Alice and Reynolds, he became friends with only the duo. Of all his friends, Klaus was very persistent, he would always check up on him, almost every day when he just arrived at the Academy.

Alice and Reynolds were very helpful in the Lightning Hall, and whenever he had a problem with the element, he would usually search for either of the two to clarify some things to him.

Other than Klaus, Alice, and Reynolds, the only other person he speaks with a lot in the Academy compound was Instructor Blake.

When the trio heard his reply, they shook their heads wryly. They could tell from his reaction, he wouldn't really change any time soon.

They soon got to the restaurant and were stopped because animals weren't allowed into the restaurant, but after Klaus declared his identity, they allowed them inside. They headed straight for the upper floor under the gaze of the crowd on the lower floor. As usual, compared to the lower floor, it was less crowded. Taking a table, the group sat down.

While waiting for their food, they continued speaking about their plans. Just like Grey, Alice didn't really know what to do yet. Reynolds was the only one who was currently contemplating two choices.

"I recalled you said you wanted to make an announcement." Reynolds said right after the waiter brought their meals.

"\*Sigh\* Yes, the thing is, my dad has officially become the ex-mayor and principal of both Lunar City and Academy." Klaus sighed before saying.

"What?!"

The trio exclaimed simultaneously, drawing the attention of the few people on the floor.

"He resigned?" Alice asked.

"Yes." Klaus nodded.

"Wow, that's unexpected. Why, what happened?" Reynolds asked.

"Well, I don't really know the details, he didn't tell me much." Klaus responded.

He knew the reason though, but his father warned him not to tell anyone.

"Hmm, something's obviously up." Grey speculated.

"Yeah, something probably big." Alice nodded, agreeing with Grey.

"That's not all." Klaus said, drawing their attention back to him.

After successfully drawing their attention, "We'll be leaving as well."

"Oh!" Grey exclaimed softly.

The fact that Klaus' father was leaving with Klaus made him feel his speculation was accurate. Resigning was one thing, but leaving the city as well, was another. There's also the possibility of Klaus' father wanting to just spend some time with his son.

"When are you leaving?" Alice asked.

"I don't have any idea yet, but soon." replied Klaus.

The table turned silent, Klaus didn't know what else to say while the others were still trying to accept what was about to happen.

"Guys, it's not like I'm dying." Klaus joked when he saw their reactions.

"Yeah, we'll still see each other again." Reynolds forced out a laugh.

"Come on, let's eat." Klaus said before digging right into his food.

Reynolds and Alice also started eating, Grey didn't really feel hungry, so Void ate most of his meal.

After leaving the Silver Moon Restaurant, the group headed back to the Academy, but not in the same lively fashion as they came. The news of Klaus leaving was sad, to say the least.

They've always known they would separate soon, but they didn't expect it would be this early. Reynolds also said he would be going home to meet his parents. Alice decided to do the same as well.

With the help of the trial land, their Planes improved faster than they usually should have, this changed the time they needed in making life decisions. Most students their age are still in the Arcane Plane, so they are still focused on learning and improving their Planes.

But since they've skipped a few years, courtesy of the trial land, they had to make the decisions which they'd have made in like three to seven years from now. Of course, they could still wait till then, after all, no one is forcing them to make any decisions now.

"Oh Rey, there's something I want to tell you." Klaus walked up to Reynolds just as soon as they were about to enter the Academy compound.

"What's that?" Reynolds asked curiously.

"Do not join the empire's forces. Also, don't become an Instructor yet, wait for a few more years." Klaus advised.

"Those are my only two choices." Reynolds said a little confused.

"Well, don't join any of them, for now. You're still young, why hurry?" Klaus asked with a shrug.

"Fine, but I'm still going home though. I miss my family." Reynolds nodded reluctantly.

He could tell something was going on, and it had to do with the Academy, and the empire. He felt the presumed upcoming war had something to do with it.

Grey and the others all went back to their houses after their conversation. Of the group, Grey was a little sad since the others would be going back to their family, leaving him all alone. Had Chris been around, he wouldn't feel lonely, but now, he didn't know where Chris was.

'Guess it'll just be me and you very soon buddy.' Grey said while c.a.r.e.s.sing Void's fur.

'Don't you know where your parents are? We could go there.' Void asked.

'Nope, no clue.' Grey shook his head.

'Why don't we go with Klaus?' Void suggested.

'I'm I'll think about it.' Grey said looking at the sky.

The bond he had with his friends was so high that he didn't actually want to see them separate. He was not the only one who felt this way, Klaus, Alice, and Reynolds all felt the same.

Later in the evening, Grey started practicing with his wind, fire, and water elements. Training was the only thing he knew of that could take his mind off things, so he started training.

#### Chapter 269 - Studying The Wooden Objects

The next day, Grey woke up a little earlier than usual and started his normal training routine. After going for his morning training, he went for forging lessons. This time, they were taught the tempering process. From there on, he went to the array class.

Void was left with Alice all through the day, so when he was done with his lessons, he went over to get him. He didn't find Klaus nor Reynolds at home, so he guessed they might've gone out together.

'\*Sigh\* More time to train for me, I guess.' He thought before he started training once again.

He couldn't use his wind and water element openly in the Academy since it might arouse suspicion if the few people who recognized him for having only two elements come to see him using it. Not seeing anyone he was acquainted with in the forging lessons made things easier for him, well, he didn't really know all the people who knew him.

He started his training with the fire and earth element, trying to see the limit of his earth's armor defense while attacking it with the fire element.

Void watched Grey continue the same routine from the past day and couldn't help but feel staying in the Academy would probably be the most boring moment in his life. The thrill he got while they were in the trial land wasn't here, it was too safe here. Well, it technically is a learning facility so it was supposed to be safe. But for a al beast like him who loved fighting and adventure, it was not his cup of tea.



Later that night.

'Hey Grey, we need to leave this place.' He said when he saw Grey coming out of the bathroom.

'Yeah, I know. But not now. I need to at least get the basics of forgemastering first before leaving.' Grey agreed with Void.

The time he spent in the trial land had changed him, there, training was faster, he always had an opponent and he was leaving freely.

'I heard there's a place called the al beast forest, it sounds exciting. Why don't we go there?' Void suggested.

'That was where we came from actually, the place where the array to the trial land is located.' Grey explained while falling onto his bed, preparing to sleep.

'Oh, we should've gone there then. Why bother to come to this boring place. Even if we don't want to go there, we should at least see the world.' Void urged.

He wanted to see the world in its entirety, not stay in a single boring place.

'Hmm, yeah but first, I think I have an idea.' Grey said standing up from his bed.

He was just struck with an amazing idea, well, that's on the premise he could pull it off.

'Oh, what's that?' Void asked.

'Remember those wooden objects I got from that Darkness Elementalist?' Grey said while taking out one of the wooden objects from his storage ring.

'Yeah, the one you used to locate where your friends were.' Void nodded.

'Well, I'm planning to improve it. If I can figure out how they made it, then there's a chance of improving it. I can even add another function to it.' Grey explained excitedly.

Since finding out that his friends were going, he had been a little down. And once he leaves the Academy, he planned on searching for his parents, so he didn't know when he would be able to see his friends again, nor where to start searching for them. But if he's successful with his current idea, then locating them wouldn't be a problem.

He sent his spiritual sense into the object trying to figure out how and why it was able to be able to locate the ones which were crushed. It didn't take long before he found out the reason.

"Arrays, haha. This makes everything simpler." Grey laughed out excitedly.

One of the few things he was confident in was arrays. Since he is a slow learner, he actually learned the basics of arrays multiple times from Chris which made his foundation in it very strong. Even Chris was amazed by how good his foundation was.

Now, all he needed to do was study the array and see what type of array it was. There are different types of arrays, and he learned all he could from Chris. Even if this wasn't part of the ones Chris taught him, with his basic knowledge, he would be able to figure out something.

Void looked at Grey speechlessly as he focused on deciphering the arrays that were intricately drawn in the small wooden object. He almost couldn't take Grey's continuous learning habit, it was like he was never tired of learning.

Void fell asleep from the boredom of watching Grey continuously staring at the wooden object and drawing down some lines on the ground. Grey would also contemplate on the lines he was drawing out. There were times he would have a complicated look, while at other times, he had a look of exhilaration.

Before long, it was already morning. Void woke up and saw Grey was still engrossed in the object. He had drawn out so many lines that were across each other that got Void confused for the first few seconds he looked at them.

'Hey, wouldn't you be going for morning training?' Void asked when he saw that the sun was about to rise.

'Oh, it's daybreak already? Hmm, this will take longer than expected. Come on, let's head out.' Grey stood up before walking out.

An Arcane Plane Elementalist could go days without sleep, much less an Origin Plane Elementalist like Grey. He could even go ten days without sleep.

'You're going out like that?' Void asked when he saw what Grey was wearing.

'Oh, I forgot. I'll change right now.' Grey came back in, changed into his training clothes before heading out.

When they got to where he trained, Void disappeared into the forest to explore while Grey was training.

#### Chapter 270 - Encountering An Acquaintance

Grey stayed in the forest for just over two hours before heading back to the Academy. He needed to head over for forging lessons since he wouldn't be going for the next two days. He wanted to focus fully on modifying and improving the wooden objects, if possible, create his own before any of his friends leaves the Academy.

They continued with the tempering process, before ending the lesson with the cooling process. With this, he was almost done with the basics of forging. But since his friends would be leaving soon, he had to wait a little longer before completing it.

He didn't go for array lessons this time since they were only going to repeat what he already knew. Although it would help him understand it better, nothing beats actual practical.

On his way back home, he encountered an acquaintance.

"Hey." Damian called out when he saw Grey walking by.

Grey turned around to see who it was, "Oh, it's you."

Damian was the first summoner he saw before Reynolds became a high-grade summoner. After seeing him at the door that led to where the old expert's legacy was, he hadn't seen him again.

"When did you return?" He asked while approaching Damian.

"Yesterday. Hmm, the Fifth stage, that's the highest anyone from our Academy who came out of the trial land got to." Damian said after noticing Grey was in the Fifth stage of the Origin Plane.

"You're not far from it yourself." Grey smiled lightly.

Damian was already in the Fourth stage, had they been allowed to stay in the trial land for another week or two, then he wouldn't have any problems with getting to the Fifth stage.

"When did you return?" asked Damian.

"Four days ago." replied Grey.

"And your friends, have they come out as well?" Damian asked again.

He remembered always seeing them together, so he wanted to know if they came out as well. After all, not everyone who goes into the trial land walks out.

"We came out together, we were lucky to find each when heading to the array that led outside." Grey explained.

He spent a few minutes with Damian before leaving, of which he was the one who did most of the talking. Damian had always been the type who spoke less, so getting to actually have a conversation with him was extremely hard.

Grey went over the Klaus' place and was lucky to find him at home. They headed over to Reynolds' place, before heading to Alice's.

He told them of his plan to modify the wooden objects, so they could find each other when they've left the Academy.

"Will you be able to make it in time? From everything you've said, you haven't seemed to make any progress with it." Alice asked a little concerned.

She could tell Grey was putting in so much effort just to make this thing, especially how he didn't attend array lessons, it was evident how much effort he was putting.

"Well, if I can decipher the array, then modifying it will be too easy..." Grey explained.

He planned to change the process of locating each other. Unlike before when one of them had to break the wooden object before the others could find the person, this time, as long as they had it with them, they would be able to get a general direction of where each other were. He even had a bigger plan, being able to use it to send messages across a long distance. But he knew that wouldn't be possible for now, so he wanted to focus on just locating each other first.

"If you can do it then that's wonderful." Alice said which the others agreed with.

Grey's plan to make this communication device wouldn't only help them, but it would help their families as well.

"Of course I can, since those guys could make it, I can modify it. All I need is just time. But I'm not too confident in the communicating part for now, I don't even know how to start with that. At least with the locating process, I can use their previous model as a guide." Grey shook his head sadly.

"No need to beat yourself, being able to think of it is already amazing." Klaus encouraged.

"Yeah, I'm not too bothered if I fail in doing that though. Locating you guys is enough for now." Grey nodded.

They stayed for some time before Alice suggested they sparred. Klaus immediately rejected the idea since he was the weakest, but after the others agreed and gave him an ultimatum, he didn't have much of a choice, it was either he sparred with them, or they would gang up on him and beat him up.

The group stayed together till just after sunset, and Grey even prepared something for them to eat. Alice had some items in her house that he used in making porridge.

"You see Rey, this is what it means to be a good cook." Klaus said after burping out loud.

"I know, it's like he's blessed by a God or something. My mom's a great cook, but to be honest, I don't think she's near as good as he is." Reynolds replied while looking at the delicious porridge Void was eating.

They were done with theirs, and Void's own was starting to call them. But recalling the cat's space element, they gave up the idea of stealing it.

They each went to their houses after their meal. Grey soon went back to work, he noticed each of the objects didn't have the same arrays. There's always a difference, even though it's small, there's always a difference. This made deciphering it hard, but he was already starting to get a rough idea of it.

'I should be able to completely decipher it within the next five days, hopefully.' He thought while looking at the different lines he had drawn on the papers on his table.