

Affinity 291

Chapter 291 - Jump

"I recalled telling the senior I wanted some time to think about it," said Reynolds.

The young man's expression changed slightly when he heard this, but he quickly hid it from Reynolds. He was about to speak when he noticed Reynolds was about to continue.

"But... I'm done thinking about it now. I planned on heading to the Capital and request to join, to think I was recommended by that senior. I'm very grateful for her goodwill." Reynolds added with a grin.

The young man heaved a sigh when he heard this, the others weren't here yet, and according to their intel, Reynolds was a high-grade summoner, someone the likes of him couldn't deal with.

"You see how awesome big bro is? Even the Crowned Prince has heard of me," Reynolds said with a big smile to Carl.

"Wow! Big bro is so cool," Carl exclaimed with a look of worship on his face.

He aspired to be like Reynolds, someone who was strong and powerful.

"Of course, now let's go home and tell mom the good news," Reynolds said to Carl.

After Carl had turned around, he said to the young man, "I'll need to drop him at home, then get some of my things, then we can leave together."

"Okay, but I'll have to follow you to your house." The young man replied.

"Sure, there's no problem with that." Reynolds shrugged before patting Carl in the head and heading to the city.

Reynolds played with Carl along the way, laughing happily, and telling Carl how awesome he was. He told him cool things about the empire's forces as well as their duty, there were different units in the empire's forces, and each unit is very important to the empire.

When the young man saw how enthusiastically Reynolds was speaking about the empire's forces, he felt he truly wanted to join them. This made him less worried about him. When they were sent on this mission, he thought it would be a bit difficult since Reynolds was a high-grade summoner and the chances of him refusing weren't low.

They soon got to the city and headed straight for Reynolds' house. It wasn't the most luxurious house in the city, just barely above average. When Reynolds returned, he suggested they move to a better house, but his parents refused, saying they were already attached to this one. They moved to this house a year after Reynolds was admitted into the Lunar Academy, and for people who originally didn't have much, it was perfect.

The house was a story building with three rooms. The compound wasn't really much since there wasn't even up to ten meters of space between it and the next house.

"You want to come in?" Reynolds invited the young man when they got there.

"No, there's no need. I'll just wait out here." The young man rejected the offer, he wasn't comfortable with going in, after all, he and Reynolds weren't really friends.

"Okay, your loss. I'll be back shortly." Reynolds replied before taking an excited Carl inside.

As soon as they got in, Carl's voice could be heard calling for their mother.

Five minutes later.

The young man was still standing outside, waiting for Reynolds to come outside. Just as he was starting to grow impatient.

Creak!

The door opened and Reynolds brought out his head, "Please give me a little more time, it hasn't been long since I came home, so my parents are a little reluctant to let me go."

"Oh, I understand. But don't take long." The young man nodded in understanding. He also knew the feeling of leaving one's family.

Reynolds thanked him before going back in.

"How considerate," muttered the young man.

Inside Reynolds' house.

"Come on mom, you don't need that. Dad's already on the roof." Reynolds said in a low voice when he saw his mom carry her box of clothes.

"But... but... fine." His mother replied.

Reynolds' mother was a lady who was in her late thirties, but due to the hardships she faced during her early life, she looked older than forty. She had long blue hair, just like that of Carl, and brown eyes. She had a small build with an oval-shaped face.

"They've already carried everything we need," Reynolds said before hurrying his mother upstairs.

He had zero wishes of joining the empire's forces or anything for now, but he knew if he refused when the young man asked him previously, then the young man would've attacked. He didn't have any problems with killing the young man, but he wasn't sure if he would be able to kill him instantly, and there was also the issue of protecting Carl. He also didn't know if the others that came along with the young man would be able to locate his house and use his family to threaten him, so he had to play it safe first.

When he was still in the Academy, he recalled Klaus telling him not to join the empire's forces or the Academy as an Instructor. He could already guess there was something going on, and seeing the young man's reaction when he wanted to refuse confirmed his guess.

The only thing that was baffling him was what connection he had with what was going on, after all, his family background wasn't the best, and there were tons of people who were at the Third stage of the Origin Plane. There were also other high-grade summoners in the empire, so it wasn't like he was the only one.

'I'll think about that later. First of all, I need to make sure my family is safe.' Reynolds thought when he got to the roof.

"Are you sure about this son, I don't think running away from the Crowned Prince would be possible," Reynolds' father said.

He was a normal citizen of the empire, with a poor background and a little sense of inferiority towards those of higher statuses. Opposing the Crowned Prince was not something he would dare to do.

"Trust me, dad, will I ever do something that would put you all in danger?" Reynolds asked with a reassuring smile before continuing, "I may not know what they want, but I can tell it's not anything good for me."

"Okay son, I'll believe you since you say so." His father replied.

"Great, now jump."

Chapter 292 - Terrifying Sensory Ability

Ten minutes later.

The young man was still standing outside the house when the others from his group appeared from the other side of the road and approached him.

"Hamon, where's he?" The young man leading the group asked as soon as he got close to him.

The group consisted of seven people, two young men, and five ladies. They were all in their mid-twenties, and in the Origin Plane. Of the two young men, one of them had a robust build, and the other was just like Hamon who had an average build. The five ladies all had great shapes, with one's shape being more eye-catching, added with her incredible looks, it was hard to take eyes away from her.

The young man who spoke earlier was the leader of the group, he was the one with a robust build, and the only one in the group who was in the Fifth stage of the Origin Plane, the others were between the Second and Fourth stages.

Hamon, who was still waiting for Reynolds, turned to look at the group before gesturing at the house with his head.

"He's in there?" The eye-catching lady asked.

"Yes, he agreed to go with us. He wanted to bid farewell to his family before leaving," explained Hamon.

"It's been too long already," The leader said before spreading his spiritual sense out, wanting to check what Reynolds was still doing.

Hamon wanted to speak but he stopped himself, he originally wanted to do this, but most Elementalists take it as an act of disrespect and intruding into their privacy, so he didn't try to check what was going on inside.

The leader's expression suddenly changed and he took a step forward. This drew the attention of the others.

"What's wrong?" They all asked simultaneously.

"There's no one inside," The leader said with a sour face.

"What?!" Hamon exclaimed in shock.

"I thought you said he agreed to follow us back, what's the meaning of this?" The leader questioned Hamon angrily.

"Yes, he even came out a few minutes ago to plead with me to be a little patient..." Hamon said, trying to justify himself.

"Hmm, smart. He played you for a fool, he didn't have any thoughts of going back with us in the first place. I think he must've sensed that something was wrong." The leader speculated.

"Hmph! He won't be able to get away." Hamon snorted angrily, irritated by the fact that he was fooled by Reynolds.

"Johanne, if you would please," The leader turned to the eye-catching young lady in the group.

The young lady whose name's Johanne nodded before stepping forward, "There are four Origin Plane Elementalists in this city, if he's added then that's five. I can't get the accurate location, but I can sense the general position of each one of them, as long as they're in the city,"

After speaking, she closed her eyes and placed her index finger on her temple, trying to stay focused. The leader created a water barrier around them to keep any distractions away from Johanne.

Two minutes later.

"He's still in the city, all five energy signals are in the city. There're two in the southeast of the city, one on the north end of the city, another one is close by, in the east, and the last one is in that direction." Johanne said, pointing straight at Reynolds' house.

The others looked at where she was pointing at and smiled, they felt that was definitely Reynolds since it hadn't been long he left. They also felt he was planning to hide in a house close by, then come out as soon as he noticed the coast was clear.

"It's most likely that he's the one close by, after all, not everyone knows of Johanne's special sensing ability," The leader said with a grin.

Johanne could sense all the energy signals in an area, and the distance she could cover was insane. Eternal City was at least three square kilometers in size, yet she was able to perfectly sense where the five energy signals were. With her, searching for Reynolds would be easy.

The group headed towards the back of Reynolds' house, heading in a straight line. It didn't take them three minutes to get to where the energy signal was coming from. It was a huge compound that even had guards at the gate, on the gate was boldly written, Lark Family.

The Lark family was one of the three big families in the city, aside from the Mayor's family. The head of the family is an Origin Plane Elementalist, this was why they had such a huge property in the city. Reynolds' family could also be this powerful, even more powerful given how young he was, but his parents refused.

"Damn it, this guy sure is slippery. He knew there was someone close to his house." Hamon cursed out in annoyance.

"No need to worry, as long as he stays in the city, we will be able to track him down." The leader said before taking a glance at Johanne who already had her eyes closed.

After she opened them, she nodded to him, signifying that he was still in the city.

"This time we will split up, given how lavishly these old grunts live, we should be able to know if he's the one there or not." The leader ordered.

Reynolds could be seen hugging his parents. This was the part of the city they stayed in while he was still young, the houses here were all old and worn out. He brought his parents here to hide.

"I'm going to be okay mom, no need to worry," Reynolds said reassuring his mother.

He didn't want to stay close to them, he didn't know if staying close would bring danger to them. If he left them here, he would attract the group towards him and leave the city.

They were here for him, so he knew they would chase after him once they knew he was escaping from the city. He was oblivious to the fact that a group was currently heading in his direction, but he wanted to leave as soon as possible.

"Don't cry little guy, nothing will happen to big bro, have you forgotten how awesome I am?" Reynolds squatted to Carl's height while hugging him.

"Big bro is the best," said Carl who was on the verge of tears.

"You're right about that." Reynolds ruffled his hair before turning to his father, "I'll be back soon,"

His father nodded before embracing Reynolds' mother, so she would let go of him. He felt fearful for what his son was currently facing, but he knew this wasn't the time to delay him. He might not have been strong enough to enter into the world of Elementalists, but he knew a thing or two about it.

Reynolds nodded before waving at them, with that, he turned around decisively, heading into the main parts of the city.

'It's been long I had to run away, but given their numbers, it's the only thing I can do.' He thought while walking further into the city.

Chapter 293 - Divide And Conquer

Reynolds didn't head deep into the city before he sensed three strong auras not too far from him, he didn't need to see them before he knew they were the people searching for him. He quickly made a run for it, spreading out a hint of his aura so they would know he was there.

The three people consisted of Hamon and two other ladies, they sensed Reynolds' aura as soon as Reynolds sensed theirs.

"This way," Hamon said to the two ladies, before chasing after Reynolds.

There was a good distance between them, but just like Reynolds, he didn't need to see him before he knew he was the one. The girls followed behind Hamon in chasing after Reynolds, they could also sense the aura, but they weren't really sure if it belonged to Reynolds.

It didn't take them long before they exited the city, given their speed, they could reach here sooner, but they didn't want to draw any unwanted attention in the city.

When the group came out, they noticed Reynolds was heading to the south. This was the area he previously went to when he wanted to show Carl some of his skills.

"Hmph! He's pretty c.o.c.ky if he thinks he can take on the three of us," One of the ladies said.

The other one shared the same opinion as well, even Hamon felt the same way. Even though Reynolds was a high-grade summoner, it didn't mean he could fight against all of them.

Reynolds, who was currently running, had no wish to fight them, for now. Had there been only two of them, he would've thought of taking them out quickly before the others came, but three wouldn't be easy to handle. The odds of the others coming before he killed all of them were high, and there's also the difficulty of the battle.

While he was running, he suddenly sensed energy in the sky, and when he turned around to look at it, he realized it was a signal the others who were chasing after him sent to call the others. Only people in or above the Origin Plane could sense it.

'Crap! They're calling the others.' He thought in a dejected manner.

He was still calculating how far he needed to take these three before trying to deal with them, but now, they've called the others.

While running, he suddenly sensed two auras on the city wall that was on his left, looking at it properly, he saw two people standing on top of the city wall. They were obviously attracted here by the energy

wave, luckily, they weren't part of the group chasing him, rather, they were two of the four Origin Plane Elementalists in the city.

The two men standing on the city wall looked to be in their late fifties, but Reynolds knew they were well over one hundred years. They had been in the Origin Plane for so long, and due to their poor elemental grades, it was almost impossible to get to the late stages of the Origin Plane, much less breaking through to the Overlord Plane. Both had shades of grey in their black and brown hairs. One of them was chubby, while the other had a slightly above average build with a long beard.

"Isn't that the young man who recently returned to the city?" The chubby man asked while pointing at Reynolds.

"Yes. I noticed that some experts came to the city about an hour ago, to think they were this young," The other man said while stroking his beard.

Seeing so many young people in the Origin Plane felt strange to them. The reason they refused to go to a bigger city was that they enjoyed the feeling of revel they got from the people here. The only chance of them going to a big city is if they managed to break through to the Overlord Plane. But that's impossible for the current them, they were only in the Sixth stage of the Origin Plane. But given the number of years they have left to live, there's a chance they might still have a fortuitous encounter.

"They're obviously here for the kid. Two of them approached my compound a few minutes ago, but left right away," The chubby man said.

The other man nodded before saying, "We don't need to involve ourselves in this, we have no relationship with the boy."

"Okay," The chubby man replied before leaping back into the city.

He originally intended to step in and ask what was wrong but after listening to what the other man said, he gave up the idea. The only time they noticed Reynolds was after his test, but he joined the Academy soon after which didn't give them any room to speak with him. His parents had some sort of inferiority complex so whenever they tried speaking to them, they rarely spoke much. This brought about an awkward relationship.

Reynolds didn't feel anything towards them going back into the city so quickly. He spoke to them when he returned from the Academy some weeks back, but they didn't really have any relationship. Although, he would've been grateful if they stepped forward to at least try to help or find out what was happening.

'The others will be coming soon, time to start separating them.' He thought.

Lightning covered his foot and his speed skyrocketed, before long, he was out of Hamon's group view.

"No, he's going to get away. Hamon, go after him," One of the ladies said.

They weren't as fast as Hamon who was a Wind Elementalist, so it was only logical that he was the one who went after him.

"What if he attacks?" Hamon asked, a little fearful of Reynolds.

"You don't need to fight against him, just stall him." The young lady said, looking at Hamon with demeaning eyes.

She felt disgusted by his fear. They were also geniuses, had they also gone into the trial land, then they would've been stronger than their current state.

"Okay," Hamon replied with gritted teeth.

He couldn't refuse since he didn't have to fight against Reynolds. Even though he felt this was a trap, and he was wary of Reynolds' strength. He had the utmost confidence in his abilities, if he wasn't powerful, there's no way he would've been able to join this unit.

Chapter 294 - Divide And Conquer II

Reynolds ran into the forest, accompanied by Hamon. He didn't have any qualms with killing any of these people if the chance presented itself.

After dashing into the forest for a few minutes, Hamon looked around searching for Reynolds who had disappeared into the forest. The thought of waiting for the others came to his mind, but thinking of the possible punishment he might face if he was the reason Reynolds escaped, he gritted his teeth and continued searching.???

Reynolds was currently sitting on top of a boulder deep inside the forest on an open field. Being a Lightning Elementalist, he was faster than Hamon. Although, not all Lightning Elementalists are faster than Wind Elementalists in the same stage.

He could sense that there was only one person chasing after him, and this was exactly what he wanted. He waited leisurely while swinging his legs on the boulder until Hamon arrived.

When Hamon got there, he looked at Reynolds with serious eyes. He could already guess his plan and knew his life was currently on the line, but he didn't plan to fight against him.

'I just need to stall him, that is enough. I'll escape as soon as he's overpowering me, then come back again.' Hamon planned out his tactics.

"So, you're here?" He asked when he saw Reynolds.

"Yup. I was waiting for you, to think you came foolishly," Reynolds nodded with a grin.

"I have no reason not to come, don't think of yourself so highly," Hamon said. He was comfortable with how things were currently going. If he could get Reynolds to continue speaking, then that would be great.

Reynolds looked at him with a smile, he could almost tell what he was thinking. Unfortunately, he had other plans for him.

"*Sigh* It's a shame you'll have to die," Reynolds continued before jumping down from the boulder.

"This attributes to you, unfortunately," Hamon replied without showing any fear.

Reynolds smiled, his Elemental Warrior was already in the surrounding area. He hid it somewhere Hamon couldn't notice it.

"Why are you people searching for me?" Reynolds couldn't help but ask.

He found this very strange, there was nothing he had that could attract the Crowned Prince.

"You should come with us peacefully if you really want to know," Hamon replied.

'Hmm, that should just about be enough. The others shouldn't be very far by now.' He thought.

Reynolds was a little disappointed that he didn't get a good reply from Hamon, but he didn't really expect him to tell him the answer. Without delaying any further, he attacked.

Buzz!

Boom!

A lightning bolt struck where Hamon was standing, but he wasn't standing there anymore. He was a Wind Elementalist, and speed was his forte.

He appeared a few meters to the right, "If you think you could..."

Boom!

He was still speaking when another attack was sent towards him. This time, the blast range was larger than the previous time. But just like before, he dodged the attack effortlessly.

'This is going to be eas...'

Hamon who just appeared stopped thinking midway, he looked down only to see a lightning sword piercing through his c.h.e.s.t. The sword accurately pierced through his heart.

"How?..." He asked with blood dripping from the side of his mouth and a look of disbelief.

"Behind you," Reynolds replied casually.

The Elemental Warrior was standing behind Hamon, with his hand holding onto the lightning sword.

After the first attack, Reynolds had a rough estimation of Hamon's speed. Getting the Elemental Warrior to sneak attack him became very easy. When he sent the other attack out, he waited for where Hamon would appear and sent the Elemental Warrior there the moment he appeared, not giving any chances of dodging it.

Thud!

Hamon's lifeless body fell on the floor, with eyes still wide open. Although Reynolds gave him an answer, he couldn't turn around before he died.

Reynolds waved his hand, and the Elemental Warrior vanished.

"One out, seven to go."

He made sure to check the corpse of Hamon before leaving, but there was nothing useful on him.

Two minutes after he left, the two young ladies who were with Hamon appeared at the scene of the fight.

"I always knew this fool shouldn't have been assigned to our unit," The young lady who felt disgusted by Hamon's fear of Reynolds said when she saw his corpse.

"Should we go after him?" The other lady asked.

They were in the Third and Fourth stage of the Origin Plane respectively. She was in the Third stage, while the other young lady was in the Fourth stage.

"Of course," The first young lady answered assertively.

She was not scared, even after seeing Hamon's corpse. She might not be that much stronger than him, but she felt it was his fear that caused his death.

"Why don't we wait for the other? Johanne wouldn't have any problems with tracking him down," The other young lady advised.

"Don't tell me you're scared? We're two, and you have me. Don't even bother about that guy, even an Elementalist in the Seventh stage wouldn't be able to defeat us," The first young lady said confidently.

"Okay," The other young lady nodded.

She was in the Third stage, just like Hamon, so it was natural for fear to develop in her heart after seeing his corpse. No one wanted to die, and going after an opponent like Reynolds who could kill them, and they can't kill was more frustrating.

They followed Reynolds' trail after coming to a decision.

Five minutes after they left, the other group appeared at the scene.

The leader of the group looked at Hamon's corpse, "He must've separated them after he noticed they signaled us,"

He was able to quickly guess what happened after seeing only one corpse. Hamon would've not been able to fight against a high-grade summon that was in the same stage as himself, much less one that was two stages ahead of him.

The leader felt for them to fall for Reynolds' trap was very foolish of them. He had already guessed the other two young ladies wouldn't last long as well since they followed after Reynolds'.

"Johanne," He called out.

"I know what to do,"

Chapter 295 - Divide And Conquer III

Reynolds was currently resting in a cave trying to recover as much elemental essence as possible. He didn't use much when he fought against Hamon because the summon didn't stay out for long, but he would be relying heavily on it if he wanted to kill the ladies.

'Hmm, those two ladies shouldn't be far behind. I'll kill them before the others come.' ??

He thought of a plan while waiting for his opponents. While waiting for them, he suddenly recalled his friends. If Grey, Alice, and Klaus were here, then he wouldn't need to run away. They could take on this group without any issues.

Thinking of his friends, he searched his body and brought out the wooden object Grey gave to him. He ran his finger through it before keeping it. The thought of using it to call on his friends flashed through his head, but he quickly dismissed it. Since these people were searching for him, he was almost one hundred percent certain that his friends weren't having an easy time as well.

'If only Grey was able to make those things, then I'd have been able to ask how they were doing,'

Reynolds waited for a few more minutes before the two young ladies got close. He stood up and walked out of the cave stretching his body.

He didn't summon the Elemental Warrior immediately, rather, he waited patiently till the young ladies appeared before him.

"Surrounder now," The young lady in the Fourth stage of the Origin Plane said when they saw Reynolds.

"Heh! With the likes of you?" Reynolds asked mockingly.

The young lady in the Fourth stage's expression turned sour. She didn't think Reynolds would be so c.o.c.ky.

"Hmph! We'll see about that," The young lady snorted coldly before attacking.

She sent out a huge fire snake towards Reynolds.

The other young lady attacked when she saw the first one attacking, she was an Earth Elementalist, so she made earth spikes sprout out of the ground where Reynolds was standing.

Lightning danced around Reynolds' body before he disappeared from the spot he was standing on before both young ladies' attacks got to him.

Boom!

The fire snake struck the ground, causing an explosion, and destroying the earth spikes.

Boom! Bam! Bang!

Reynolds continued dodging her attacks, vanishing and appearing in different locations. The quickness and accuracy of the young lady's attacks were terrifying. He genuinely felt some pressure from her, if not for his Elemental Warrior, then he didn't think he would have any chances of fighting her to a draw, much less defeating her.

Boom!

He dodged another attack, but this time, he noticed an earth cage surrounding him.

Buzz! Bang!

The lightning dancing around him exploded out, destroying the earth cage that was trying to hold him down.

After destroying it, he summoned his Elemental Warrior.

Bam!

An attack that was coming from behind him was blocked by the Elemental Warrior.

The Fire Elementalist's expression turned serious when she saw the lightning summon. This was the first time she was fighting against a summon, but she still felt confident in her abilities.

Swish!

The Elemental Warrior moved at lightning speed towards the Earth Elementalist, pointing its sword at her.

The Earth Elementalist freaked out for a second, but she quickly got herself together before setting up a wall to block the advances of the Elemental Warrior.

Bang!

The Elemental Warrior slashed through the wall with a single stroke but was met with an attack from the Fire Elementalist who had been waiting for it.

They continued exchanging attacks for a minute before both young ladies started having a difficult time defending against the onslaught of attacks from the Elemental Warrior. Its attacks were strong and relentless, giving the ladies a headache.

The Elemental Warrior is a stage above the Fire Elementalist, and two stages above the other young lady. It has attack powers that could rival a Sixth stage Origin Plane Elementalist, so it was difficult for the ladies to keep up. What made things more difficult was its close-range attacks.

"We can't keep on like this, attack him, he's defenseless now," The Fire Elementalist said to the other young lady when they managed to get a breather.

"Okay," The Earth Elementalist nodded.

With a plan in mind, they immediately set it in motion. The Fire Elementalist would try to keep the Elemental Warrior busy, while the Earth Elementalist would deal a fatal strike to Reynolds. They couldn't kill him, but they weren't ordered not to beat him up.

According to what was known about summoners, they are vulnerable once they summon their summons. Summoners mostly summon their elemental creatures when fighting against a single opponent since multiple opponents could keep the creature busy while the others deal with the summoner.

Both young ladies were planning to use precisely this knowledge to deal with Reynolds. Although it was a bit risky since it was difficult for both of them to defend against the Elemental Warrior, much less one of them.

Reynolds watched as the Elemental warrior easily overpowered the ladies, and a smirk appeared on his face. At this rate, he should be able to finish off both ladies within three minutes.

Boom!

The fight raged on, and most parts of the forest they were in had been destroyed by it.

The Fire Elementalist gritted her teeth angrily, she had been trying to create an opportunity for her comrade to exploit on getting close to Reynolds, but the Elemental Warrior was more than a handful.

They were both looking tattered, and their hairs were a mess. They weren't concerned about their current appearance though, keeping their life was more important than looks.

One more minute went by and the Fire Elementalist was finally able to create an opportunity for her comrade, at the cost of being stabbed on the shoulder by the Elemental Warrior with a lightning blade.

"Go, now!" She yelled while sending out a fireball that exploded out on the Elemental Warrior.

Chapter 296 - Records Are Not Always Correct

Reynolds watched as the Earth Elementalist approached him, there was no sign of fear on his face, rather, he even had a smile on it.

The Earth Elementalist who was already close to him suddenly felt goosebumps when she saw him smiling and doubt sprang up in her mind. But she quickly suppressed the doubt in her mind and attacked Reynolds with her most powerful attack.??

Huge boulders appeared mid-air from different positions, shooting straight for Reynolds who was standing not too far from her. Her attack was so precise that it cut off all of Reynolds' escape routes, only with an insanely precise and fast movement will he be able to escape.

'Since he currently has to keep his Elemental Warrior up, he shouldn't be able to use any elemental essence since all of it is being channeled to the Elemental Warrior.' thought the young lady.

Her expression changed when she realized that Reynolds was no longer in his previous position. All she heard was the buzzing sound of lightning before her vision slowly started to fade.

"How?" She managed to ask with blood rushing out of her c.h.e.s.t and mouth. But she closed her eyes soon after she asked this question.

"Since you're dead, I'll do you the honors and answer that. You see, high-grade summoners are not like normal summoners, we can perfectly fight while our Elemental Warriors are fighting. The only reason we refrain from doing it is that the essence consumption almost doubles. I hope you can rest peacefully with this explanation," Reynolds replied with a chuckle before removing his hand that was covered in

lightning, and passing through the back of the young lady, appearing on the other side of her c.h.e.s.t. His hand was covered in blood, but it didn't bother him.

Reynolds' hand was the only thing keeping the young lady's body standing, when he removed his hand from her c.h.e.s.t, she fell on the ground with a 'Thud'. He turned to look at the Fire Elementalist who currently looked like she just saw a ghost.

She saw everything clearly, from how Reynolds casually escaped from her comrade's attack, to when he stabbed her with his hand which was covered in lightning, almost like a blade. She also heard Reynolds' explanation which brought her into a state of even more shock.

"But... but... the records," She couldn't accept the fact that the hard-earned opportunity she created at the cost of herself was wasted. Not just that, but it would also be the cause of her death.

"Are not always right. Next time, don't place all your hopes on it, it might just fail you," Reynolds advised. But his advice did nothing other than irritating the Fire Elementalist who was bleeding from the gash on her shoulder. She felt he was mocking her since he was still going to kill her.

She wanted to speak, but was unable to since the Elemental Warrior started its relentless attacks once again. She could already foresee her death the second her comrade died, but she didn't want to accept it without fighting.

"Ah!" She yelled powerfully before frantically attacking the Elemental Warrior, under Reynolds' emotionless gaze.

Reynolds didn't try to fight alongside the Elemental Warrior again, he had already used more than half his elemental essence during the course of this battle. Now all he wanted was for the Elemental Warrior to end the battle as soon as possible so he could run away from here to try to recover. He still had five more people to fight against, and his Elemental Warrior was his greatest reliance. If he didn't have sufficient elemental essence during the battle, then he would be in danger.

The Elemental Warrior didn't fail him and quickly made short work of the young lady within a minute. She surprisingly put on a strong performance against the Elemental Warrior alone, but after getting pierced by three lightning arrows, she couldn't stay up anymore.

Reynolds checked the corpse of both young ladies, but just like Hamon, they had nothing on them. After he was done searching, he quickly left the area. This battle took about four to six minutes, the others should be very close by now. Judging from how he hadn't sensed any of them, he guessed they were all moving together.

'Crap! Why the hell are they chasing after me? It'll be nice if the other ones would tell me though.'
Reynolds thought while running through the forest.

All he knew about this was that it had something to do with the Crowned Prince, other than that, he knew nothing else. But he had never had any contacts with the Crowned Prince, so why was he searching for him, going as far as sending such a squad after him?

Two minutes after Reynolds left, the other five people appeared from the west.

The leader and Johanne had angry eyes when they saw the corpse of the two young ladies. Although they had predicted it, it was still painful to see, especially for the leader.

"Where did he go?" The leader tried to ask in a calm voice, but every one of them could sense the chilling killing intent seeping out of his bones.

Johanne closed her eyes, and after a few seconds, she opened them and pointed in the direction Reynolds was running in. With her in the group, it is impossible for Reynolds to escape, much less separate them again.

They were all wary of his strength now and knew he could very much kill any of them in a one-on-one battle. So they didn't have any plans of splitting up to search for him, even though some of them were slowing the group down.

The leader looked in the direction Johanne pointed at before clenching his fists tightly, this had been the worst mission he had led in his life. Of the seven people he brought with him, three were already dead. If they were still unable to get Reynolds in the end, it would be more frustrating.

"Let's go," He ordered and they started the chase for Reynolds again.

Chapter 297 - We Might Have A Problem

"How do they keep finding me?" Reynolds, who was currently hiding in a hole in a tree, opened his eyes and looked in the direction of the north.

It has been over six hours since he killed the two young ladies, he had tried to recover his elemental essence, but before he even properly started cultivating, he would sense the aura of the group. At first, he thought they only managed to locate him out of pure luck, but after it happened a second and third time, he knew it was not by luck, they had a way of searching for him.??

The thought of waiting to question them passed through his head, but when he thought of the battle that would ensue right after, he decided against it. He could fight against two, but five was too much for him to handle.

He got out from the tree and started heading in another direction.

'At this rate, it'll be hard for me to recover. I can't set an ambush for them since they can sense my location.' He thought while walking.

After a few moments, he decided it was time to leave the forest. There were still other places he could run to, there was no need to stay so close to the city anymore.

A day later.

Reynolds was currently sitting outside a cave in a canyon, a frustrated look on his face. He had been trying to get away from the group for over one day now, but he still hasn't been able to escape. Now he feels like there might be something on him that's attracting them, but after checking himself properly, there was nothing on him that could attract them. He had tried hiding his aura, but it was no use.

'Could it be that he succeeded but was caught?' He suddenly thought of Grey.

The only thing he knew that they could use in tracking him was the wooden object that Grey gave to him, which was on the premise that Grey had completed the other one he wanted to make. If Grey had successfully made and was caught by these people, then it was not surprising that they were able to always find him.

'But, these people shouldn't be able to catch him. Unless they send people in the Overlord Plane.'

Different conjectures came to his mind, but he couldn't confirm anyone. He suddenly thought of confronting the group from a considerable distance that he might still be able to escape if necessary.

While Reynolds was waiting for the group to catch up to him, Grey was currently over ten kilometers away with an angry expression.

"That bastard, he was here a few hours ago, why's he moving so much?' Grey cursed out in annoyance.

Grey got to Eternal City the previous day after tracking the light here, but when he checked the wooden object again, he noticed that the location had changed. He came out of the city and when looked at where his dot was, he realized it was in the forest at the side of the city, so he followed it into the forest. But before he could even head deep into the forest, he brought out the wooden object again and noticed the light wasn't there anymore.

He guessed the light belonged to Reynolds since Alice was from a big family which was in a huge city that was on the same level as Lunar City. Eternal City might be big, but it's not on the level of Lunar City.

He would occasionally bring out the disk to check Reynolds' position, and every time he brought it out, the position was always different. There was a time he decided to just leave it out while tracking him, but he kept it after Reynolds stopped moving for a while and when he passed through a city.

If people were to see that in his hands, they would definitely be curious about it. He wasn't bothered about them, but if he were to encounter strong people, then that would be a problem.

'Why do you think he's moving so much?' Void who was perched on Grey's shoulder like usual asked.

'I have no idea, but I don't think it's anything good. Hopefully, he isn't in any trouble.' said Grey.

'And if he is?' asked Void.

'I'll help him,'

'If he isn't?'

'I'll beat him up for making me walk so much.'

Void chuckled when he heard Grey's reply. Although it sounded like Grey was angry, he could sense the urgency from him.

They were currently standing at the exit of a small town, ahead of them was a vast canyon. According to the light dot of Reynolds, he was currently in this canyon, or maybe just after it. They didn't know how big the canyon was, but from what the traders around said, it was huge.

Grey immediately headed into the canyon, with the disk in his hand, he wouldn't have a problem with locating Reynolds. He increased his speed to its limit, hoping to catch up to him before he starts moving again.

Two hours later.

A group of five could be seen walking on one of the many paths of the canyon. They were the group who were chasing after Reynolds.

"Johanne," The leader called out.

Johanne nodded before closing her eyes, trying to find out where Reynolds was located. Since they entered this place, she would occasionally check where Reynolds' position was every ten minutes, to make sure he hadn't left the direction they were headed.

"Huh?" She exclaimed softly.

"We might have a problem," She said with a serious look.

"What's it?" The leader asked.

"I can sense another energy which is at the Origin Plane as well, they're almost in the same direction, I don't know which of them belongs to him," replied Johanne.

"No need to worry too much about it, let's head in the direction of the nearest one. It doesn't change anything if we find him first, or later," The leader said.

The others nodded and started hurrying in the direction of the nearest energy Johanne sensed.

On another part of the canyon.

Grey was currently resting under a protruding rock, using it as shade. His closed eyes suddenly snapped open as he looked in the west.

Chapter 298 - Inscriber

'You've sensed them?' Void asked casually.

"Un." Grey nodded without any change in his expression.??

He had been running through this canyon for the past two hours, he could see that he wasn't too far from Reynolds. He only sat down to catch his breath and planned to continue his journey in a few minutes' time.

'Heh! As long as they're not here to cause any trouble for me, I have no problems with them,' said Grey.

He still had his cloak on, but his disguise was already gone. He couldn't be bothered with making a new one in a place where he was barely known, so he just let it be.

After three minutes, the figures of the five people soon appeared in Grey's view. He stared at them in curiosity, but he didn't have much interest in them though.

The group continued approaching him, because of the cloak he had on, they couldn't tell if he was the one they were searching for or not.

After getting within one hundred and fifty meters of Grey, the group stopped.

"He's not the one," The leader of the group said.

"How can you tell?" Johanne asked the question that was on the minds of the others.

"He's on the stage as me, probably about to even break through to the Sixth stage. That's not an individual we'd want to tangle with." The leader replied.

After getting a direction, the group headed straight for it without any delay. This had been the longest Reynolds had stayed in a position, so they hoped he might be tired of running.

Grey watched as they left curiously, "Hmm, they seem sensible,"

'Such a shame, I thought we were going to fight some people,' Void said sadly.

'Heh! I think it's better this way. Although they wouldn't be too much of a problem, I'm not a fan of unnecessary fights.' Grey chuckled before taking out the disk.

'Good, he's still in the same location, looks like he finally stopped moving,' He thought when he looked at the hologram above the disk.

He stayed for a few more minutes before standing up and scratching his body, it was time to see Reynolds. He was a little excited at the thought of seeing Reynolds again, it has been well over a month since he saw any of his friends.

The only thing that made him sad was that he couldn't make the communication device, but on the way here, he added a modification to the disk. It was a way to signal the others if the user was in danger, just like the original use of the wooden objects when he collected them from Quinn.

With the one he made though, it wasn't a one-time use like the previous one, rather, it could be used repeatedly, unless the device was destroyed.

Grey soon got to the path the group took, he looked at it interestingly before looking at his disk again.

"Hmm, interesting."

Reynolds was currently still sitting outside the same cave, waiting for the group. There were three paths ahead of him, one on the right, and two on left. He was feeling a little nervous because the thought of Grey being caught scared him. He didn't want to believe it, but thinking of how they kept finding him and connecting it to the device Grey wanted to make made him feel like Grey was already captured.

'Hopefully I'm just overthinking,' he tried consoling himself.

'Maybe they stole the device from him after he escaped, yes, that's very plausible,' He thought once again.

While he was still in the middle of racking his brain about Grey being possibly captured, he sensed the group coming in his direction.

"I see you're tired of running?" The leader said before their figures appeared from the path on the right.

"Who says I'm running? But I'm curious though, why are you people after me?" Reynolds asked while standing up.

Other than the three paths ahead of him, there was one behind him. Once he gets what he wants from these people, or if they attack him, he would flee immediately.

"A criminal always knows the crime they're being captured for," The leader said with a fake smile.

"Oh, but what if the criminal commits six crimes in the same day and escapes, but was later captured. Then there's no way he would know why he's being captured," Reynolds replied thoughtfully while putting on a mocking smile.

Spending so much time with Klaus was bound to yield some results, although he might not be as quick-witted as Klaus when it came to saying things that would offend his opponents, he was sure he was slowly catching up.

The leader was lost for words when he heard Reynolds' reply. He couldn't refute it because it was correct, but not replying meant that he was wrong with his initial statement. Seeing Reynolds' mocking smile irritated him even more.

Just when he was about to attack, he noticed Reynolds wanted to say something else.

"I didn't wait for you people to speak about criminals." Reynolds said before his expression turned serious, "How do you keep finding me? I've been intrigued by this for some hours now,"

The leader looked at Reynolds before laughing out, "You really want to know?"

Reynolds didn't respond, he already knew they weren't going to tell him. He took a step back, planning to escape. Since they didn't want to tell him what he wanted, then there was no use in staying behind.

Just as he took a step back, a feeling of danger suddenly enveloped him. He didn't waste any time and quickly jumped forward.

Boom!

An attack came from behind him, striking the rock on the side. Luckily, he didn't retreat when he sensed the attack, or he might've been struck by it.

After Reynolds stood up from where he landed, his expression changed before looking at the sky.

"An Inscriber."

Chapter 299 - What's Going On?

"An Inscriber," Reynolds looked at the blue symbol on the air in shock.

He would never have thought there was an inscriber amongst the group chasing him, he knew just how rare Inscribers were. The fact that Grey was the only Inscriber he had seen shows how rare they are.??

"Oh, you know about Inscribers. Guess you're more knowledgeable than I thought. Since you know about us, then I believe you should be aware that your chances of escaping just went down by a whole notch," The leader of the group snickered when he saw Reynolds' expression.

The only way Reynolds could escape now is if he were willing to risk being injured by an attack.

Reynolds looked at them with a serious expression, and just when the thought of using his Elemental Warrior to block the attacks as he escaped came to his mind, he saw a black cat sitting leisurely on top of a rock.

That's a cat he was all too familiar with, there was no other cat in the world that had such pitch-black fur and the glint of intelligence in its eyes was very evident.

'If Void's here, then that means he's also here. Heh! Guess I don't need to escape anymore,' He thought with a smile.

From how Void was looking, he could tell Grey wasn't captured.

'Hmm, but since Grey wasn't captured, how do they keep finding me?' He asked himself.

This question had been bugging him for some time now, he initially waited for them because he thought they might've caught Grey. But after speaking to them, he knew they did capture Grey, this meant that they were using another way.

"Who says I want to escape? The likes of you can't make me run away," Reynolds sneered.

The group looked at him strangely, they clearly saw him trying to escape a few seconds ago, yet now he was denying it so casually.

"Tsk ts, so shameless. Surrender yourself now," Johanne said while approaching him.

"Even if he surrenders himself, he's not going to escape the punishment of killing my compatriots." The leader ordered icily, "Attack!"

'Crap! I thought they were only going to continue speaking until Grey showed up,' Reynolds thought, but quickly summoned his Elemental Warrior to fight against the group of five.

Boom!

The leader of the group attacked with his inscription. He was a Water Elementalist. His attack consisted of ice arrows, shooting straight at Reynolds.

"You'll lose one of your hands as punishment for your evil deeds," The leader declared as he continued the attack.

Reynolds focused on dodging, while his Elemental Warrior would occasionally block the attacks he couldn't dodge. He couldn't attack because of the numbers, if he sent the Elemental Warrior to attack any of them, then he would have to use his elemental essence as well while blocking some of their attacks.

Void watched as the battle raged on, with Reynolds moving from one spot to another, without even trying to attack.

The group currently surrounded Reynolds as they sent out organized attacks. They had good chemistry among them which made their teamwork amazing, Reynolds is just barely dodging their attacks.

'Hey, they're beating up your friend.' Void said to Grey who was still on his way here.

'Oh, those people from before?' He asked while walking casually on the path.

'Yeah, how did you guess?' asked Void.

'Well it's actually quite simple, from how Rey was moving, it was easy to guess he was either going after something or moving away from something. The timeframe between each of his movements was too short for him to just be traveling, if he were traveling he would've at least rested for the night, but he didn't. Then from how that group acted when they saw me, it was obvious that they were searching for someone.' Grey explained.

He only guessed that they were searching for Reynolds when he noticed the direction the disk showed Reynolds was on was the same direction the group headed to.

'Hmm, should I help?' Void asked, he was itching for a battle.

'Hehe, not now, wait till I come. Reynolds can't be defeated so easily by them, and knowing you, if he was truly being beaten up, you would've joined the battle by now,' Grey chuckled.

The only thing he found strange was that they were able to locate Reynolds in this huge canyon. If not for the disk he made, then he wouldn't have been able to find him.

'It must have something to do with energy signals,' He thought.

He had read about this in one of the books at the Academy. Each Plane gives off a different energy signal, hiding one's aura doesn't help hide against this ability. There were few people who were recorded to have this ability in Lunar Academy, but Grey wasn't acquainted with them.

'Make sure they don't beat him too badly, okay,' Grey said to Void.

'Got it,' Void replied before disappearing from where he was lying.

The battle had been going on for two minutes now, and Reynolds had already been hit by a few attacks. Some parts of his clothes had been burned, and he was bruised on his shoulder after being hit by an earth attack. The only attack that hadn't hit him was the water element attack of the leader.

Reynolds looked around, searching for Grey, but to his disappointment, he hadn't arrived yet.

'Damn it! Where's that damn cat? It shouldn't have a problem with beating at least two of them,' He cursed when he couldn't find Void.

While Reynolds was cursing at Void, the leader sent an ice spear at him after he just dodged an attack. The Elemental Warrior was blocking two attacks, so it wasn't free to help him.

'F.u.c.k!' Reynolds cursed, trying to mobilize his elemental essence to block the attack since it was already too close to dodge.

But just then, something strange happened, the ice spear started gradually disappearing from its tip, down to the last part.

This scene stunned the leader, as well as the others, they couldn't believe their eyes. Reynolds was the only one who heaved a sigh of relief, he knew this was the handwork of Void, and it came at a perfect time.

'Finally, he decided to help' He quickly scrambled to a better position, and even called off the Elemental Warrior.

With Void helping to divert all the attacks, he didn't need to finish his elemental essence on the Elemental Warrior, he was already almost dry.

"What just happened?" The leader asked in disbelief.

"I don't know,"

The others shook their heads in unison.

"Maybe he destroyed it with an attack, attack again, he's almost out." The leader said after he saw Reynolds dismissing his Elemental Warrior.

They all knew about the huge elemental essence needed to sustain the Elemental Warrior, so seeing him call it off meant that he was already almost out of elemental essence.

But the leader's expression changed when his next attack disappeared just like the last one. The attack of the others also disappeared when it got close to Reynolds.

"What's going on?"

Chapter 300 - Showoff

"What's going on?"

A voice came from behind the stunned group.??

On hearing the voice, Reynolds heaved a sigh of relief and fell on his b.u.t.t, tired from the fight.

They were still trying to comprehend what was happening to their attacks when Grey suddenly arrived. His voice brought them out of their shocked states. They turned around to look at the arriving Grey who still had the cloak on. The cloak was covering the upper side of his face, leaving only his mouth visible to the group.

The leader of the group who was still rattled, quickly composed himself when he saw him. He remembered he was the one they saw some minutes back.

"It's none of your business," One of the young ladies in the group said coldly.

Grey was just about to speak when he heard the leader scolding the young lady.

"Mind your manners Bell. Although it's not appropriate to tell you this, we're a special unit in the Qilin empire's forces, we were sent by the Crowned Prince to apprehend this young man," The leader explained.

Had Grey come a few minutes ago while they were still beating Reynolds up, he wouldn't have told him this. But after the weird scene of their attacks vanishing into thin air, it wouldn't be nice to add another issue to it. He might be wary of Grey's strength, but that didn't mean he was afraid of him.

"Oh, the Crowned Prince," Grey muttered while still approaching the group.

"If I may ask, what did he do?" He stopped a couple of meters away from the group before asking with a smile.

"This is something that involves the Crowned Prince, if you're sensible, you wouldn't ask any more questions and be on your way," The leader replied coldly.

"You see, I'm a very nosy and curious person. Whenever I see something, I really want to know what it is, especially something like this," Grey said with a shrug before taking a step forward.

Boom!

"That's a warning, take another step and it will be your last," The leader declared standing straight.

"Oh, an Inscriber," Grey exclaimed softly before taking another step.

"You see, I'm more of an Inscriber myself," He said before spreading out both arms.

Two red symbols lit up in the sky and small fireballs shot out of the symbols, heading straight for the group.

"What?!" The leader was dumbstruck when he saw the symbols mid-air.

Inscription has always been his unique weapon, yet even after training for years, he still isn't able to make more than one symbol. Seeing this stranger make two so casually caused a wave of jealousy to arouse in his heart.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The group separated to dodge Grey's attack.

"Now that's what you call a warning shot. Also, stop staring as if you've seen a ghost. You didn't think you were the only Inscriber, did you?" Grey asked with a mocking smile while walking forward.

"Hmph! Don't blame me for being ruthless," The leader snorted angrily before commanding, "You two, take care of him. We'll deal with this nosy guy."

He didn't forget about Reynolds. They had already worn him out, it would be a shame if he escaped after their hard work.

Two of the ladies turned to face Reynolds who was still sitting on the ground, leaving Grey to the leader, Johanne, and the last young man in the group.

"This isn't too good, I mean, I don't want people to say I bullied you. How about this, call those two to attack me as well," Grey jeered at the group.

'Hey bud, are you ready now?' He asked Void who was currently back at his previous lying position on top of a rock.

'No, opening so many space tunnels at the same time to block their attacks is exhausting,' Void replied tiredly.

When he helped Reynolds previously, he thought he was going to block at most two attacks, but who would've known that the moment Reynolds realized he was helping, he would stop defending. This forced him to open multiple space tunnels to block the attacks.

This was a very strenuous task for a Space Elementalist, and it requires a large amount of spiritual energy to maintain it. Had Grey not come at the time he did, then if the group attacked again, he wasn't sure he could block off all of them.

'Crap! How do you expect me to beat them?' Grey couldn't help but ask.

'I'll need a few minutes to rest.' Void replied blandly.

Grey cursed inside but maintained a straight face while staring at the group. With Void out, for now, he needed to draw the whole group to himself, he could tell Reynolds was even more tired so it would be hard for him to defend himself.

The leader of the group attacked straight away with the others. The two young ladies who were both Fire Elementalists attacked Reynolds at the same time as well.

"*Sigh* It's been a while I fought, time to see how much I've improved," Grey sighed before casually stretching both hands forward.

Boom!

What followed was an intense energy wave with Grey at the center, the energy wave kicked up wind and dust in the area. Just as the group's attacks were about to close in on him, he vanished from his spot with a lightning shadow taking his place for a fragment of a second before disappearing.

Bam!

A human figure was launched into the air, followed by an ear-piercing scream.

Bang!

The figure fell heavily on the ground in front of the group of three whose attacks just landed on the ground.

"Huh!" The leader exclaimed in confusion.

When the dust died down, he was shocked to see the body of one of the young ladies who was supposed to attack Reynolds.

He looked in Reynolds' direction and saw the other young lady was impaled by a lightning sword which was on Grey's hand.

Grey pulled out the sword and the lightning around it died down. This was one of the few good elemental weapons he got from Aetonth's cave.

He stretched his body while the young lady's corpse fell to the ground with a 'Thud'.

"How... how... did... he moved so fast?" Johanne asked in dread.

It hadn't even been up to thirty seconds since they attacked, yet two people from their group were already dead. They even died before their attacks got to the target.

What sort of terrifying monster had they encountered?

"*Sigh* I've gotten rusty after so long," Grey shook his head in disappointment.

The group looked at him in terror when they heard this comment.

"Showoff," Reynolds said with a smile.