## Affinity 331



He had tried to recall the feeling of being sucked by that mysterious force, but it still hasn't been enough to trigger it. Now, he plans to go deeper, and he knows just the place to think about.

When he was being chased by frogs and lizards after acquiring the multi-elemental blade, he entered a place where he traveled through space for a while. That was the perfect place for him to recall.



'What do you want to do?' Void asked worriedly.

'There's no way I can go through it since I'm more than four times wider than you, I just want to place my hand inside to feel how it's like there,' Grey replied.

'That's a bit too dangerous, a lot of things could go wrong with it. First of all, if you've noticed, I don't open space tunnels in a single position, I move from one location to another,'

'The reason for this is because sometimes, there are things that might disrupt the stability of a space tunnel when it's opened in a particular spot for too long. Secondly, I'm not adept enough to properly control it. After reaching Rank five, then I'll have an even bigger control, by then, I wouldn't have any problems with taking you along,' Void explained.

'Don't worry, I'll make it quick,' Grey said.

'Fine, I'll hold it for as long as I can. Try not to leave your hand in there for too long, if the tunnel closes with part of your hand still inside, it's gone,' Void warned after agreeing.

He could see how desperate Grey was for this, so he couldn't say no.

Their conversation didn't take more than five seconds since communicating with their minds was faster than when speaking out.

'I can still sense the feeling, but just barely. If this works, then I'll be able to get the space element,' Grey thought while clenching his fists.

"Open it," He said to Void.

Void nodded before stretching out his small paw.

A black hole opened, around twelve inches wide.

Grey took in a deep breath before placing his left hand inside the hole.

As soon as his hand touched the hole, it effortlessly slipped into it.

'Huh! This feeling, it's almost like there's nothing there,' He thought.

With his eyes closed, he tried to engross himself in the feeling he was getting from his left hand. He even moved all his spiritual sense into the hand to get the best feeling of it.

After sending his spiritual sense towards his hands for a clearer understanding, he completely shut out the outside world. In this state, he had zero knowledge of what was going on in the outside world. Even communicating with Void would be difficult, but not impossible.

But because he wanted to employ his full focus on the space element, he decided to shut him out as well. It would be annoying if he were close to it, and Void suddenly spoke to him, distracting him.

Two minutes later.

'Grey, I can't hold on much longer,' Void said shakily.

'Grey,' He called out again, only to be met by deaf ears.

'Crap! He had shut out everything, does he really think he would be able to comprehend it before I wear out? Damn it! He's purposely putting me under pressure!' Void complained before forcing himself to hold on much longer.

He could frequently travel with it since the difficulty of going from one location to another was inferior to when keeping a single space tunnel active. If he could enforce it with arrays just like the one to the trial land, then he wouldn't be bothered.

Now, it was all up to luck, and how long Void could last. If he could last long enough before Grey comprehends the space element, then they win, if he couldn't, then Grey would become a mindless person since his spiritual sense would be lost in the space tunnel along with his hand.

## Chapter 332 - Resolve!

While Void was complaining, Grey was trying his best to comprehend the space element. He didn't get much from just sending only his hand into the space tunnel, but adding his spiritual sense made up for it.

But doing this increased the danger, and he is fully aware of it. If he doesn't pull out his hand before the space tunnel collapses, then he would lose his mind, literally.

Losing the part of the body where the spiritual sense lies would render one mindless. The spiritual sense of each Elementalist contains the consciousness of the Elementalist. If for example, an Elementalist places their spiritual sense in a space tunnel just like this one and the tunnel collapses, then there's no way of sending it back to the body.

Without the consciousness in the body, one's mind would revert back to when they were just born, only this time, they wouldn't grow mentally.

Grey decided to take the risk because he knew rewards only come with risks. It was just his time in the trial land, without taking the risks he took, he wouldn't be where he is right now.

Going to the trial land was a risk on its own as well.

The other reason he decided to do this was also due to the risk factor as well. Once he's conscious of the fact that he might die if he doesn't comprehend the space element quickly, he feels he might be able to get it.

It has been proven that human potential is far more active when it comes to life and death scenarios. Although, he is well aware that not all scenarios end well.

'I can feel the space element slowly filling my mind, the longer I stay here, the clearer it becomes,' Grey thought while lost in a daze.

The only thing in his mind right now was the space element, it got to the extent that he even forgot the danger he was currently in as he embraced the feeling he was getting from the space element.

While Grey was lost in comprehending the space element, Void on the other hand was having a difficult time hanging on.

'Shit! He better prepare something good for me after this or else we're done!' Void complained after two more minutes went by.

If not for the fact that he knew Grey's life would be in danger, he would've already stopped this by now. He was presently only hanging on with sheer willpower.

Just when he thought things were bad, things turned worse when he looked at Grey.

'Fuck me!' He yelled, staggering with frightened eyes.

Around Grey, spatial distortions could be seen. This would've been good since it meant Grey was starting to have good contact with the space element. But in their current state, it wasn't just bad, it was the worst possible thing that could happen.

These spatial distortions would quickly disrupt the flow of space in the room, easily shattering the spatial tunnel Void currently has set up.

If the tunnel were to collapse, Void might still be able to find the coordinates and retrieve Grey's hand, thereby reuniting him with his spiritual sense which is in the hand. But if the spatial tunnel shatters, it would destroy everything in it.

'Shit! Shit! Shit! I might die as well if this continues any further,' Void almost felt like crying.

The spatial distortions around Grey were starting to grow bigger and covering a wider range.

Void hastily set up another spatial tunnel to counter the distortions that were appearing close to the tunnel Grey's hand was in.

'Damn it!' He complained as he stared at Grey with gritted teeth.

His vision was already starting to get blurry from over-exertion, but he was forcing himself to stay awake. If he fails to hold on, then Grey would most likely die.

What is currently stopping the spatial distortions right now from destroying Grey's body is because he currently has some connection with the space element. If it were to be someone else, then the person would already be dead.

If Void falls asleep and the spatial tunnel closes, then the link between Grey and the space element would be broken. This will allow the distortions to destroy him.

One more minute went by, and Void could barely see what was around him. His eyes were already drowsy, and standing was already starting to become difficult.

'I... have to... hang on... just a... longer,' He pushed himself.

His consciousness was already starting to fade, but he couldn't give up on Grey. He didn't dare to.

As it stands, he had already pushed himself far beyond his limits. Right now, he could even say he was at his limit's limit. He didn't even know if that made sense, but that was how he was currently feeling.

Void was not only trying to keep himself awake, but he also has to focus on stopping the distortions that were headed towards the spatial tunnel, as well as the ones heading his way.

Void could barely hang on, while Grey was getting a better feeling of the space element as his consciousness stayed in the tunnel a little longer.

He could feel the space element was in his grasp, all he had to do is pull and it would be his. But the space element was being more stubborn than he expected. 'I will comprehend you this time, no matter what!' Grey thought while pushing his spiritual sense further into the spatial tunnel, away from the protection of his hand. When the spiritual sense left his hand, it was immediately hit by a wave of unknown energy, almost destroying it. 'Haha, yes, yes, a little more,' He laughed as he pushed it deeper into the tunnel. The energy wave struck his spiritual sense once again, harder, pushing it further back. After being hit again by the energy wave, Grey's starting bleeding from his mouth and nose on his physical body. His spiritual sense was getting damaged from the attacks from the energy wave, but he refused to give up. 'I will move further, no matter what it takes!' 'I will hold on longer, even if it kills me!' Grey and Void said at the same time.

Chapter 333 - Just A Little Further

Inside the spatial tunnel.

Grey's spiritual sense has been hit over and over again, but he keeps on pushing further.
It was already starting to grow faint.
'Just a little more, a little further,'
He kept telling himself the same thing after being assaulted by the energy wave. One time, two times, three times, it went on and on, he couldn't even keep count.
His physical body was already starting to bleed from his eyes and ears as well. Void was shaking violently, the spatial distortions around them were not just increasing, but they were also growing stronger.
Void was already on his last legs, keeping the spatial tunnel for this long was already starting to have an effect on his core, a bad one. But he couldn't bring himself to stop it.
It has been only five minutes, but Void felt like it has been years. These five minutes currently felt longer than the almost one year he had been living.
'I can't go on anymore,' He thought shakingly.
His thoughts were currently a mess, he couldn't even see what was going on around him. His senses were the only thing telling him about what was happening, and that too was starting to fade.
'Please, stop,' He called out to Grey unconsciously.
He was literally on the verge of losing it, but Grey's consciousness was still inside the spatial tunnel.
A minute more went by, and his senses started losing the last bit of what was left.

'I'm sorry, even if I want to hold on, I can't,' Void said to Grey weakly, his voice growing fainter towards the end of his statement.
Thud!
Void collapsed on the ground.
As soon as he collapsed, the spatial tunnel Grey's hand was inside started flickering. This was the last Void could do, even before going out, he still instilled his will on the spatial tunnel to last a little longer.
In the spatial tunnel.
Grey's spiritual sense was only left with a small faint flickering light, it was so small that it was barely visible.
'Further, I need to go further,'
This was the only statement his mind was resonating to himself.
The spatial tunnel suddenly shook, after shaking, the energy wave which was heading towards Grey's faint, flickering spiritual sense multiplied in strength by at least five times. As it was charging at Grey's spiritual sense, the spatial tunnel was shaking violently.
Boom!
The energy wave hit? Grey's spiritual energy fiercely, but this time, the small faint spiritual sense wasn't pushed back, instead, it continued advancing.
Rumble!

The spatial tunnel continued shaking, but the spiritual sense kept moving forward. Ahead of the spiritual sense, a light could be seen.
'I just need to go further, just a little bit more,'
Grey repeated as he continued moving forward.
His spiritual sense continued moving closer to the light, but the tremors in the spatial tunnel increased. Spatial distortions could be seen on some parts of the tunnel.
'No, no, I just need a little more,'
Grey complained when he noticed the spatial tunnel was slowly starting to fall apart. If he turned around now, there's at least a seventy percent chance that he would be able to get back to his hand and then exit the place since he would be able to move faster when going back.
'No, not after all I've done, and and Void, how's he doing?'
He was barely conscious, but he could tell the only reason the spatial tunnel was falling apart was that Void must have most likely lost consciousness.
With the addition of the spatial distortions, the energy wave's power increased once again, by two folds.
'Ah! I refuse to let our hard work go in vain,' Grey yelled and continued pushing forward.
What he was currently doing was like a child going against the current of a huge waterfall. The current was pushing him, but he refused to back down.
The spatial tunnel continued falling apart, as more spatial distortions appeared in the tunnel.
Lenz villa.

Gerald was sitting in his office casually, speaking with three people.

"The roads are getting increasingly dangerous for the merchants, and the mercenaries seem to be charging higher now for escorting the caravans," The lady in the group reported.

"Hmm, I'll send someone to go check out the route. If possible," Gerald suddenly stopped talking and looked in the direction of the secret room Grey was staying in.

'Huh? What's the feeling?' He asked himself before standing up.

"Wait here, I'll be back shortly," He said before walking out of the office.

After stepping out of his office, he saw Diluc outside with a worried expression.

"You also sensed it?" He asked.

Diluc nodded with a serious expression.

"What could he be doing? Even I feel threatened by what I'm currently sensing," Gerald said while walking out of the building his office was in, heading to where Grey was located.

Given his cultivation stage, there is only one thing that could threaten him, and that was a Sage Plane Elementalist. He didn't think the Emperor would send a Sage Plane expert after Grey.

But he couldn't think of anything that Grey could do that would be able to threaten him.

"\*Sigh\* This kid is trouble, the sooner he leaves, the safer I will feel. I dreamt he died while he was here, and Chris chased me all over the continent before killing me," Gerald trembled when he recalled the dream.

He knew how unreasonable Chris could be, even if he showed him proof that he tried keeping his student safe, he would still blame him.

Diluc sent a glance Gerald's way. He could tell he was traumatized by the thought of making Chris angry. He had heard of Chris from Gerald, but he had never seen him before.

"Don't worry master Gerald, I don't think anything will happen to the boy," He consoled him.

This was the best he could do right now.

They got to the place that led to the secret room within a minute, before pushing the mechanism that hid the door that led to the room.

Chapter 334 - Damaged Consciousness

Rumble!

The secret passage opened before the duo disappeared inside.

"Huh? It stopped?" Gerald paused and looked in Diluc's direction while they were still in the stairway leading to the room.

"I can't sense him," Diluc said.

Gerald's pupils shrunk when he heard this and he quickly tried to sense if Grey was in the room, but his expression worsened. He couldn't find anyone in the room with his spiritual senses.

There was no way Grey could hide his aura from someone like him. This meant only two things, either Grey was dead, or he was not in the room.

But they sensed him while they were rushing here, even after they opened the passage they still felt him in the room. So there's no way he left the room.

That leaves them with only one possibility, Grey was dead.
"Impossible," Gerald muttered before sprinting towards the door.
He felt his life was attached to Grey's life while Grey was here. If Grey died under his custody, then he was most likely a goner.
Slam!
He didn't bother to knock, with a wave of his hand, the door shattered immediately.
"What?!"
Gerald and Diluc exclaimed simultaneously when they looked inside the room.
"Im impossible," Diluc was the one to mutter to himself this time.
In the center of the room, Grey could be seen sitting in a crossed leg position, wearing a silver shirt and blue pants. The room was perfectly arranged as it had always been whenever they came to see him.
Grey opened his eyes to look at the duo who just shattered the door.
When the duo looked into his eyes, it was like it was sucking them into the boundless space. This feeling stunned the two Overlord Plane experts, this was something they have never felt before.
"You know you could just knock, right?" Grey asked while holding a piece of the shattered wood that shot his way when Gerald destroyed the door.

Gerald and Diluc looked at each other, it was as if they were staring at a ghost. Even after coming into the room, they still can't sense Grey's aura or presence.

"Phew... Thank the stars you're alright," Gerald breathed out a sigh of relief.

He didn't even want to ask what Grey was doing in the room, as long as Grey was alive and alright, nothing else mattered.

Diluc looked at Grey suspiciously, on seeing that Gerald refused to ask him what he was doing, he also refrained from asking as well.

Gerald stayed for a few more minutes, asking about Grey's well-being.

Grey didn't know if Gerald genuinely cared about him, or was just scared of his Teacher. It was only when Gerald wanted to leave did he get his answer.

"So... when will you be leaving?" Gerald turned around to ask just as he was about to leave.

"Soon, in a day or two," Grey replied calmly.

"Okay," Gerald nodded before turning around, just as he was about to leave.

"Uhmm, can I have a moment alone with you?" Grey suddenly called out.

Gerald paused, looked at him, before nodding to Diluc.

Diluc understood what he meant and immediately left the room, leaving the duo alone.

After confirming Diluc was gone, Grey pulled out Void from his shirt.

"Huh? What's that?" Gerald asked unconsciously, taking a step forward, "A cat, how strange,"

"Can you find out if he's fine? He's alive, but he isn't responding to anything," Grey said in a low voice while gently handing Void over to Gerald.

Gerald took Void from him and noticed Grey's hands were shaking after he passed Void to him.

'Hmm, so this is the cat they spoke about,' He thought while looking at Void.

He naturally knew about Void after doing his research on Void. When they told him about it, he felt overwhelmed by it. For a cat to be able to block the attack of a Peak Origin Plane Elementalists while being in the Early stages of the Origin Plane was unbelievable.

He always found it strange that he hadn't seen Void with Grey since Grey came to him, making him a little skeptical.

"What happened to it?" Gerald asked Grey.

"Him, not it, his name's Void and he's not something you can address as it," Grey snapped when he heard Gerald addressing Void like he was an object.

"I'm sorry, what happened to him?" Gerald was a little taken aback by Grey's sudden outburst, but on seeing his expression, he could tell he wasn't alright.

"He overexerted himself while helping me. Can... can you help him?" Grey said, guilt very evident in his words.

"Wait, let me check his condition," Gerald said.

A few minutes later, Gerald opened his eyes, looking at Grey.

"What exactly did he do?" He asked, but after being met without any reply, he added, "\*Sigh\* His physical condition is fine, but his consciousness is damaged. Whatever he was helping you with, he literally damaged himself just to make sure you did whatever you wanted,"

Grey clenched his fist when he heard Gerald's analysis, he didn't expect it to be this bad.

"Is there a way to help him?" He asked with a shaky voice.

"To be honest, it's going to be difficult. What you'll need is a natural treasure that has the effect of improving spiritual senses. That should be able to help mend his damaged consciousness," Gerald replied.

Grey felt a little better on hearing there's a way to help Void. This was all he wanted to find out about, so hearing it made him grateful.

"These treasures are very rare, and I haven't heard of anyone finding one in years," Gerald said to Grey, quickly waking him back to reality.

"I'll find it," Grey said confidently.

He didn't care where the treasure was, as long as it would heal Void, he'll find it.

Gerald shook his head wryly, "A lot of people say that, it's only after they start the journey do they find out that it's not as easy as it sounds,"

"I'm not like them, I'll find it. No matter where it is," Grey eyes gleamed with determination.

"Fine, then I'll give you a heads up, the only place you can find it is in the al beasts forest. That's the only place it has ever been reported to be seen," Gerald said after seeing how determined he looked.

Chapter 335 - Space Element

"Okay, thank you," Grey bowed, showing his gratitude.

"No problem. Just another reminder, there's also a possibility that he might heal without it. But the chances of that are very slim," Gerald added before walking out.

After Gerald left the room, Grey created a wall to block the space where the door used to be.

'Hmm, I didn't expect it would take me that long,' He thought, feeling remorseful.

He looked at Void with a sad smile, he had finally comprehended the space element, but at what cost?

"\*Sigh\* I was too rash, I should've come out when I noticed how difficult it was. Maybe he would've been fine if I came out sooner," He muttered while caressing Void's fur.

While he was inside, he knew the longer he stayed in the tunnel, the harder it was for Void to keep it up. But he couldn't help it, the space element was just at his fingertips, he couldn't lose it. He didn't want to lose it.

'Will the tonic be able to help him? I recalled he said it could heal someone that was on death's door,' He suddenly recalled about the healing tonic he got from the blooming vipers.

Without wasting any time, he quickly took out one of the bottles from his spatial ring, before feeding it to Void.

He waited patiently as the tonic went through Void's mouth, into his body.

After five minutes, there were no reactions from Void.

From the looks of it, it seems like it only works on the physical body, and not the consciousness. The consciousness of any creature is a very complex entity. Although he felt the chances of the tonic helping were slim, he did feel a little hopeful when he recalled how it helped him the last time.

"I need to start moving, the sooner I head to the al beast forest, the better," He muttered before standing up.

With Void injured, he didn't have the time to sit around and mope. The best thing to do now is to find a way to heal him.

His current plan remains like before, only this time, he was in a hurry.

Grey picked up the robe from the side of the bed before putting it on. He came out of the secret room and headed straight to Gerald's office.

On getting there, Gerald was still discussing with the people who came, but when he noticed Grey's presence outside, he excused himself from the office.

"Thank you for your help throughout the time I was here, I'll be leaving now," Grey bowed to him as soon as he saw him.

"You're leaving?" Gerald asked to confirm.

"Yes, I need to head to the al beast forest as soon as possible," Grey didn't hide the motive of him leaving.

"Going there alone is dangerous, but it would help you advance quicker," Gerald didn't try to stop him.

Grey threw the communication device he got from him back, before turning around.

"Here, you should keep it. If you're in any location where there's a merchant organization, I might be able to help," Gerald gave the device back to him.

"Thank you," Grey took it and started walking away again.

He would go visit Alice, before heading to give Reynolds one of the communication devices. Klaus would be the last of them to get the device, but before leaving, he wanted to make an array close to Frost City.

According to the disc, if he wanted to meet Klaus after giving Reynolds the device, then he would need to pass through Frost City again. Either that or he had to go around, and he didn't have that time.

Grey left the Lens villa and hurried over to where the Reiss family villa was located. He had gotten the information of how to sneak into the secret room from Void, so he wasn't too bothered.

After getting to the Reiss villa's wall, his body flashed twice before he disappeared.

The next moment, he appeared on the other side of the wall, silently.

'So, this is the feeling,' Grey stared at his hand.

This was his first time moving through a space tunnel he created. Not just that, it was completely different from the array they used. The time frame in moving from one location to another was faster, this could be attributed to the fact that where he was going was closer.

He looked around, 'There, there, and there,'

Void had studied the movements and locations of each guard, which he later told Grey.

Grey easily moved through the villa like it was his backyard thanks to Void's detailed explanation.

Ten minutes later.

In a secret room inside the Reiss villa.

Alice could be seen lying on the bed leisurely with her legs hanging out of the end of the bed. She was wearing a casual knee-length shirt with white pair of pants.





He would create the array close by, then connect it with the one he was going to make wherever
Reynolds was located. That way, he could easily travel here from that side without bothering about the
time he would need.

"Oh, how convenient," Alice exclaimed in awe.

"Yeah, I'm sorry I can't stay long. I'll visit when I come back," Grey said with a smile.

"Okay," Alice nodded.

Grey hugged her before vanishing from the room.

He followed Alice's directions and quickly made his way into her father's room. The essence stones were kept under his bed, but it wasn't too difficult for him to collect them.

After keeping them, he snuck out of the villa.

'Crap! The consumption is outrageous!' He almost screamed out after leaving the villa.

Now he understood why Void didn't use it all the time. He didn't use the space element for too long, but he was already feeling tired from it. After experiencing this, he felt even more guilt when he recalled how he made Void open the tunnel for a long time.

He slowly headed towards the exit of the city. There was a stable close to the city gate, so he went to buy one horse since he couldn't walk to where Reynolds was located.

He didn't know if Reynolds was in Eternal City, or if he had left the city since he was currently hiding.

After getting the horse, he rode to the forest close to Frost City, searching for a secret place where he could make the array.

He found a hidden cave after a while and immediately got to work.

When they used the array to get into the trial land the last time, he picked up a few things from the array when it lit up.

Now with his expanded knowledge of arrays, he was trying to make one by himself.

Chapter 336 - First Try!

"Hmm, I'll need to try out a small scale teleportation array, before going for the big one," Grey said while looking at the empty cave.

He hadn't made one before, so he couldn't simply make one here then head to Eternal City, hoping it would work.

He brought out a piece of paper and a brush and ink and started drawing array lines on them.

Before trying them on the ground, he had the habit of first drawing the array lines on a piece of paper. He wouldn't be working with what others had previously made like for the communication device, instead, he would be trying to integrate his space element into a movement array.

This is an array that, as its name suggests, boosts the speed of the one who makes it or a selected few while they are in the array. It's usually an array that covers a large area. This array is mostly used in wars.

After completing the movement array on the piece of paper, he started searching for ways to modify it so he could integrate the space element into it.

'Should I try it without modification?' He thought with his hand rubbing his chin.

After a few minutes, he decided to try it out. There are different ways to integrate the space element into the array, so he quickly started trying it out.

First of all, he would get the coordinates of the spatial nodes of this place, then infuse them into the array.

Once he's done with that, he would go to the last step, activating the array. Although there's no destination for now, he wasn't disturbed by that, what mattered was that the array worked.

Grey sat crossed leg with the piece of paper before him. After calming his mind, he started feeling the space around him. When he closed his eyes, it was like he was standing in the boundless space, around him were multiple nodes connecting like an intricate array.

He slowly started searching for the nodes, and after a few seconds, he located them. It wasn't that hard to locate since it was shining brighter than the rest.

After locating it, he slowly started trying to infuse the node into the array. It took him five minutes before he managed to complete it.

"Damn!" Grey exclaimed as soon as he was done.

He was currently sweating profusely, infusing the nodes wasn't too difficult, but it took a toll on him.

As a result of not resting after using the space element repeatedly in the Reiss family, he was almost completely exhausted.

Grey looked at the array on the paper, "Well, it's time to try it."

He brought out a single essence stone and tried activating the array.

The lines on the paper lit up, accompanied by the essence stone Grey placed on it.

Grey sensed the space element revolving around the array which surprised him. He expected for it to at least have some issues, but it seemed to be working fine, or so he thought.

Without further ado, he tried to see if it could transport something to another location.

He took out the second paper, and hastily infused another spatial node on it, a node that was in the same cave.

After completing the second one, his face was completely pale, and he knew after this experiment, he needed to rest.

He left the first paper in its original position, while he moved the other one a little further away from it.

"Phew! Here goes nothing."

Grey picked up a rock by the side, and just as he turned to the first paper, he noticed it was no longer lighting.

'It's completely exhausted the essence stone within such a small timeframe?' He was left flabbergasted by the consumption.

Everything about the space element seems to yell high consumption to him. It didn't take him up to three minutes to complete the array and infuse the space element on the paper, yet the array on the first paper had completely exhausted the essence stone.

One has to remember that this was a small-scale array. Grey couldn't help but shiver at the thought of the essence stones he'd need for the large-scale array.

'Luckily, I took quite a lot.' He smiled slightly as he tapped on his spatial ring, taking out another essence stone.

Only one of the arrays needs to be activated for them to work, so he didn't need to place any essence stone on the other paper.

After placing the essence stone on the paper, the array lit up once again when he activated it. He hastily threw the rock in the paper.

As soon as the rock came in contact with the array, the array shone brighter, engulfing the rock. A few seconds later, Grey saw the other paper lighting up.

After the light died down, he saw the rock on the other paper.

"Haha, success on the first try!" Grey laughed out unconsciously.

Given his previous luck whenever it came to things that had to do with research and experiment, he thought he might need to at least try it up to five or six times before he would succeed. He never expected to be successful right off the bat, this was a first for him, and he felt genuinely happy.

Had Void not been injured, then he would've been extremely happy.

'Time to rest, if I stay up any longer I might not be able to move properly for the next day,' Grey thought before sitting down cross-legged.

He had gotten used to always meditating whenever he was tired.

Before he started his experiment, he made some detection arrays around the cave. That way if someone wanted to sneak in, he would be alerted and prepare himself for whoever was coming.

He quickly went into a semi-conscious state, recovering the essence he used while making the array.

Six hours later.

Grey opened his eyes and looked around. The cave was dimly lit, indicating it was already dark outside.

'Hmm, I didn't check the elemental grade for the space element.' He suddenly recalled and closed his eyes once again, heading into the Chaos Space.

Chapter 337 - Town Of Mercenaries

Grey's consciousness entered the Chaos Space. Since comprehending the darkness element, and increasing its grade, he hadn't come here often.

After entering, he looked around, and just like he expected, a new zone had appeared in the Chaos Space. It was the zone for the space element.

His gaze stayed on the zone for the space element for a little while before switching his gaze to the mountain where the temple resided.

He soon appeared on the temple, heading for the rock in the middle. He placed his hand on the stone, and just like usual, an energy moved into his body before going round and going back to the stone.

A few seconds later, seven colors lit up on the stone.

'Seven elements, heh, to think a few years ago I had none,' Grey thought when he saw the seven colors on the rock.

He didn't look at the rest since he already knew their elemental grades. There were two blacks in the stone, but the one which took his attention was the one which seemed like it was drawing someone into it the longer they stared at it.

When he looked closer, he was surprised to see a small purple light in the middle.

"Purple! It jumped right through two grades," Grey exclaimed on seeing the results of the test.

After comprehending an element, he usually starts from the first elemental grade, but slowly grinding it to higher grades, or using natural treasures.

Although, there had been one case where his elemental grade didn't start from pink, that was when he comprehended the water element. He was already close to comprehending the water element at that time, so after using the water heart pulse he acquired from the crocodile which had black lightning back at the trial land, it went up to the orange grade as soon as he comprehended it.

'Hmm, could it be because of the energy waves I had to endure?' He asked himself a little confused.

That was the only thing he could think of which could improve the elemental grade of the space element after comprehending it.

His excitement quickly died down and he left the Chaos Space. For some reason, he couldn't bring himself to be excited because of the space element. Whenever he thinks about his success, he'd recall how his actions hurt Void.

"\*Sigh\* After waking him up, then I'll be able to celebrate," Grey sighed.

"Wait, if it's already purple and the consumption is this high, how would it feel like if it were in the pink grade? Come to think of it, I never checked the elemental grades for Void's element," He thought out loud.

Since Void hatched, he never thought of checking his elemental grade. Maybe it was because he had never actually heard of people checking the elemental grades of magical beasts before.

It was after seeing the elemental grade of his space element did the thought come to him. If his elemental grade was purple yet the consumption was that high within that short time, then how high was Void's since he could use it for longer?

'I'll find out when he wakes up, for now, it's time to make the array,' Grey quickly threw the thought to the back of his head.

There was no need brooding over it when Void's asleep. Once he gets the treasure and wakes him up, then he'll find a way to check his elemental grades.

With the help of the array he drew on the paper, it didn't take him long to draw the array, nor find the spatial nodes. The only part that was harder was actually trying to integrate the space element into the array since it was bigger.

For almost thirty minutes, he was done with the array.

This was the first teleportation array in the entire continent, well, except for the one that led to the trial land, and probably more that are unknown to the people living in the continent.

After completing the array, Grey was once again exhausted, but this time, he was better compared to the first time.

'I'll rest for the night,'

Since it was already dark, there was no need to start the journey. He'll wait till it's bright before setting out.

The next morning.

Grey quickly left the cave, making sure to seal it completely. He not only sealed the opening with his earth element, but he also created an array around it.

With the help of a few essence stones, the array would be able to last for at least a month if someone who's proficient in arrays didn't break it, or someone in the Overlord Plane.

He also made precautions around the teleportation array, just in case someone managed to break into the cave. Without him activating it from the other side, there's no way others would know about it.

This was possible with the help of the space element. Now he knew how Void was able to hide from experts in the Overlord Plane without being caught.

With everything set, he started his journey back to Eternal City. It had been just around two months since he left Eternal City, now he was heading back.

Twelve days later.

"Hmm, this isn't Eternal City," Grey muttered while looking at the city gates before him.

He followed the route to Eternal City, but he forgot some of the paths, so he brought out the disc to use it to track Reynolds. But on getting to where Reynolds' light was coming from, it wasn't Eternal City.

This city was smaller, even smaller than Red City. Grey guessed it was most likely a small town.

There were multiple people coming and going at the gate of the city. Most of their expressions looked serious, and Grey could sense bloodlust from some of them.

'This must be a mercenary town,' He thought.

He had heard of these places, it's a town built and owned by mercenaries. A guild was created by some merchants and mercenaries some years ago, Grey didn't think it had already grown to become this big.

After looking at the gate once more, he walked forward.

Chapter 338 - Lightning Tree

After walking into the town, Grey headed for the Inn that wasn't far from the gates. Whenever he enters a new city or town, he has built the habit of first finding out what's happening in the place before doing whatever brought him to the place.

The inn he picked looked a little shady, the plaque that the name of the inn was written in was hanging vertically by the side of the inn, swinging from side to side.

On entering the inn, he noticed it was filled with people, there were only about two empty seats or so. He calmly walked over to one and took a seat.

As soon as he sat down, he overheard the conversation of the group sitting on the next table.

"\*Sigh\* Over half of the group was wiped out," A middle-aged man sighed with a sad look.

"Damn that guy! He gave us false information, I'll kill him!" Another man said angrily.

"Yeah! If not for him, then we wouldn't have gone there in the first place," A slightly younger man said.

Grey turned his head to look at the table, there were six people sitting around the table, there were four men in the group, the other two were ladies. Of the men, three looked middle-aged, the last one was younger, looking to be in his mid-twenties.

The two young ladies also looked to be in their mid-twenties.

"Heh! No one sent you guys there, you went on your own free will," A man from the next table scoffed.

"Who called you into this?" One of the men from the first group yelled angrily, standing up.

The rest of the people in the group immediately stood up to confront the other group.

The inn went silent as the two groups attracted the attention of everyone.

Grey, who was sitting close to them stared at the group curiously, he tilted his head to look at a young man sitting not too far from there.

The young man had a robe on, just like him. The lower part of his face was visible, and he could see him smirking while looking at the group that were in a heated quarrel.

The young man suddenly sensed something and looked in Grey's direction. Grey turned his head after seeing that the young man noticed he was looking at him.

'Hmm, a treasure,' Grey thought to himself.

Had Void been fine, then he wouldn't mind finding out what this treasure was. But now, he doesn't have the time to spare.

Grey waited for a little longer, and other than the group who quarreled about the treasure, there was nothing else. All he heard the other people talking about was also the rumors of a treasure.

According to the people, a lightning tree appeared at the heart of the Chimera forest. This forest has been ruled by a brutal Chimera for hundreds of years. The Chimera is said to be in the Overlord Plane, and because of the uniqueness of the magical beast, it was extremely difficult to handle.

Luckily, it had stopped getting involved with humans, even when they entered its territory. The only time it attacks is whenever its interest is threatened.

According to what was said, the reason it stopped attacking humans was because after a tough battle with multiple experts, they decided to call a truce. The Chimera would stop attacking people as long as they did not do anything against the rules it set.

Surprisingly, the Chimera didn't say a lot. It only said it wouldn't attack if it's interest was not threatened. At first, the experts thought they made a good deal, it was only after a few years did they find out that the Chimera had a lot of interests.

After a few hundred years, they managed to find most of them.

The Chimera hasn't shown any interest in the lightning tree yet, so some people felt they might be able to acquire it before it develops any interest in it.

A lightning tree forms after a tree has been struck multiple times by lightning. There are a lot of requirements before a tree would successfully turn into a lightning tree. First of all, it has to be extremely strong, not like the average tree.

Most trees would be destroyed from a single strike from a lightning bolt. The second requirement was the age of the tree, it would get to at least three hundred years before there would be any chances of it turning into a lightning tree.

With each strike from the lightning, the previously huge tree will slowly start shrinking. If the tree was initially over one hundred meters, it would reduce to just half a meter in height, with a thickness of a few inches.

Experts say the tree goes through a refining process after each strike, but it hasn't really been verified since no one has ever witnessed this event take place.

Grey walked out of the inn, ahead of him was the young man he saw in the inn while the group were quarreling with the other group.

The young man suddenly stopped and walked his way.

"Excuse me, but can I interest you with a deal?" He said to Grey.

Grey stopped and glanced at the young man, "Sorry, I'm not interested,"

After speaking, he started walking once again.

"You're not someone simple, so I'll go straight to the point. The lightning tree was found by me and my group, but there's a strong Lightning Leopard guarding it. It seems to be waiting to refine it."

"Since you were able to notice me back in the inn, I know you're powerful. And besides, I can't seem to see through your Plane," The young man chased after Grey and continued persuading.

"I don't recall looking at you," Grey replied nonchalantly.

"I'm willing to split it with you," The young man said.

"Like I said, I'm not interested, good day." Grey didn't change his mind and continued walking away.

Even if he wanted to hunt for the treasure, he had no plans of going with the young man. Firstly, the young man must be the one the group were talking about.

While he was in the inn, he sensed the Cultivation Planes of the group who were complaining, and he noticed that other than the two young ladies and the young man, the three middle-aged men were all at the Peak of the Origin Plane.

If over half of such a group could be wiped out, why would the young man who was in the Seventh stage of the Origin Plane want to team up with him to hunt for the treasure.

'He's purposely spreading the rumor of the lightning tree. If my hypothesis is correct, it means he knew I wouldn't team up with him. He doesn't plan on going in the first place.' Grey thought while walking in the busy street of the town.

He walked to a hidden spot in the town before taking out the disc. After looking at the distance between his light and Reynolds' light, he calculated the direction Reynolds light was coming from before going in the direction.

It took him twenty minutes, but he finally stopped at a two story building.

"It's coming from here, I'll find out what this place is before heading in." He muttered while looking at the front of the building.

He walked a bit further into the street before stopping at a small shop. After asking around, he found out that the building was surprisingly the headquarters of the guild.

'Hmm, what's Reynolds doing in the guild's headquarters?' He asked himself.

After brooding over it for a moment, he decided against going inside.

The Emperor was searching for them, so he didn't know if Reynolds was being held captive or not. He planned to wait till later in the night before going there.

He would sneak into the building at night, then search for Reynolds. If Reynolds was in trouble, he would find a way to rescue him, if not, he'll speak with him then give the device to him before leaving.

Later that night.

Grey suddenly appeared on the side of the guild headquarters building. After looking around, he sent his spiritual sense into the building, trying to figure out if there were people walking close to the other side of the wall.

A few seconds later, he vanished and appeared inside the building.

What looked like a reception desk was at the front, facing the door of the building. The doors were currently locked, and no one could be seen around.

Grey brought out the disc, and started following it to where Reynolds' light was coming from.

With the increase in his knowledge in arrays, he improved his personal disc. The closer he got to the other light, the more accurate it was. It seemed to zoom closer, so he could get a better idea of where the light was coming from.

He continued following the light deeper into the building.

Chapter 339 - Oh, Crap!

Grey soon appeared in a hallway, with the help of the space element, his aura was perfectly hidden. Added with the black clothes he was currently wearing, it was almost impossible to see him in the dark hallway.
He followed the light until he stopped in front of one of the rooms.
'Here,'
Without further delay, he vanished from the hallway.
In the room.
Reynolds could be seen sprawling on the bed, fast asleep. His mouth was slightly open, and drool could be seen coming out of it from the moonlight that was shining through the window.
When Grey appeared in the room, he almost wanted to punch Reynolds in the face.
'Really?' He asked before using the wind element to raise the bed sheet, placing it on Reynolds' body.
When Grey appeared in the room, Reynolds was sleeping, butt naked.
On feeling the bed sheet touching his body, Reynolds opened his eyes, albeit lazily.
His lazy expression disappeared when he caught a glimpse of the human shadow in front of him. He hastily stood up on the bed, throwing away the bed sheet in the process.
Grey's mouth twitched repeatedly before he facepalmed.
"What the hell is wrong with you?" He asked quietly.

"Huh? Grey?" Reynolds narrowed his eyes to a slit, trying to get a better view of the shadow.
Grey stepped closer to the window, allowing the moonlight to shine on his face.
"Buddy, it's you!" Reynolds exclaimed before jumping towards him with open arms.
Grey's eyes twitched uncontrollably before he punched Reynolds on the head as he got close to him.
"What the hell is wrong with you?" Grey asked again, exasperated.
"Ouch! Fuck you, Grey! Do you want to kill me?!" Reynolds shouted before jumping to his feet while cursing at Grey in an exaggerated manner.
His sudden exaggerated movement annoyed Grey even more.
"Rey, put on some clothes," Grey said with a long face.
"What do you"Reynolds paused mid-sentence and looked down, "Oh, crap!"
"So what are you doing here?" He asked, walking leisurely towards where his clothes were kept.
"You *Sigh* I've completed the communication device, Alice already has one, I came to give you another," Grey looked at him, he was too tired to complain about the nonchalant nature of his current appearance.
"Oh, that's great! Quick, give it to me, let me talk to her," Reynolds ran back to him, without even putting on anything.
Bam!

Grey punched him on the head once again, this time, a little harder. "Ouch! Ouch! Damn you!" Reynolds shouted, but quickly turned around to wear his clothes. Some minutes later. "Don't try to contact her now, she might be sleeping," Grey said when he noticed Reynolds was trying to speak to Alice after he explained how the device worked to him. "Oh, I forgot. I was eager to talk to her," Reynolds scratched his head while chuckling. "What are you doing here?" Grey asked. From how carefree Reynolds looked and acted, it was easy to see that he wasn't under any danger. "After you left, I decided to leave Eternal City..." Reynolds told him all about what he encountered after they separated. According to him, he traveled for a few weeks, before coming across a caravan in a forest. The merchants were being attacked, and the mercenaries protecting them were already severely injured.

At first, Reynolds didn't want to help, but after seeing a little girl who ran to the front of a young man, trying to protect him from one of the beasts attacking, he couldn't sit still any longer.

The beasts were all in the Early stages of the Origin Plane. Even though he hadn't broken through to the Fourth stage of the Origin Plane, he had no issues with fighting against these beasts.

With the help of the injured mercenaries, he was able to quickly make do of the eight magical beasts.

After helping them, he found out that the young man and the little girl were the children of one of the founding merchants of the guild. He followed them here and got to hear the rumor of the lightning tree.



He went on to tell him how his greed caused Void's injury.

"He'll be fine, I believe we'll be able to find the treasure," Reynolds said decisively.

"Yeah, I hope so," Grey said with a sad look on his face.

"Can I come with you to the magical beast forest?" Reynolds suddenly asked.

When he first came in contact with Void, he wasn't too close with him, after all, only Grey could talk to him. But after he saw Void taking that attack for Grey, his impression of him shot up to a high level.

Now he didn't see him as a magical beast, rather, he saw him as a friend.

"No, I'll go alone," Grey shook his head.

He knew Reynolds wanted to help, but he didn't plan to put him in danger. The magical beast forest was not like the trial land where the stage of the highest magical beast was the Peak of the Origin Plane.

In the magical beast forest, there are countless magical beasts in the Overlord Plane.

Chapter 340 - I Want To Marry Him!

"When will you be heading to the Chimera forest?" Grey asked.

Since Reynolds wanted to acquire the lightning tree, he wanted to help him out before leaving.

"A group would be setting out by tomorrow, I'll follow them," Reynolds replied.

He tried bringing up the issue of accompanying Grey to the magical beast forest, but Grey refused.

He knew Grey was only doing that because he didn't want him to get hurt, but he felt annoyed by it. If only he were stronger, Grey wouldn't need to protect him.

It was just like the time in the trial land when Aetonth woke up, Grey stayed behind while telling them to run away. They knew it was not only because Void was there, but it was because he didn't want them to get hurt if Aetonth were to attack.

To be honest, when he saw the dragon chasing after Grey, he couldn't help but wonder how Grey managed to run with that thing chasing him this far. He wasn't too confident he would be able to escape if he were in Grey's shoes.

From that experience, he told himself he wanted to grow stronger, so he wouldn't need Grey's protection. But since leaving the trail land, he hadn't been able to improve his stage. This was the real reason he decided to travel around, to try and see if he could get a chance to breakthrough.

When he heard about the lightning tree, he felt like this was the opportunity he was searching for.

"Okay, I'll accompany you. As long as someone above the Overlord Plane doesn't show up, then you'll be fine," Grey said with a soft smile.

"\*Sigh\* Fine," Reynolds nodded with no other option.

"So, you've finally comprehended the space element?" He asked again.

Because of Void's injury, he didn't ask about the space element. But since they've put that matter on the side, he decided to ask about it.

"Yeah," Grey nodded.

"How does it feel like, you know, moving through the space tunnels?" Reynolds asked.



"Who's beautiful?"

The voice of a man came from outside the room, soon, a young man who looked to be in his early twenties walked into view. He had a handsome face, just barely above Reynolds if they compared them. His build was slightly chubby, but he couldn't be described as a fat person.

The young man was around six foot one, taller than Grey and Reynolds.

When the young man appeared in the room, his gaze followed the direction of his little sister, and for a second, he almost couldn't believe that Grey was a man.

"Damn, he's truly beautiful," He muttered.

Cough! Cough!

Reynolds coughed twice when he heard the young man's words. He couldn't help but take a glance at Grey and winking.

He laughed out after winking, making the silent room noisy. He was still laughing when the little girl dropped a bombshell.

"I want to marry him," The little girl said.

Reynolds almost choked on his saliva while he was laughing, while Grey's face twitched repeatedly.

"Al.. Alexa, you can't marry him," The young man who was by the side said after a few seconds.

"Why not? I like him, so I'm going to marry him," The little girl said with both hands on her hips.

Reynolds looked at the little girl, then at Grey's expression, before bursting out into laughter once again.

Since the little girl walked in, Grey hadn't been able to say anything since he truly didn't know what to say.

"Uncle, why are you laughing?" The little girl pouted when she saw Reynolds laughing.

"Nothing, it's nothing. I think you and uncle's friend will look good together," Reynolds said while doing his best to hold back his laugh.

He found Grey's predicament hilarious.

Grey and the young man looked at Reynolds after he finished speaking, if looks could kill, then Reynolds would've been long buried by now.

The young man knew that there is naturally no way Grey would be able to marry his sister, for someone who looked this good, he would naturally have multiple companions. Even he, who wasn't as good looking as Grey had three, much less someone like Grey.

Grey shut his mouth, he didn't try to say anything.

'\*Sigh\* This is why I don't like going out,' He complained inside.

Whenever he goes out, there would always be a situation when he would be approached by a lady. There was this one time that he was not only approached by a lady who looked to be in her late thirties but he was also approached by a man as well.

They left the room, with Alexa gluing herself to Grey as they walked towards the hall where the reception desk was located at the front of the building.

Most of the people staying in the building were familiar with everyone in their group except for him. They would always give him a double-take whenever they saw him, especially with the way Alexa was holding onto him.

They soon got to the hall, and Grey was astounded by the number of people present there.

There were at least eighty people in the hall already, and more seems to be on their way.