

Affinity 341

Chapter 341 - Fifteen Years

"Are all of them going for the expenditure as well?" Grey couldn't help but ask Reynolds on seeing the number of people present.

"Not really, only those at the Late stages of the Origin Plane are allowed to go. Of course, there are a few who would go even with the warning from the guild," Reynolds explained.

"Oh, then why are you allowed to go?" Grey looked at him.

With the guild not allowing those below the Late stages of the Origin Plane to go, he didn't understand why they'd allow Reynolds to go. Reynolds was powerful, but not to the extent of being able to fight against a Late stage Origin Plane Elementalist. His Elemental Warrior could at best fight to a draw with a Seventh stage Origin Plane Elementalist.

And from what Reynolds told him, they're not aware of him being a high-grade summoner. He suddenly felt a little suspicious of the guild, after all, this was not the proper way to show gratitude to someone who saved the children of an important member of the guild.

"At first, they tried persuading me not to go since it was going to be dangerous. But after seeing my persistence, they decided to let me be. The leader of the expenditure has already made it clear to me that they can not guarantee my safety," Reynolds said.

"Hmm, at least they warned you beforehand," Grey threw away some of the suspicions he had towards the guild after he heard it was only because Reynolds demanded they let him go.

"Hmph! Uncle Reynolds is the strongest, he'll beat that monster up!" Alexa jumped into the conversation. She thought Grey was trying to play down Reynolds' strength.

"Haha, I'm sure he would," Grey chuckled but didn't say anymore.

The group walked to the front of the crowd gathered there, and on a small platform that was raised there, three men could be seen standing with hands behind their backs, facing the crowd.

Two of the men had long well-trimmed beards, while the last man had a mustache.

All three men had the same facial appearance that it's almost impossible to tell them apart. They had the same average body build, with the same length and color of hair. Luckily, two of them had a beard while one had a mustache.

Grey felt the two with a beard were a perfect copy of each other. Added to the fact that they were wearing the same clothes, he almost thought he was seeing double.

"It's the brothers of destruction,"

"With them around, what's the use in joining the expenditure? We'll only be cannon fodders to fight against the beasts there since they will be the ones to acquire it,"

Different conversations were ongoing with the appearance of the three identical brothers.

"Brothers of destruction?" Grey gave Reynolds a questioning look.

Reynolds raised both shoulders as if saying he didn't know anything about them.

Grey and Reynolds turned their attention to the young man who accompanied them here.

Seeing their gazes, the young man went on to tell them about the trio standing in front of them.

According to him, the brothers were identical triplets, which Grey and Reynolds had already guessed. The reason the trio was called the brothers of destruction had to do with their elements.

The two with a beard were Lightning and Fire Elementalists respectively, while the last one with a mustache was surprisingly a Darkness Elementalist. Having such destructive elements, and the strength to boot earned them the name brothers of destruction amongst the mercenaries.

It was said that they were linked, hence none of them could advance above the other. All three of them had purple elemental grades for their elements.

"Oh, but that's a weird name," Grey unconsciously said with a nonchalant expression.

Grey and his group were at the front of the crowd, not too far from the platform where the brothers of destruction were standing atop.

His words were heard by a few people who stood close to them, as well as the three brothers who were standing on the platform.

The hall suddenly went quiet, and the few people standing close to Grey and his group took a few steps back, distancing themselves from Grey and Reynolds.

Grey was oblivious to what was happening because Alexa was tugging at his arm.

"Look, little lady, you need to grow for at least fifteen more years before you can marry anyone," He tried explaining to her gently.

"Fifteen years?" Alexa asked with a confused face.

"Yes, in fifteen years time, you can marry whoever you... want," Grey paused during the last part of the statement when he noticed a shadow looming over him.

"Huh?" He turned around to see who it was.

"What did you just say?" One of the brothers with a beard asked with a calm expression but fiery eyes.

"That you could marry whoever you want in fifteen years time," Grey blurted out what he just said to Alexa.

"..."

A blank look appeared on the face of the man standing in front of Grey. He was not the only one who had that expression, almost everyone who was close to them had the same expression.

Reynolds was the only one who seemed to be trying to hold back his laugh. He was just like Klaus in some aspects, so he found this very funny.

"What did you say?" The man asked once again.

"Oh, sorry, I wasn't talking to you earlier," Grey apologized when he realized what just happened.

The man looked at him with his fiery eyes, "I'm not talking about this, what you said about our name,"

"Huh? Name?" Grey asked with a confused look.

It was only when he looked at Reynolds and the young man who was with them did he recall it.

'Oh, that. Why would a grown-up man be worried about something like that?' He thought inside.

He couldn't wrap his head around how a man would confront him because he said their nickname sounded weird. Even he wouldn't be bothered if someone said his name was weird, much less his nickname, if he had any.

Chapter 342 - I've Really Missed You

The hall fell into silence as everyone was waiting for Grey's reply.

"Haha, I see even these egotistical triplets are here," A laugh was heard from behind the crowd.

Everyone turned around to look at who was laughing, the crowd soon made way when they saw the duo who were making their way forward. The duo consisted of one man, and a lady. They both had a smirk on their faces as they walked forward.

The one who laughed previously was the man.

"Well, aren't you a keeper," The lady giggled when she saw Grey.

"He's mine!" Alexa suddenly stepped in front of Grey, shielding him from the lady who just walked in.

The lady laughed when she saw Alexa's act.

Grey, who felt he was in an awkward position when the lady appeared and spoke, felt even more uncomfortable with Alexa claiming him as hers.

"Alexa, we spoke about this a few minutes ago. You'll have to wait for fifteen more years before you can claim anyone," Grey explained softly to her once again.

He was trying his best not to tell her in a hurtful way since he didn't want to make Alexa sad. She was a cute little girl, the only downside was that she wanted to keep him.

"What are you doing here?" The man who confronted Grey switched his attention to the duo who just walked in.

"We're members of the guild just like you morons, so naturally we'll try to obtain this treasure," The lady who was speaking with Grey turned to the man as she replied.

"Hmph! None of you is a Lightning Elementalist, so the tree is worthless for you people," The man said.

"Who says it's worthless? We've been looking for a fancy small tree to decorate our garden for some years now, and this lightning tree just happens to fit the bill. Isn't that right, dear?" The lady said, turning to look at the man she came in with.

"Yes," The man nodded.

"Hmph!" The man from the trio snorted and turned back to the platform. Before leaving, he gave Grey a threatening look.

After the man went back to the platform, the lady looked at Grey, "Don't worry, pretty boy. He wouldn't be able to harm you with us here."

"Besides, are you planning on going for the expedition?" She asked.

She could tell Grey and Reynolds were young, and one of them is not even in the Mid stages of the Origin Plane. Well, she could sense Reynolds' stage, but not Grey. It was like Grey was shrouded in a cloak that perfectly hid his aura from the world.

Grey and Reynolds nodded.

"Hmm, okay," The lady nodded before following behind her partner who was already ahead of her.

They stood on the platform, along with the three brothers, as well as two more men who arrived not too long ago.

Grey noticed that every single individual standing on the platform was at the very Peak of the Origin Plane, a little boost and they'll advance to the next Plane, the Overlord Plane.

They continued waiting for another ten minutes before the man who would be leading the expedition walked in.

By the time the man came in, there were already over ten people on the platform.

"Hmm, stealing it from so many hands is not going to be easy," Grey whispered to Reynolds.

"But you can," Reynolds said confidently.

He could tell Grey wasn't the least bit nervous, so there's a chance he was confident about being able to acquire it. Thinking of it, he had never really seen Grey nervous before, he was always calm and collected.

The only time he saw Grey going out of his usual behavior was when Void was hurt at the time they left the trial land.

"Of course, as long as an Overlord Plane expert doesn't appear then I'm at least sixty percent sure of being able to acquire it," Grey replied confidently.

While Reynolds was speaking, the man who would be leading the expedition stepped forward after having a little conversation with the group on the platform.

"Everyone, I believe you all know why you're here. So I wouldn't go through the stress of explaining anything about it. You all know how it usually works here in the guild, whoever acquires the treasure keeps it."

"Let's move out." The leader of the expedition said before stepping down from the platform.

"Well, that was quick," Grey said.

"Yeah," Reynolds nodded.

"Do they really follow this rule of whoever acquires the treasure keeping it?" Grey asked Alexa's elder brother who was there with them.

"There are few cases where they don't follow this rule, it's a guild after all, and without these rules, it wouldn't be able to keep these mercenaries in check, especially those who are used to stealing from others,"

"Whenever these rules are breached, if the assailant is captured, they would face the necessary punishments." explained Alexa's brother.

Grey and Reynolds were at the back of the crowd as they listened to the young man's explanation.

After walking out of the guild building, Alexa and her brother stopped at the front of the building. They naturally wouldn't be going on the expedition.

"Goodbye, uncle Reynolds, bring something for me when you come back," Alexa waved at Reynolds as he climbed on his horse.

Grey headed to the tavern he stayed at which was not too far from the guild and acquired his horse. Because of his delay, the crowd left them behind, but he didn't really care about it.

He preferred going on his own anyway, and with Reynolds with him, he wouldn't be bored.

As they rode towards the Chimera forest which was miles away from the mercenary town, Grey brought out the communication device.

Reynolds immediately recalled that he wanted to speak with Alice and quickly brought out his own as well.

"Hey, Alice, it's me, Reynolds," He said enthusiastically while waiting for her response.

'Rey, how are you doing?' Alice's voice resounded in Reynolds' head a few seconds later.

"Haha, I'm fine now. I've missed speaking with you so much," Reynolds laughed out happily when he heard her voice.

Grey smiled softly before looking at the device, he used his spiritual sense to check on Void who was in the spatial ring.

'Hey bud, I've really missed you,'

Chapter 343 - Sentient Plants

Grey found out from Reynolds that the journey would take about two or three days.

They caught up with the main group a few hours later, and they decided to travel with them since it was safer.

Later that night.

The group set up camp on an open field after it got dark. They were surrounded by a huge forest, and they didn't want to take the risk of traveling through the forest at night since they all knew powerful magical beasts are more active at night.

Grey and Reynolds stationed themselves at the back of the camp since Grey didn't want to stay close to the group.

In the end, Grey estimated that only about thirty people decided to set out for the expedition. This was as a result of them not being confident in being able to obtain the treasure from the hands of people like the triplets who were at the very Peak of the Origin Plane.

It was better they didn't get involved, than to become cannon fodders who wouldn't get anything in the end. Not everyone would want to take the risk of trying, after all, the chances of them getting the treasure with their strength was very low.

Reynolds had been speaking with Alice almost all through the day, Grey joined in their conversation for a few minutes before letting them be.

'I should try practicing that technique while we're here,' Grey thought to himself.

With the thought in mind, he quickly stood up from where he was sitting with Reynolds and started heading towards the south.

He soon disappeared into the forest, under the moonlight.

After walking for almost ten minutes, he stopped at an isolated area in the forest. A boulder could be seen in the area, surrounded by huge trees.

Grey climbed onto the boulder and sat down. He spread his spiritual senses out, trying to ensure the area was completely safe.

Two minutes later, he opened his eyes before opening his palm. A scroll appeared on his palm the next second, the scroll was completely black.

He got this scroll in the trial land, just after Void hatched from the egg. At that time, he didn't have any use for it since he didn't have the space element.

The name of the technique was the Great Void movement technique. It involves shuttling through the void at an incredible speed. According to the description, once Grey attains beginner level mastery of the technique, he could shuttle through a distance of at least five hundred meters.

The overall distance he could shuttle through after attaining beginner level mastery solely depends on his elemental grade, but he would be able to at least cover a distance of five hundred meters.

This was not the first time he was trying this technique, he tried using it to comprehend the space element the first time he acquired the technique, but he was unable to.

With the knowledge he had from the previous times, he slowly started trying out the technique again.

Grey sat down in a meditative position, and tried following the instructions on the scroll.

He had to first create two space tunnels almost simultaneously, after creating them, he would connect them to make the movement instantaneous. After connecting the two tunnels, the movement speed is faster compared to the normal one a Space Elementalist uses.

The tunnels must be stable, or else they might collapse while the Space Elementalist is going through it. The danger of being caught in a collapsed space was extremely high, especially for someone like Grey whose control over the space element was minimal.

Grey started with the first process, which was creating the space tunnels simultaneously.

He tried it the first time, and failed, he tried a second, third, fourth and continuously, but he continued failing. Luckily, he noticed after each failure, he was getting better at it.

Time flew by, and before he knew it, it was already almost daybreak.

Even after trying countless times, he was unable to make it. He didn't feel downhearted since he naturally knew he wouldn't be able to get it once.

At the camp.

The group were already getting ready to continue their journey, going through the forest.

The leader of the expedition gathered everyone.

"As you all know, there's a sentient plant in this forest. Although we would be able to dodge them at night time, we would also endanger ourselves because of the beasts in the forest."

"These plants are extremely poisonous, but luckily, they're plants, and are very weak towards the fire element..." He explained.

The leader created a strategy for the group to travel through the forest, since the plants are weak towards the fire element, Fire Elementalists would be positioned around the group, placing the other Elementalists in the middle. This would minimize the risk, while also helping them move faster.

Everyone agreed to his plan, and they soon started getting into position before they departed.

Grey came back just as they were about to leave. Reynolds was already trying to delay the group while waiting for Grey, so on seeing him he heaved a sigh of relief knowing he wouldn't need to bother himself with delaying again.

"What were you doing?" He went closer to Grey and asked.

"Training," Grey replied before getting on his horse.

"Heh! Try not to get eaten by the plants,"

A cold voice came from behind the duo, when they turned around, they noticed the Fire Elementalist amongst the triplets was the one stationed close to where they were in the formation.

"Come on, let's move to the other side," Grey said while moving his horse to the left wing of the formation.

The Fire Elementalist was taken aback when he saw Grey moving away. He initially wanted to go after the duo, but after seeing where they were headed, he smirked before staying put.

"You train too much," Reynolds said as they headed towards the left wing.

"I need to grow stronger, faster. You know our current predicament isn't great, the more we delay, the more we give them an opportunity to harm us. I hate feeling threatened," Grey said.

"Yeah, but, try to take some time off, have fun," Reynolds laughed.

"I'll stop when I get to the top," Grey said blandly.

"*Sigh* If only Klaus and Alice were here, they'd be able to make you loosen up easier, especially Alice," Reynolds said, recalling how Alice was able to convince Grey to always go out with them.

Reynolds started speaking with Alice, telling her of Grey's unwillingness to take a break from training.

In the end, Grey, Alice, and Reynolds started speaking with the communication device as they traveled through the forest.

Ten minutes after walking into the forest.

Boom!

An explosion rang out from the front.

Grey and the Reynolds quickly tried to look what was happening, ahead of them was a huge flower like plant that had rows of teeth. It was spitting out a greenish fog that was spreading rapidly towards the group.

"Don't breath in the fog, it's poisonous,"

The leader of the expedition's voice came from the front of the formation. He was a Fire Elementalist and was the one who was leading the charge against the plant.

Ah!

A scream came from the right side.

Grey turned around to see a man picked up by a huge vine. The man and his horse were both taken by the vine.

The crowd sucked in a cold breath as they saw this. This was the first time Grey and a few of the people here were seeing this plant.

Grey in particular found the situation strange since he was used to seeing dangerous magical beasts, not plants.

He had read of these plants at the Lunar Academy library, but he hadn't been able to see them.

Ah!

Boom!

Screams was coming from different sides as vines wrapped around the legs and waists of horses, lifting them off the ground.

Rustle!

Grey suddenly heard the rustling sound of the leaves, when he looked below him, he saw the vines on the ground, slithering like a snake.

'Crap! How's this any less dangerous than moving at night?' He said while creating a flaming whip that he used to lash at the vines.

"Rey, stay close," He turned to Reynolds.

His expression changed when he noticed the vine that was around Reynolds' horse legs.

"Shit! Rey, jump," He exclaimed.

The vines seems to be able to wrap around people without them being able to sense it, only after the squeeze tight will they sense it.

Reynolds reacted immediately he heard Grey's words. Due to the high trust he had developed for Grey over the time they had spent together, he didn't doubt his words even by the slightest.

If he were to be standing at a cliff, and Grey said he should jump down, he would do it without a doubt. He knew there was no way Grey would do anything that would hurt him.

Chapter 344 - Officially Hate Plants!

Reynolds kicked the back of the horse, using the force to propel himself towards Grey's horse.

Grey stretched out his hand to catch Reynolds who was mid-air, pulling him onto his horse.

With a swipe of his hand, he sent a fire blade at the vine that was wrapping around Reynolds' horse. Even without being told, he naturally knew plants were weak against the fire element.

"Thanks," Reynolds said after sitting behind Grey.

"It's nothing," Grey said while squinting his eyes, looking around.

He suddenly noticed something, in the left-wing where they were, they were the only ones the vines attacked. When he looked around, the other people were vine-free.

He shifted his gaze to the man who was stationed there.

'Hmm, could it be an accident, or did he purposely let them in?' He asked himself.

He couldn't figure out the answer, so he kept the matter at the back of his head, for now.

Reynolds returned to his horse after Grey exterminated all the vines in the area. Without being told, he moved closer to Grey, with their horses almost touching each other.

As the group continued the journey, the Fire Elementalists were constantly destroying the vines, as well as the flower-like creature.

After the first wave of attacks where the vines were able to snatch some people, the Fire Elementalists managed to completely hold them back.

The plants retreated whenever they sensed the heat from the fire element.

Grey studied the plants curiously from his horse, trying to figure out how they actually came to be. According to what he read, it would take hundreds of years, and staying in a place with a high concentration of essence before these plants could gain sentience.

At this stage, their intelligence isn't really that high. But once they break through to the Overlord Plane, their intelligence would see an increase, taking it to that of a human's.

These plants grow stronger by consuming humans, as well as magical beasts.

While Grey was looking around, he saw an unlucky boar that was caught by a vine. After catching the boar, the vine quickly moved towards the head of the plant. It opened its huge mouth, swallowing the boar in a single gulp.

Grey had also witnessed this happen to the few people and horses who were caught by the vines during the first attack.

"Huh!" Grey suddenly felt all his hairs standing on edge.

'Danger!'

Without trying to see what the danger was, he hastily jumped up, using the wind element to support himself mid-air.

After leaping to almost ten meters off the ground, he suddenly felt something on his right leg. He looked down, only to see a vine tightly wrapped around his ankle.

'Crap!'

Bam!

Before he could react, the vine tugged at him forcefully, slamming him into the ground.

"Grey!" Reynolds immediately moved when he saw Grey being slammed into the ground.

But to his surprise, he suddenly felt a tug on his waist, before he could do anything, he was dragged from his horse, slamming into the ground.

Buzz!

Lightning danced around his body as he struggled to escape from the vine that was wrapping around him.

He sent an attack at the vine, but to his surprise, the vine seemed to be resistant to the lightning element.

'What? How?' He asked as the vine hastily dragged him out of the formation they were in.

The Fire Elementalist standing guard did nothing to stop the vines from dragging both Reynolds and Grey who was a bit rocked after he slammed into the ground.

After Grey was slammed into the ground, he could barely see anything, and just after he slammed into the ground, the vine dragged him and Reynolds out of the formation.

Grey soon came back to his senses after being dragged out of the formation.

Boom!

Raging flames engulfed him, burning the vines that were wrapped around him.

He stood up, preparing to run back to the formation, but his expression changed when he couldn't see Reynolds on his horse.

He turned around only to see Reynolds struggling with lightning around him, trying to break free from the grasp of the vines.

Grey infused his body with the wind element, dashing straight at the vine that was holding onto Reynolds. He didn't even think about holding back.

Boom!

He unleashed a ferocious blue tiger-looking flame that shot towards the main plant.

While he was running towards Grey, multiple vines tried to stop him from advancing, but they were all cut down by the fire blade he held in his hand.

He soon got to the vine holding onto Reynolds. After he attacked the main plant, the movement of the vines became relatively slower.

By the time he got there, Reynolds had already managed to struggle free from the vine's clutches.

"Fuck this! I officially hate plants!" Reynolds cursed as soon as he managed to break free.

Grey grabbed onto him, dragging him as he hurried back to the formation.

As they got closer to the formation, Grey saw the look of astonishment in the eyes of the Fire Elementalist who was supposed to be protecting them.

"Blue flames," The Fire Elementalist muttered.

Grey and Reynolds were the only people who had managed to escape back into the formation after being dragged out from it.

There were a few people who were surprised by Grey's performance. One of them was undoubtedly the Fire Elementalist amongst the triplets.

Seeing Grey's rare blue flames for some reason increased the hatred he had towards him.

The couples who intervened back at the guild were also very surprised by Grey's performance. The man among the duo was already on the verge of running out of the formation when he saw both Grey and Reynolds being taken by the vines, but after seeing how Grey easily took care of the situation, he halted.

After stopping, he sent a warning gaze towards the Fire Elementalist that was stationed there.

When the vines first attacked Grey and Reynolds, he took note of the area, and he had noticed that Grey and Reynolds were the only two who were attacked.

He knew this wasn't an accident, the Fire Elementalist let the vines in on purpose.

Chapter 345 - Half-Assed Fire Elementalists

Grey glanced at the Fire Elementalist as they stepped back into the formation. He had already guessed what was going on, and he had made a few decisions, and one of them was that this guy was not going to make it back from this expedition.

"Wow, it's nice you're alright, pretty boy," The lady came over and said with a smile.

Grey forced out a smile, he wanted to tell off the lady that his name wasn't pretty boy, but seeing that she was a little concerned about them even though they didn't really have any previous relationships, he decided against it.

"Yeah, someone seems to be doing a really bad job at keeping the vines out," Grey said, making sure the Fire Elementalist heard his statement.

He made the mistake of thinking it was an accident the first time, hence he let his guard down. But now that he knew it was being done on purpose, he wouldn't let this happen again.

"Of course, what do you expect from these half-assed Fire Elementalists?" The lady said, looking straight at the Fire Elementalist.

Most of the people in that area could tell that the Fire Elementalist was targeting Grey and Reynolds, but it had nothing to do with them. They all came here for the treasure, the lesser the people, the better their chances.

After seeing Grey's display a few minutes ago, they all knew they couldn't count him out of the picture.

The vines could withstand the attack of a Late stage Elementalist, and although Grey's fire was super effective against them, it didn't take out the fact that it was powerful.

The Fire Elementalist didn't speak against them because of the couple who were with them.

The couple stayed with Grey and Reynolds as the group continued heading further into the forest.

One hour later.

"*Sigh* We're finally free of those hateful plants," Reynolds sighed as the group left the forest.

After spending just over one hour in the forest, the party was able to exit the forest. A few more people were snatched away by the plants, but luckily, most of them made it out.

Grey estimated that about eight or ten people died during this one hour, which was a high number, given the fact that there were just over thirty people who came for the expedition.

"They're not that bad," Grey said with a chuckle.

"Yeah, easy for you to say. You're not the one whose attacks don't have any effect on them," Reynolds snorted.

"You're alive, that's what is important, right?" Grey asked.

"I guess so," Reynolds said. He felt a little scared after almost being eaten by the plant.

Even if he wanted to die, he didn't want to be killed by a plant. If Klaus were to find out about him being killed by a plant, he would definitely mock him, even in death.

The leader of the expedition addressed the group after they left the forest. Apparently, this was only one of the few dangerous routes they would pass through before getting to where the lightning tree was located.

According to the leader, there were two more places that were as dangerous as this forest, if not even more. After going through these routes, they would also have to face the dangers that were lying in wait in the Chimera forest.

Grey felt at least half of the group who started the expedition would most likely be killed before they even got to where the treasure was. He wanted to object on the path that they were taking, but seeing that the mercenaries weren't complaining, he shut his mouth.

After the leader finished speaking with the group, they continued their journey.

They didn't face any challenges for the rest of the day, after it got dark, the group made camp at an open field.

Grey realized these people were already very familiar with the routes, so they seem to be calculating their movements, always stopping at an open field, surrounded by trees.

This time, the couple stayed closer to them. Grey stayed with Reynolds and the couple for a few hours, before heading into the forest.

He still had to train on the Great Void technique, so he couldn't stay and chat with the couple.

The couple were stunned when they saw Grey heading into the forest, after asking him what he wanted to do, they were even more surprised when he said he was going to train.

After walking through the forest, Grey saw a cave.

"This should do," He said, but after taking a step forward, he paused, "No, no, I'll find somewhere else,"

Growl...

Hearing the growl, Grey knew the beast was at the Late stages of the Origin Plane. Although he could kill it, he didn't want to go through the hassle.

And not just that, but since he got close to Void, he had a change towards magical beasts. Unlike before when he would kill the beasts without any remorse, he now had a slight difference in attitude towards them.

He retreated from the entrance of the cave and started walking in another direction, before long, he saw another cave, this one was luckily empty. When he walked in, he could sense that a magical beast lived in the cave, and it seemed like it went out to hunt for the night.

Without wasting any time, he created some arrays around the entrance of the cave, to make sure the beast didn't enter while he was engrossed with his training.

He was still in the first phase of the training, simultaneously creating two space tunnels. With the experience he got from the previous day, he felt a little more confident in being able to at least create the tunnels today.

The next morning.

Grey walked to the entrance of the cave, only to see a white tiger, lying outside the cave. The tiger was in the Early stages of the Origin Plane.

"Hmm, sorry, I had to make use of your home. But you can have it now," Grey said to the tiger which stood up as soon as it saw Grey.

Grey released a bit of his aura, to scare the tiger from attacking while he spoke with it.

The tiger watched him as he left the cave, walking back to the camp.

Chapter 346 - Sensory Trick

Grey joined up with Reynolds just before the group set off.

"Wait, you trained all through the night?" The lady asked when she saw Grey coming back.

"Hmm," Grey nodded.

"Wow, such diligence. No wonder you're powerful," The lady said with stars in her eyes.

She hadn't seen anyone like Grey for a long time now, so seeing how trained during the night, she couldn't help but praise him.

"Yeah, that's how he usually is. He trains all through, never having time for anything else, even going out with friends," Reynolds said while scratching his head with a smile.

The group continued talking as they headed into the forest. This forest was not as dangerous as the one they walked through the previous day. Although they occasionally encountered magical beasts at the Peak of the Origin Plane, they didn't engage them since the beasts retreated as soon as they sensed them.

Their journey was relatively smooth for that day, and day soon turned to night. After the group set up camp, Grey headed into the forest around them like he had been doing for the past nights.

The next morning.

"We'll be going through two terrains, a swamp, and a rocky mountain. We'll be depending mainly on the Lightning Elementalists when we get to the swamp, while Fire and Water Elementalists will handle the rocky mountains," The leader said to them.

He didn't say much to them, since all the mercenaries were familiar with the area, except for Grey and Reynolds.

These were the two places he said would be as dangerous as the forest that was occupied by the plants.

"Ah, finally, I place where my attacks would be effective," Reynolds said with a sigh of relief.

Grey casually looked around, having seven different elements made him the most versatile Elementalist alive. No matter the condition, he would have the element that could counter it.

He would be complete once he comprehends the light element, that would make him have all eight elements he knew of. There was also the possibility of the wood element that wood fanatic spoke about, but he wasn't thinking about that, for now.

Two hours later.

The group stopped, looking ahead of them. In front of them was a large swamp.

"The horses will be safe here, we'll complete the rest of the journey on foot," The leader of the expedition said as he highlighted his horse.

The rest followed suit, tying down the horses by the trees.

"Are they safe here?" Reynolds asked the couple while he was tying his horse to a tree.

"Yeah, this isn't our first time coming here. As long as the horses stay put, they'll be fine," The lady said.

"There's an array around this area, although some mercenaries tend to act mindlessly, they know the value of having a horse in such an area," Grey said while tying his horse.

"Such sharp senses, looks like I keep underestimating you," The man looked at Grey, impressed.

Not all the mercenaries here knew of the array that was placed here to protect the horses, yet Grey who was coming here for the first was able to sense it immediately.

"It's not really that hard to notice. I picked up the clue when that guy said we should leave the horses here. Given the journey, there's no way he'd want us to go back on foot since it would be extremely taxing and dangerous," Grey explained.

"You picked it up just from that?" The man asked, a little taken aback.

"Yeah," Grey nodded.

'That, and because I'm exceptionally proficient in arrays. I've sensed this array from over five hundred meters away,' Grey scoffed inside.

Even though these people seemed to be good to them, there's no way he was going to tell them he was good at arrays.

The leader of the expedition was the first to step into the swamp, after he entered, the others followed behind him.

When Grey got to the swamp, he placed a finger in it and sent out a slight vibration, using the earth element as base. This was a technique he learned after reading about bats using echolocation.

He would use the earth element, creating some sort of inaudible vibrations from his fingers. The vibration will spread out from where he was standing, covering an area of at least four hundred meters radius.

He rarely used it previously, but in an area like this swamp, it was quite handy. He would be able to locate the magical beasts hiding in the swamp.

Reynolds and the couple looked at him strangely, not comprehending why he placed his finger in the swamp. They were the last group to head into the swamp.

"There are two magical beasts within a hundred meters from here, in that area. They can't be counted as powerful, but with a surprise attack, they wouldn't have any problems with taking out an Elementalist in the Late stages of the Origin Plane," Grey explained.

"You sensed them just by placing your finger in the swamp?" The lady asked, surprised.

"I'm a survivor, I try to learn as many useful things as I can. You can never know when they might come in handy," Grey shrugged before stepping into the swamp.

After he placed his leg on the swamp, his leg sank to the knee level, before stopping.

'Hmm, this will impede my movement,' He thought.

He used the wind element to wrap his legs, from the foot to his knees. The wind moved the muddy water as he walked through it, making it feel as if he was walking on plain ground.

Reynolds and the couple followed behind Grey, for some reason, he unconsciously became the leader of their small group. The few times the couple saw him in action, he earned their respect. Especially after seeing how he was able to easily sense the array, and the magical beasts hiding in the swamp.

"Huh? Grey, how are you walking so freely?" Reynolds asked while struggling through the muddy swamp.

"Oh, it's another skill I picked up from reading books," Grey shrugged it off, refusing to tell him the reason.

Reynolds wanted to reprimand him at first, but after recalling Grey's usual behavior, he guessed he was probably hiding something from the couple.

After walking around fifty meters forward.

Splash!

Boom!

Something jumped out from the swamp, dragging one of the men in the group in.

Before the attack of the man standing close could reach the beast, it dragged the man inside.

"What was that?" A man exclaimed.

The beast acted very fast, giving no one the time to see it's features.

'Heh! The lower the number of people who reach the place, the better,' Grey thought.

He could sense there was a reason the leader decided to pass through this route, and if his guess was correct, it was to reduce the number of people who would reach where the lightning tree was located.

Reynolds and the couple tensed up when they saw this. Reynolds tensed up because he hated sneak attacks, the couple tensed up because the person who was dragged down was someone who was at the Peak of the Origin Plane, just like them.

"How did the beast hide its presence that well?" The lady asked, looking in Grey's direction.

"I have no idea, but with my technique, I have no issues with locating them," Grey said.

Grey continued walking ahead of the group, guiding them through the swamp, unhindered.

Some of the individuals in the main group tensed up when they saw the man who was grabbed into the water.

Ten minutes later.

Three more people had been dragged into the swamp, the speed of the beasts' attack was something they couldn't keep up with. But this wasn't the first time some of them had come here, so they were prepared.

In the past ten minutes, two magical beasts had been killed by the group. The beasts were fishes which seemed to have things like arms below their fins. They had sharp rows of teeth which could easily bite through a human.

"This place is around one kilometer or so, so we'll be exiting soon," The lady explained.

Grey estimated they had walked around eight hundred meters in ten minutes. If they were alone, then they would've exited the swamp by now, but since they didn't want to attract attention from the others, they walked at a slower pace.

Another five minutes went by before the group exited the swamp. One more person died before they left the swamp.

While six more magical beasts were killed in the space of five minutes.

After exiting the swamp, the group didn't delay and immediately headed towards the rocky mountain. The leader of the expedition wanted them to get to the Chimera forest before nightfall.

They walked for another hour before the visage of the rocky mountain showed up before them.

"Which magical beasts occupy this mountain?" Grey asked the couple as they headed towards the mountain.

"Apes," The couple replied simultaneously.

Chapter 347 - That's How You Do It!

"Apes?" Grey looked at the mountain curiously.

"Stone Apes to be precise. The leader of the Stone Apes is at the Peak of the Origin Plane. We've encountered it a few times, but it's too strong, so we tend to always escape," The man said, making the lady chuckle.

Apes are generally known for their strength, Stone Apes are regarded as one of the strongest in the Ape species due to the immense strength the earth element adds to their already great strength.

'I'd like to see how powerful their physical bodies are,' Grey thought.

His physical strength has grown slightly weaker compared to his cultivation strength.

Grey and Reynolds continued speaking with the couple who were telling them about some of their adventures and near death experiences. Grey listened intently to their stories, trying to gather knowledge from the stories.

The group soon got to the foot of the mountain. They immediately started the climb when they got there.

They climbed for only about three minutes before encountering the first Ape. These Apes usually move in hordes, so seeing one means more weren't far from it. The Ape stood at around three meters, with a dark brownish fur.

The group quickly made a move on the Stone Ape, killing it before it was able to call for others.

The leader of the expedition had advised that it would be better if they did not have a brawl with the Apes. Their numbers had reduced by over thirty from when they set off from the town.

The Apes would have the advantage in numbers, but there was only one Ape that's at the Peak of the Origin Plane, so the group had the advantages in terms of individual strength.

After they killed the first Ape, they extracted the beast core, before moving forward.

They walked for another twenty minutes, killing eight more Apes as they advanced. Grey felt astounded by the proficiency of the group. He watched on as they killed the Apes in a matter of seconds, not giving them even the chance to make as much as a single noise.

They soon got to the middle of the mountain, as they went higher, the frequency in encountering the Apes increased by a large margin. There are times they would encounter two or three as they went higher.

According to the couple, the leader of the Ape resided on the eastern part of the mountain, not at the mountain top, so they weren't worried about meeting it at the top.

By the time they got to three fourths of the mountain, they encountered a small horde of Apes. The horde contained about twelve Stone Apes, all in the Origin Plane. Four were in the Late stages, while the rest were in the Mid and Early stages.

The group was quick to attack. Grey, Reynolds and the couple were at the end of the moving group, so they didn't bother themselves with attacking with the others, instead, they looked around, making sure that their backs were safe.

Roar!

One of the Late stage Origin Plane Stone Apes roared, calling for backup from the others in the mountain.

Rumble!

A few seconds later, Grey suddenly felt the ground shaking, even some pebbles were bouncing on the ground.

He looked behind him, and his facial expression changed.

'Crap!' He complained about the sight before him.

Over fifty Stone Apes were charging towards them, and in front of the Stone Apes was a larger one, almost two times the size of the others.

Grey didn't need anyone to point it out to him, that was definitely the leader of the Apes.

They were at the back of the group, so naturally, they had to fight against the Apes that were running over from this direction.

"We'll hold off the leader, you two try to stay alive," The man said, stepping in front of Grey and Reynolds.

His wife joined him as well.

Grey seeing the situation didn't try to stop them. Even though he was powerful, there was no way he could fight against that Ape in his current state, unless he uses the Fusion State.

They stepped to the side, preparing to fight against the weaker ones, at least those in the Late stages of the Origin Plane.

Boom!

The couple attacked the Stone Ape simultaneously, surprisingly, both husband and wife were Water Elementalist.

The wife made a water snake that she sent towards the Ape, trying to halt its movement. While the husband created an Ice hammer that he slammed into the Ape.

Bang!

The Stone Ape threw out a punch, enforced with the earth element. When its fist came in contact with the ice hammer, the hammer shattered on impact.

It tried to hold onto the tail of the snake, but since it's made of water, its hand passed through it.

The water snake coiled around its legs, before turning into a semi solid state so that it would be powerful enough to hold it down.

The Ape was stopped for a few seconds by this, but after it forcefully moved its legs, the water snake was ripped into two.

With the couple holding off the leader of the Stone Apes, Grey and the others started fighting against the other Apes.

Grey was facing off against a Late stage Stone Ape, using the fire element, he sent multiple fireballs at it, which exploded in impact.

The Ape was forced back by the explosion, after taking a few steps back, it grabbed a huge boulder from the ground, and crushed it to smaller pieces. After crushing it, they floated into the air, before shooting straight for Grey and the people who were around him.

Grey looked around, and to his surprise, the Fire Elementalist who allowed the vines reach for him and Reynolds was just within the attack range of the stones the Ape sent.

He squinted his eyes, and a cunning smile appeared on his face.

With a light and swift movement, he took a step forward. As his feet touched the ground, an earth wall rose from the ground, blocking the pieces of stones that were shooting towards them.

He made the wall a little softer in the area where the Fire Elementalist was.

The Fire Elementalist was focused on fighting against the Stone Ape that charged at him, but he naturally had his eyes around the battlefield so as to be able to escape from sneak attacks.

He initially wanted to move out of the area of the attack since he was just at the end of the range. If he moved four or five meters forward, he would be able to go out of the attack range.

But on seeing the earth wall that sprang up, he decided against it. Moving forward would put him in the attack range of three more Apes, so he was glad he didn't have to move.

The Fire Elementalist didn't know who set up the earth wall, but for some reason, he felt uneasy. He swept the feeling of unease out of his mind as he focused on the Ape before him.

Crack! Pu-chi!

Multiple stones easily passed through the earth wall, piercing into the body of the Fire Elementalist.

He managed to react, but he was a little bit slow, so he was hit in his throat and on his back.

Blood started gushing out of his throat since the stone passed through it, leaving a hole in it.

He held onto his bleeding neck with one hand, as he turned around to look at the earth wall.

His eyes widened when he saw that only the part where he was located was breached through. He looked further back and noticed the one who created the wall.

Grey was looking at him with a small smirk. His eyes widened even further, his sockets almost popping out.

He tried to speak, but he spat out a mouthful of blood as he opened his mouth.

Bam!

The Stone Ape he was previously fighting against quickly capitalized on the time he used in turning and looking at Grey. The Ape smacked him to the ground with its huge hand, crushing his head in the process.

Grey removed the wall when he noticed the attack had stopped.

No one noticed the small exchange between Grey and the Fire Elementalist because everything happened in a matter of seconds.

From the time Grey created the earth wall, to the time the Fire Elementalist was killed by the Ape wasn't even close to ten seconds.

This was the second element Grey had used in front of the group. Although he previously used the wind element at the forest, he didn't make it known, only using it to enhance his speed.

If an Overlord Plane expert were to be around, they would naturally notice it, but since they were all in the Origin Plane, they would see the things he wanted them to see.

'That's how you do it,' Grey said inside, as if schooling the Fire Elementalist on how to secretly kill someone in the presence of others.

Unfortunately, there's no way for the Fire Elementalist to learn since he was already dead.

Chapter 348 - Second To None!

Grey attacked the Ape after dismissing the earth wall.

Swoosh!

To the surprise of everyone, Grey charged towards the Ape and threw his fist at it.

Seeing Grey, the Ape threw its huge fist at him.

Under the surprised gaze of everyone, Grey and the Ape's fist collided.

Bang!

The Ape was sent flying when the two fists collided.

Grey coated his fist with the fire element, so when his fist made contact with the Ape's fist, it caused an explosion, sending the Ape flying.

"Wow! Such powerful flames!" The lady exclaimed when she saw Grey was able to actually send the Ape flying.

Very few of them would be able to accomplish this feat of his. The few people who saw him sending the Ape flying unconsciously added him among the people who were favorites to obtain the lightning tree.

One of the reasons they felt this way was because of his insane speed. Some of them had noticed it at the forest when they were attacked by the vines, so seeing him show such strength, added with the speed, they felt he was someone who should be placed at the top with the others at the Peak of the Origin Plane.

'He's gotten stronger,' Reynolds looked on as Grey retreated after sending the Ape flying with a punch.

He smiled wryly, he was happy seeing his friend improving so much, but this placed more pressure on him. Being close to someone like Grey would naturally push anyone to want to improve faster.

The truth was, Grey was actually the reason he decided to leave Eternal City quicker. When he watched Grey defeat that group that was chasing after him, he felt inspired to train further. The weeks he spent traveling had yielded a good result, only, he wasn't as dedicated as Grey.

He couldn't spend all his time training, just like Klaus, he liked having fun sometimes.

"Retreat as you fight!"

The leader of the expedition's voice rang out from the front.

He was a bit stronger than the couple individually, but if the couple fought him as a team, they would be able to defeat him.

Grey already understood this, this was why he didn't chase after the Ape after sending it flying even though that was the best time to kill it.

The couple continued fighting against the leader of the Apes.

After the group at the forefront killed the beasts in front of them, some of them moved to the back, so as to help the people at the back.

"Huh? Where's Roberts?" The Fire Elementalist amongst the triplets asked when he came to the back.

"He's dead, he got careless," One of the fighters at the back told him about the guy who was killed.

They were all familiar with each other, so they naturally knew the name of the guy Grey plotted against.

"How's that possible? I've known him for years, he's not one who would neglect an enemy in front of him," The Fire Elementalist said with a surprised look.

After thinking about it, he decided to keep it at the back of his head since they were in a difficult position. Luckily, the Apes don't usually leave the mountain. So as long as they are able to get to the other side of the mountain, then they would be able to escape from the assaults of the Apes.

Ten minutes later.

The group was still fighting against the Apes, they had already gotten to the top of the mountain, and had been able to kill almost five Apes, but two more from the group had died under the assault of the Apes.

Grey was still amongst the people who were fighting against the Apes at the back of the group while they retreated. Some of the people had changed with others after they started getting tired, but he refused to change with others.

He enjoyed fighting, and long fights are always beneficial to him. He is using these Apes to hone himself, and unlike the others, he hadn't been hurt by any of the Apes.

The couple watched him in surprise, they could almost see his improvements as the battle raged on. What they found even more astonishing was the fact that he hadn't been hit, not by a single strike.

Reynolds was still on the battlefield, fighting against the Apes in the Mid stages of the Origin Plane. Although they were stronger than him, the pressure was exactly what he needed.

After leaving the trial land, he was unable to break through. The thickness of the elemental essence here was lesser than the one in the trial land, so advancing had become a little difficult. Battles like this were exactly what he wanted, he wanted to use them to push himself further.

The group continued fighting against the Apes for almost one hour, and in this time, they had managed to just go past the middle of the mountain. Because of the constant attacks of the Apes, descending was slower than when they were ascending the mountain.

Over twenty Apes had been killed in this time, and five more from the group had been killed. Currently, they were not even up to fifteen. All the people who were still alive were either at the Late stages of the Origin Plane or at the Peak of the Origin Plane, with the exception of Grey and Reynolds.

The leader of the expedition would occasionally throw a glance at Grey and Reynolds, especially Reynolds, surprised that he was still alive. The reason he took this route was to eliminate all the weaklings, and of course, use them as cannon foddors. Some of them knew this, but their greed wouldn't let them stop.

"Disperse!" The leader of the expedition suddenly ordered, ditching the leader of the Apes he was fighting against.

Grey charged over to where Reynolds was fighting against an Ape, he threw a punch that forced the Ape to retreat. After the Ape retreated, he held onto Reynolds, dashing away with him.

Reynolds boosted himself with the lightning element, so it wouldn't feel as if he was being carried by Grey.

The Apes were slower since they were of the earth element which meant they had more strength, but lesser agility.

This was something Grey had grown accustomed to while he was still in the trial land. If he said he came second when it came to running away from magical beasts, then no one would dare say they were the first.

He could almost say the time he spent in the trial land was for honing his escaping skill, he wasn't too proud of it, but he knew this was a necessity in surviving.

Grey was able to get to the foot of the mountain before even the leader of the group could.

This once again shocked everyone who went for the expedition, except for Reynolds who already knew Grey.

When they got to the foot of the mountain, they continued heading forward since the Apes would naturally attack them if they stayed there any longer.

Two hours later, the group was once again faced by another challenge, but this time, it was from other humans.

When they got to the entrance of the Chimera forest, they saw two other groups camping outside the forest.

The two groups consisted of around twelve to eighteen people.

Grey looked at one of the groups closely, and he saw a familiar face. The young man he met at the inn when he entered the town.

When he joined the guild for the expedition, he thought the young man would be among them, but to his surprise, he wasn't from the guild.

Grey glanced at the young man for a few seconds, and just like the time at the inn, the young man noticed him, giving him a nod as a sign of greeting.

Grey nodded as well, before shifting his gaze to the other camp.

The first camp was occupied by mostly people in their early and late twenties, but the second camp was occupied by middle-aged people.

It was already almost sunset, so the leader of the expedition decided they should set up camp for the night.

Grey went out at night just like the previous days, he wouldn't slack even for one day.

While he was heading into the forest, he sensed three people following him.

In the forest.

Grey stopped in front of a tree which had a hole in it.

"Come out, I believe we can speak freely here," He turned around.

The young man from the inn walked out from behind a tree, accompanied by two young ladies.

"Such sharp senses, this was why I wanted you to come with me for this trip," The young man said, clicking his tongue.

"Cut to the chase, what do you want?" Grey said casually.

"I'm offering you the same deal, except this time, we'll be sharing it among us four," The young man said.

"And what about your group?" Grey asked.

"They're just here to help us acquire it, but I don't think they'll be enough," The young man said.

"I'll think about it,"

Chapter 349 - Chimera Forest

"I'll think about it," Grey said, after seeing the trio continue standing there, he asked, "Anything else?"

"No, we'll be leaving now," The young man said, before turning around.

"Wait!" Grey called out to them.

The young man paused, turning around to look at Grey.

"Where are you from?" Grey asked curiously.

"Is that important?" The young man asked.

"Hmm, no. You can go," Grey waved them off before jumping onto the branch of the tree.

He didn't enter the hole yet since he didn't want the young man to know what he wanted to do.

The young man nodded, before leaving with the two young ladies.

Grey sat atop the tree branch, contemplating the young man's offer. To be honest, he wasn't interested in the offer. After hearing what happened to that group, he didn't trust the young man one bit.

'If I'm able to use this technique before we see the treasure, then I'm confident in being able to obtain all of the lightning tree.' Grey thought while working on an array around the tree.

After making the array, he stepped into the hole.

The next morning.

Grey came out of the forest earlier this time since they would be setting out sooner.

"There are multiple magical beasts in the Late stages of the Origin Plane, as you all know, the Chimera isn't the only Overlord Plane magical beast in this forest, it's only the strongest. Most of you already know where to avoid while we're going into the forest..." The leader of the expedition gave a small briefing to them about the forest.

Grey and Reynolds were the only ones who didn't know where to avoid while moving in the forest, luckily, the couple was with them. They brought out a small map, handing it to Grey.

There were different places marked on the map, some of the marks were bigger,? while others were smaller. According to the couple, the larger marks was considered the most dangerous, it was occupied by Overlord Plane magical beasts, while the smaller ones were areas that were occupied by magical beasts at the Peak of the Origin Plane.

"Thank you," Grey showed his gratitude to the couple for their help since they started the journey.

"It's nothing. The reason we initially started helping you guys out is that my wife hated the triplet, so anything she could do to annoy them was fine. But in the end, you guys are pretty nice, especially you," The man said, looking at Reynolds.

They spoke more with Reynolds, so they felt closer to him.

Grey smiled when he heard this, he wasn't really bothered if the couple liked him or not.

"Why did you guys come for this expedition when the lightning tree is of no use to any of you?" He asked curiously.

He recalled hearing the Fire Elementalist amongst the triplet asking them what they were doing there when they had no use for the lightning tree. And throughout the journey so far, the couple had been using only the water element.

"And who says it's of no use?" The man said with a smile while throwing a glance at Grey.

Grey was surprised when he saw lightning flashing quickly in the eyes of the man.

'Oh, he also has the lightning element,' He thought.

He nodded to the man before focusing his attention on the map. If he was able to acquire the lightning tree, it would depend on Reynolds if he wanted to share it with the couple or not.

Grey wasn't interested in taking a share since splitting the tree would greatly reduce the lightning essence it had stored up for so long. This was something he learned from the books he read, this was also why he didn't trust the young man who asked him to team up with him.

Everyone would naturally want to refine the tree at its best state.

After the leader of the expedition finished speaking to them, they immediately set off into the forest. Once they get to where the lightning tree was located, it would be every man for themselves.

One of the other groups entered the forest a few minutes after the guild entered. The group the young man came with was the last to step into the forest.

The young man had a smirk on his face as he took a step into the forest.

In the forest.

Grey's group didn't go far before they encountered magical beasts. None of the beasts had gotten to the Origin Plane yet, so the group quickly killed them, not forgetting to remove their cores before they continued heading deeper into the forest.

After getting almost one and a half kilometers deep into the forest, the stages of the magical beasts started slowly increasing.

Grey closely monitored the area, while staring at the map to see how accurate it was.

Looking closely, he noticed that they had passed a few of the areas marked on the map. These areas were occupied by magical beasts at the Peak of the Origin Plane.

According to the map, they still needed to go three kilometers deeper before they will get to where the lightning tree was located.

There were three larger marks around that place, so there's a chance that they might encounter magical beasts at the Overlord Plane when they get to the lightning tree.

They continued heading forward, fighting against the magical beasts that appeared before them.

They were forced to stop after going deeper by another kilometer. Ahead of them was a pack of wind wolves.

Grey looked at the map, and according to it, these wolves should be around eight hundred meters away from here.

"Looks like they moved," The man said.

"Yes, for them to move means only one thing, an Overlord Plane magical beasts chased them from their territory," The lady said.

"Couldn't they just be roaming around?" Reynolds asked.

"No, we've been coming here for over ten years now, and whenever the leader of a pack moves along with them, it means they were chased by a stronger group. There are few wolf packs in this forest, and only the leader of the wind wolves had managed to reach the Peak of the Origin Plane," The man explained.

"Oh, okay."

Chapter 350 - Chimera Forest II

"Everyone, be careful," The leader of the expedition said to the group.

The wolves had already made eye contact with them, and they were already preparing to attack. The wolf pack numbered around twenty-five or so. What made these wolves difficult to handle was their speed.

Whoosh!

The wolves were the first to attack, sending out multiple wind blades towards the group.

This wasn't the first time Grey was encountering wind wolves, but these ones were the strongest.

Grey and the others were able to easily dodge the attacks, but they were met with more attacks from the wolves.

After the wolves first two elemental attacks yielded no results, they charged at the group with their monstrous speed.

Boom!

Bang!

The group soon started a brawl with the wolves.

Grey mostly focused on dodging, while keeping an eye out for Reynolds. If he sees that he's in any type of danger, then he would immediately step in to help resolve it.

While the group was fighting against the wind wolves, the second group who entered the forest after them could be seen heading towards that area.

When they saw the group fighting against the wolves, they stopped about a hundred and fifty meters away from where the battle was going on.

They watched on for a minute or so, before taking another route.

The last group also came along, but just like the previous one, they followed another route, so as not to get involved with the current ongoing battle.

But the sudden change in the position of the wind wolves showed them they couldn't use the previous knowledge they had of this place. Currently, there's a chance that any of the groups might just encounter an Overlord Plane magical beast out of its usual territory.

After the group fought against the wolves for almost twenty minutes, they managed to kill over half of them, without suffering any deaths from their ranks. Although some of them were injured, it was just small superficial wounds.

Awoo!

The leader of the wind wolves called out to the others, retreating.

It was fighting against the leader of the expedition, and it had been suppressed throughout the battle.

Reynolds was part of the few people who were injured. He had a gash on his right thigh, but it had already stopped bleeding for a while now.

"Can you walk properly with that?" Grey asked when he came close to him.

"Yeah, just a little scratch," Reynolds nodded.

"You call that a scratch?" Grey looked at him strangely.

"Haha, don't worry about it. It'll take more than this to keep me down," Reynolds laughed.

Grey shrugged before looking at the wolf corpses around the area.

"We should leave," The leader said, stepping over the wolf corpse in front of him.

The others nodded and continued heading into the forest. They noticed the two other groups while they were fighting, so they knew they had to hurry up, or the expedition would be a waste of time.

Grey stayed close to Reynolds, only when he noticed the wound had slowly started healing did he focus on the road ahead.

He was making some slight changes to the map as they walked deeper, to make it more accurate, in case the couple wanted to come in here again.

As they walked deeper, they saw signs of battles in different places. But there weren't any corpses of people or magical beasts.

The group tensed up as they followed the route the group ahead of them was using. Being behind them meant that they wouldn't need to worry about what was in front since the group would've already cleared it.

One hour later.

They saw the two groups who passed them while they were fighting against the wind wolves. From how quickly they got here, it looked like they didn't encounter any horde of beasts.

The two groups were standing, looking in front of them.

Grey's group soon got to where they were standing. On getting there, Grey looked ahead of him.

In front of them was a barren-looking land. It looked like a place that was burnt a long time ago. Grey guessed it was probably caused by the constant lightning strikes.

But the land wasn't what caught his attention, it was the small glowing tree that he could see from where he was standing. Even from such distances, he could sense the essence inside.

The tree was located on top of a hill, when Grey looked below the hill, he was surprised by the sheer number of magical beasts that were roaming around the hill.

He could tell they were all lightning attribute beasts. The beasts were using the bits of essence that the tree was constantly releasing to improve themselves, this was almost like holy ground for these beasts.

'This would be great for Rey! If only there was one more, then I'd break through to the Seventh stage in a matter of minutes,' He thought while shifting his attention back to the lightning tree.

"Hey bud, how confident are you in acquiring it?" Reynolds asked silently.

"Before today, I'd say sixty percent. But now, I'm a hundred percent certain," Grey said confidently.

A few people around them overheard his statement.

"Heh! Such arrogance," A man scoffed.

"There's a difference between confidence and arrogance," Grey replied calmly.

He was unperturbed by the looks the people were giving him because he had been able to successfully learn the Great Void technique the previous night. He hadn't perfected it, but the little level of mastery he had of it gave him the confidence in being able to acquire the lightning tree.

Grey could confidently say he was the fastest person in this place if he were boosted with his lightning, wind, and physical prowess. Now with the inclusion of the Great Void technique, he didn't think any of these people in the Origin Plane would be able to stop him if he wanted to escape.

The only thing he had to figure out is how Reynolds would escape.