

Affinity 351

Chapter 351 - Red Lightning

"Hey, find a place to hide once the struggle starts," Grey whispered to Reynolds.

Reynolds nodded. He knew his strength all too well, getting involved in the struggle would undoubtedly distract Grey.

Grey nodded when he saw how quickly Reynolds agreed to his suggestion.

All three groups waited at the forest, none stepping a foot into the barren land. But it didn't take long before greed pushed someone to take the first step.

A man from one of the other groups dashed into the barren land, attacking the magical beast in front of him.

With one person charging forward, the others started jumping in as well. They couldn't take the risk of watching on. What if the guy manages to succeed and acquire the lightning tree, then what.

Grey stood at the edge of the forest, watching people charge into the barren land. Reynolds and the couple were standing beside him.

Most of the people from their group had also charged forward.

The couple stayed for a minute before joining in as well. They weren't the only ones who couldn't hold back anymore, even the triplet, and the leader of the expedition joined in as well.

There were different types of magical beasts at the hill, but they all had the same element, the lightning element.

"Hey, bud, should I hide now?" Reynolds asked.

"Not yet, things just started. Do you think these are the only beasts here?" Grey replied softly.

"Hmm, okay," Reynolds answered.

"What do you think about the couple?" Grey asked curiously.

"Them, well, they're good people. I don't really know much about them, but they've been good to us throughout the journey," answered Reynolds.

"Okay. But are you willing to share the tree with them?" Grey asked.

Reynolds fell into thoughts for a few seconds, "I can't say for now, I'll know what to do after acquiring it,"

"Okay." Grey nodded.

Grey and Reynolds stood at the end of the forest, watching the people who were fighting. Grey suddenly sensed someone walking towards him, he tilted his head to the right, only to see the young man from the inn walking in his direction.

"So, what's your decision?" The young man asked after getting within ten meters of them.

"I'm not interested," Grey replied in a straightforward manner.

"Hmm, working together would make things easier, don't you think?" The young man asked again.

"I prefer working alone," Grey turned his attention to the people who were fighting against the beasts.

Within the short time of three minutes, over twenty beasts have been killed. A few people had died as well due to the numbers of the beast, but they were all those in the Mid stages of the Origin Plane.

The young man squinted his eyes, looking at Grey.

"Why did you come to me?" Grey asked when he sensed the young man's gaze.

"There's something different about you. You ooze a sense of confidence even with so many people challenging for the treasure," The young man said.

"If I remember correctly, you were the one who found this place, right?" Grey asked.

"Well, not exactly. I overheard some mercenaries speaking about it in the forest, so I questioned them. They are among the people who came with me today," The young man explained.

"But you decided to spread the information instead of keeping it, why?" Grey asked, darting a glance in his direction.

"Okay, the truth is..." The young man paused and looked around, trying to make sure no one was close to them.

He gave Reynolds a look.

"He's with me," Grey said.

"I don't want the tree, what I want is below the tree," The young man said.

Grey raised a brow in suspicion, "Below the tree?"

"Yes, that's all I can tell you. You can keep the tree, but there's something below it that I want. Without eliminating these beasts, or at least most of them, there's no way to obtain it," The young man said.

"Hmm, how precious is it?" Grey asked.

"More than the lightning tree," The young man said.

"Heh! How are you so sure I wouldn't steal it?" Grey asked with a playful laugh.

"Because I'm the only one who can use it," The young man stretched out his hand, and red lightning danced around it.

"Oh! I see," Grey exclaimed softly, giving the young man another glance.

'No wonder he needed these people to kill the beasts here,' Grey thought in enlightenment.

Although he wasn't too sure of the young man's plan, he could already get the catch of it.

He had read about red lightning in an ancient book at the Academy. It was among the strongest types of lightning, but unfortunately, it came with a major drawback. It needed something like a sacrifice.

It's strengthened by a mixture of blood and lightning. If a Lightning Elementalist who possesses the red lightning wants to strengthen it, they would need to go to a place that is filled with lightning essence, and this essence must be mixed with blood.

It's somewhat of a gruesome thing to do, but there are few people who possess this rare red lightning, and there are fewer places filled with lightning essence in the Azure continent.

"What about the lightning tree?" Grey asked.

"It'll be fine," The young man replied.

"All I need is for you to take the orb you'll see after pulling out the lightning tree," He continued.

"And what happens if you were to reach it before I do?" Grey asked.

He doesn't see anything that's beneficial in this. If he were to pull out the lightning tree, he would naturally take whatever he sees below it.

"The probability isn't too high. The people I sent there are to ensure that no one reaches there before I do, but I can't be too certain if they can stop others." The young man said.

"That doesn't answer my question," Grey said.

"Fine, what do you want?" The young man asked.

"Something to show your sincerity," Grey said.

"Fine, take this." The young man threw a necklace at him, the pendant had a faint bluish glow.

"Just looking at that already shows you it's very valuable. If I get to the tree first, you can keep that. But if you do, you..."

"Can keep it as well. This is like a payment for my services," Grey cut him short while pretending to hide the necklace in his shirt.

"You... fine, but make sure you get it," The young man said.

"Of course," Grey smiled.

Reynolds looked at the face of Grey and noticed there was a notable change in his expression.

"Rey, I'll be making a move first," Grey said, taking the first step into the barren land.

As soon as his foot made contact with the ground, he shot straight to one of the magical beasts close to him.

The beast was a small lightning fox. Its size and speed made it extremely difficult to handle, but for Grey, it was easy to deal with.

Bam!

Grey kicked the fox which was moving swiftly through the air.

Bang!

The fox slammed into the ground, bleeding from all parts of its body. It shook a few times before it stopped moving altogether.

After killing the first beast, Grey charged at another beast, killing it with one clean strike again.

All the beasts he was killing were those with low stages.

'I hope this works,' Grey thought as he slaughtered his way closer to the hill.

The pendant the young man gave to him contained something he read about. It was something that helped with improving consciousness. When he first sensed it, he couldn't believe his eyes, it was only after holding it did he realize it was real.

When the young man came close to him, he had sensed it the first time, but the feeling was very faint. It was only after a few times did he confirm it. He didn't even think this was the first thing the young man would offer him when he asked for payment.

'Bud, looks like my luck is getting better,' Grey thought while dishing out another strike.

He wanted to kill as many beasts as he possibly could. The young man had already paid him anyway, and he would also collect the lightning tree for Reynolds, so it was a win-win all around.

Reynolds watched as Grey went from beast to beast, killing anyone he encountered. He looked at the young man who was smiling by the side.

"Let's hope you're not playing tricks on him, or else, you wouldn't like the side he shows you,"

After speaking, Reynolds slowly retreated from the area.

The young man looked at him but kept his mouth shut. He still had the same smile he previously had.

Grey and the others were fighting against the beasts, killing multiple beasts as they tried to get closer to the hill.

Unknown to most of them, the blood of the dead beasts were sinking into the ground, running straight to the hilltop.

Chapter 352 - Unique Skill: Switch

Bam!

A silver panther slammed into the ground at the foot of the hill.

Grey slowly walked closer to it, just as he was stretching his hand to extract the core, he noticed someone jumping to the front of the panther, carving a hole on its head, removing the core.

He looked at the silhouette properly, only to realize it was the Lightning Elementalist from the triplet.

The Lightning Elementalist gave him a look of contempt, before moving away with the beast core. This panther was a Late stage Origin Plane magical beast, so its core was valuable.

Grey shook his head before he started climbing the hill. The hill was only around one hundred meters high or so, but the beasts that were on the way were all in the Late stages of the Origin Plane.

The higher they went, the stronger the beasts. There are even some that are at the Peak of the Origin Plane. If those beasts were to stay in this place for three to four more months, then they'd be able to break through to the Overlord Plane, becoming rank five magical beasts.

Others had already started climbing the hill before Grey started, he saw the couple were already within fifty meters away from the hilltop.

The Darkness Elementalist amongst the triplet was around twenty meters away from the hilltop, and the leader of the expedition was just below him by a few meters.

The number of beasts made the advancing difficult since most of the beasts from the thirty meters mark were at the Peak of the Origin Plane, and they weren't few.

Grey could easily get to where the lightning tree is located and retrieve it, but he was waiting a little longer because of his deal with the young man. He wanted to ask the young man where he got the liquid that was in the pendant.

There isn't a guarantee that the one in the pendant will be enough to heal Void, so if he could get a location of where more is, then he could head there personally to retrieve it.

As time went on, more and more magical beasts were killed as the people kept advancing. Magical beasts weren't the only ones who were dying, people from the three groups were dying as they stayed there longer. It couldn't be helped, the beasts were just too much.

Grey managed to get within the thirty meters mark, encountering his first opponent at the Peak of the Origin Plane. It was a Lightning Bull. It stood almost two and a half meters tall, and its horns were black, with silvery lines around it.

The bull instantly charged at Grey when he confronted it.

Grey sidestepped to the right, dodging the bull while using the earth element to raise a small three inches wall beneath the feet of the bull. The bull was easily tripped by the wall, slamming into the ground.

Grey didn't bother with it, he continued advancing forward. A few people were already within ten meters of the hilltop, and the Darkness Elementalist amongst the triplet was already on the hilltop, fighting against two beasts at the Peak of the Origin Plane.

Due to the small distance between those still climbing the hill, their attacks sometimes hit others, causing and adding friction among the people.

Grey focused on dodging the beasts that headed his way, moving quickly to the hilltop.

It didn't take long before he got there. The top of the hill was around twenty meters wide, with the place where the lightning tree was located being at the center.

The top of the hill was congested by so many beasts that moving forward seemed almost impossible.

While Grey was planning to make a move, he suddenly saw a red light flash by the side of his eyes. The red light quickly made its way through the beasts. Before any of them could react, the light had already gotten to where the lightning tree was located.

Grey smirked, he knew this red light was none other than the young man. Now he understood why the young man wanted so many people here, without them fighting with the beasts, there's no way he would go through without being stopped, even with such amazing speed.

For the first time in Grey's life, he saw someone that was almost as fast as he is if he went full throttle.

The young man stretched out his hand, trying to take the lightning tree.

"Heh!" Grey scoffed before taking a single step.

After his foot touched the ground, he disappeared from his position, but that was not all. His position was now occupied by the young man who still had his hand outstretched, while Grey was standing next to the lightning tree.

Grey grabbed the lightning tree, and the tree sent out lightning towards him, but he easily used the lightning element to deflect it before removing the tree from the ground.

After uprooting the tree, a red orb appeared in the hole, he could still see blood flowing towards it.

'What if I try to refine it, what would happen?' He thought to himself.

He quickly picked up the orb. Just as he was about to turn around, he noticed something below the red orb, it was red just like the first orb but was darker. Compared to the first one, it was well hidden, and he couldn't even sense it.

'Huh? Two orbs?' He had a questioning look on his face, but he collected the orb nonetheless.

The young man who caught mid-air was left stunned, he raised his head, only to see a magical beast charging towards his direction, he hurriedly looked around and saw Grey standing in the position he was previously standing.

"How?" He muttered to himself.

Everything happened quickly, so he didn't see Grey collecting the first orb, he only saw him bending down.

Grey turned to look at him with a smile. Other than the young man, no one else knew what happened because their views were impeded by the beasts.

Roar!

The magical beast closest to the spot where the lightning tree was previously located roared in anger. This was the strongest beast among the beasts here, its aura was already close to that of an Overlord Plane magical beast.

'Crap!' Grey cursed out when he saw the magical beast charging towards him.

Chapter 353 - Unique Skill: Switch II

Grey hurriedly looked around, and the Darkness Elementalist amongst the triplet caught his eye, without wasting time, he took a step forward and disappeared. In his position stood the Darkness Elementalist who was defending against an attack.

The Darkness Elementalist was shocked when he realized that the magical beast before him was gone, just as he was about to process what was going on, the claws of the Leopard that was coated with lightning struck his back, ripping off some of the flesh on his back.

Bang!

The strike sent him flying, landing in the midst of some of the magical beasts at the bottom of the hill.

Grey, who was standing in the position where the Darkness Elementalist was, was helped by the blue vest which activated its defensive properties when Grey was unable to defend the attack. The attack sent him flying.

Bam!

He slammed into the body of another magical beast, pushing the beast backward.

The body of the beast was the perfect cushion for him, helping him get his balance.

After standing properly, he looked in the direction of the Leopard and was surprised when he couldn't find the Darkness Elementalist.

The Leopard stared at him with its angry eyes, scaring him a little. He quickly wrapped the lightning tree with a cloth, before keeping it in his loose shirt. Of course, that was just to deceive others, he truly kept it in his storage ring.

'This technique is beyond heavenly!' Grey thought in excitement.

The technique he used to switch places with the young man, as well as the Darkness Elementalist was a technique that was part of the Great Void technique. After gaining a bit of mastery, he realized he couldn't just move to a designated area, but he could also switch places with anything that was there.

This was a skill that would be greatly beneficial to him, only the consumption is higher when switching places. As things stand, he could use it five more times, and after that, he would be exhausted, even fighting with his other elements would be difficult by then.

The Leopard charged towards him, making him turn around, fleeing. This was a unique skill he had honed in the trial land, and he was very confident in his fleeing abilities.

On the cliff.

Roar!

The roar of the Leopard caught the attention of all the people who were still trying to climb to the top of the hill.

"What's that?" The Lightning Elementalist amongst the triplet asked.

"Someone must have gotten the lightning tree," The leader of the expedition said, he was already close to the hilltop.

"It must be brother," The Fire Elementalist said confidently.

"I can't say for sure, he isn't the only one who has gotten to the top of the hill. The kid who came with us is there as well, then I recalled seeing a red flash, if my guess is correct, then it's a human as well." The leader of the expedition said.

"Hmph! That brat is lucky to be alive till now, if he dares to steal the lightning tree from brother, then death surely is..." The Fire Elementalist paused, looking at the figure that was flying towards the bottom of the hill.

"Brother!" The Fire and Lightning Elementalist exclaimed simultaneously, darting straight to the bottom of the hill where the Darkness Elementalist crashed.

Going down from a hill with a breeze just around one hundred meters high was a breeze for the duo, a single jump was all they needed.

After getting to the ground, they were shocked by the sorry state of their brother. His back was bleeding profusely, and blood was running from the side of his mouth.

They didn't have time to ponder about what happened, they focused on fighting off the beasts that were running towards their brother.

The Darkness Elementalist tried to stand up, but he was unable to.

The Fire and Lightning Elementalist were still fighting against the beasts when they heard an annoying voice.

"So that's where you were, and I was searching for you all over," Grey said while charging towards the triplet, with the Leopard in tow.

He planned on using the strength of the Leopard to deal with the triplet. He initially thought the Darkness Elementalist escaped, but he never thought he was actually thrown off the hill by the Leopard with a single strike.

"You little piece of shit! What do you mean by that?" The Fire Elementalist immediately scolded when he saw Grey.

But his expression changed when he noticed what Grey was bringing towards them. He could see a wicked grin in Grey's expression, so it wasn't hard to guess he must have had a hand in what happened to their brother.

While Grey was running towards them, the Lightning Elementalist hastily picked up his brother.

"Retreat," He said to the Fire Elementalist.

"Count yourself lucky, brat!" The Fire Elementalist said before turning around.

They knew they were no match for the Leopard that was chasing after Grey. If their brother was fine, then they had a chance, but with him being injured, they couldn't take the risk.

Grey grinned wildly, and with a step he vanished, appearing in front of the Fire Elementalist, where the Lightning and Darkness Elementalist were previously standing.

Bang!

He punched the face of the Fire Elementalist, sending him flying.

The Lightning Elementalist who was trying to escape was shocked to see his brother in front of him. He recalled the Fire Elementalist was previously behind him.

His pupils dilated when he saw his brother being sent flying by the kid who was behind them.

Grey directed the punch he threw at the Fire Elementalist so well, making sure he was sent flying in the direction of the Lightning Elementalist.

Now the Lightning Elementalist was caught in a dilemma, either he tries to save his brother or moves to the side to save himself.

Saving the Fire Elementalist means putting both him, the Darkness Elementalist, and the Fire Elementalist in the range of attack of the Leopard.. But saving himself means he would be able to protect his life, as well as the Darkness Elementalist's life, at the cost of the Fire Elementalist.

Chapter 354 - The Expedition Is Over!

The Lightning Elementalist pondered on which choice to take, and in the end, he valued his life more.

He hastily moved to the side, to the delight of Grey.

Roar!

Smack!

The Leopard smacked the Fire Elementalist with its paw, injuring him with his claws in the process.

Surprisingly, the Fire Elementalist was unexpectedly sent flying in Grey's direction once again.

The Lightning Elementalist watched in dismay as his brother was thrown towards the kid he previously thought wasn't even worth paying any attention to.

Grey smiled when he saw the Fire Elementalist coming his way. He positioned himself in a fighting stance, drawing his right arm back, enforcing with every element he had in his arsenal.

Bam! Boom!

Grey punched the chest of the Fire Elementalist as he got close, with the blue flames in his hand exploding, causing further damage to the Fire Elementalist.

While punching him, he made sure to punch him in the direction of the Leopard once again.

The Lightning Elementalist almost lost his mind when he saw his brother going in the direction of the Leopard again.

This time, since he was not standing in front of the Leopard, he decided to help his brother, but at the cost of hurting him. He couldn't personally catch him since he was already carrying the Darkness Elementalist, so he threw a lightning orb that exploded, pushing his brother to the other direction.

He tried to make the impact as light as possible, but with the Fire Elementalist already hurt by not just the Leopard's first attack, but Grey's brutal punch, it hurt a lot.

The Leopard continued chasing after Grey, it wasn't bothered with the Lightning Elementalist since he was out of its way.

"The kid has it," The Lightning Elementalist muttered.

He hurried over to where his brother was lying, and his appearance was far worse compared to the Darkness Elementalist. He could sense he was still alive, but barely.

Grey's punch was terrifyingly brutal, causing a crevice in the Fire Elementalist's chest. The Fire Elementalist was barely bleeding because the heat from Grey's flame when it exploded burnt all the injuries, while causing more damage as well.

"The kid has the lightning tree!" The Lightning Elementalist yelled while pointing at Grey who was running away from the Leopard.

He fed both his brothers the healing tonic he had with him.

When the others heard his words, they looked at the direction he was pointing at, and sure enough, Grey was running away from the Leopard. When they sensed the aura of the Leopard, they immediately concluded what the Lightning Elementalist said was right.

The Leopard was the strongest magical beast in this place, and for it to chase after a single person only meant the person took the treasure.

The leader of the expedition looked at Grey in shock, likewise the couple. They never expected that Grey would be the one who would obtain the lightning tree, what was even more shocking was the fact that he was running away from a magical beast that even they weren't sure they would be able to escape from.

"Such talent, he must be from a powerful family," The leader of the expedition said.

"To be honest, although I heard him saying he was confident in being able to obtain it, I didn't believe him," The man couple said, the lady nodded as well.

They only regarded him as a talented youngster, nothing else. They even felt he was arrogant when he made the statement.

"What do we do now?" The lady looked at her husband.

Most of the people here were already chasing after Grey as well. But surprisingly, those from the guild didn't join in on the chase. This most likely has to do with the rules the leader said at the start of the expedition, whoever obtains the lightning tree owns it.

Unfortunately, this rule did not apply to the people from the other two camps, even those from the young man's camp were chasing after Grey.

"Let's settle our little conflict with those three," The man smiled while pointing at the triplet.

"Lukka," The leader of the expedition called out to the man.

"The expedition is over, we're just settling some scores," Lukka said with a serious expression.

"It's not like they haven't tried to kill us on several occasions," The lady said to the leader of the expedition.

The leader of the expedition looked at the couple, then at the triplet before sighing. He couldn't really dare to stop them, it's not that he couldn't, but he didn't want to. He had witnessed the triplet trying to kill the couple a few times, but Lukka always comes up with a way to escape with his wife.

The truth was, the triplet was the reason Lukka hadn't been able to break through to the Overlord Plane yet.

The couple jumped down from the hill, heading for the triplet.

Presently, most of the beasts here have started retreating into the forest. The lightning tree was no longer in the place, so the lightning essence in the area was already starting to diminish.

The people who were still alive were all currently hunting for Grey, except for those who came with the guild.

It hadn't? been up to two minutes since Grey uprooted the lightning tree.

With the beasts retreating, and the people changing their attentions to Grey, the Lightning Elementalist decided to take the opportunity to escape with his brothers within the chaos.

The Darkness Elementalist is currently able to walk on his own, but the Fire Elementalist was out cold, so the Lightning Elementalist carried him on his shoulders.

Just as they were about to leave the area, Lukka and his wife appeared in front of them.

"My friends, what's the rush?" Lukka chuckled mischievously.

"Lukka, what's the meaning of this?" The Lightning Elementalist said with a long face.

He could already guess why the couple were blocking their path, but since the expedition was still on, he tried to put up a strong front.

"Nothing, you see, the weather is nice today, so my husband and I decided it's a good time to settle our dispute," The lady squinted her eyes as they approached the triplet.

"Don't forget we're still on an expedition, the guild will not let you go if you break the rules," The Darkness Elementalist snorted coldly.

"Hehe, don't worry. The expedition is over,"

Lukka laughed before attacking.

Chapter 355 - Replica

Grey was currently running away, with the Leopard not too far from him.

The aura of the Leopard made running easier, all the magical beasts retreat whenever they get close.

'It's been a while I've been chased like this,' Grey thought as he ran.

Of course, he could easily escape. If he uses the space element, he would be able to give the Leopard a considerable distance. With the Leopard's intelligence, it naturally knew when to give up. But Reynolds was still in the forest, and he couldn't leave without him.

'Huh? They're following after me,' Grey looked behind him, he could sense people coming in his direction.

'Hehe, time to ditch this stupid cat on them,' He snickered inside before changing his direction.

While running, he broke a tree branch that was exactly the same size as the lightning tree. As he ran, he steadily pumped the lightning element into the tree.

With his high elemental grade, and mastery in arrays, he managed to create an array around the branch, that was about to suck in the lightning element into the tree branch.

Before long, the tree looked identical to the lightning tree he uprooted, its aura was even almost identical.

Grey placed it in his storage ring, next to the original lightning tree. The array drew a little of its aura, making it difficult for even him to differentiate them, luckily he knew which was which when he placed it in the storage ring.

After making a replica of the lightning tree, he ran in the direction of the people, after using the Leopard to run a cycle around a small hill.

It didn't long before people appeared in sight, the young man was among the people who were going after him.

"I'm not willing to die because of this stupid thing. Do you guys want it so much? Here!" Grey threw the branch that was wrapped with a cloth to the people.

Seeing the branch that was covered with a cloth heading towards them, the first thought that came to their mind was that it was fake, it was when the cloth accidentally blew away from the branch while it was still mid-air did they start to believe it might be real.

The young man was the first to charge forward, with his superior speed, he could grab the branch before others.

The Leopard chased after the branch as well, compared to the others, he sensed the essence in the branch even before the cloth blew away.

Roar!

It roared, trying to intimidate the young man, as well as the others from collecting the branch.

The young man paid deaf ears to its warning, grabbing the branch and running in another direction.

The Leopard and the people chased after him.

Some of the people were already at the end of their life, although they looked young, they barely had over five years left remaining in their lifespan. While others couldn't advance anymore.

A treasure like the lightning tree was what they needed to help them break through to the Overlord Plane.

Grey looked from the side as they all ran after the young man.

"Well, that's that," He dusts his hands, before casually walking back to the forest.

On his way, he suddenly saw a flash of lightning dashing past him, behind that flash of lightning was another one. Looking closer, the first flash was the Lightning Elementalist from the triplet, while the one at the back was Lukka.

"Oh, they attacked, how wonderful," Grey said in delight before taking out the communication device, as well as the disc.

After looking at it, he went in the direction Reynolds was hiding while speaking to him.

Ten minutes later.

"Hey bud," Grey said in front of an old tree.

"You don't look like someone who has been running away from a magical beast at the Peak of the Origin Plane," Reynolds said after jumping down from the tree.

"You see, after doing something for a long time, you become a pro at it. I could run for hours, and you wouldn't know," Grey said nonchalantly.

"Come on, let's leave. My trick should've already expired by now," He started walking, following the direction they used in coming here.

"Thanks bud," Reynolds said as he caught up.

"We're already past that, Rey," Grey said while looking at the map.

"*Sigh* Fine, let's go. Next time, I hope I'm the one who gets to help you," Reynolds said.

"Sure," Grey replied.

After confirming they were going in the right direction, they continued walking while speaking.

Grey told him of how he was able to harm the Darkness and the Fire Elementalist. He didn't know what happened after leaving, but seeing Lukka chasing after the Lightning Elementalist probably meant the couple had dealt with the other two.

It took them about thirty minutes or so before they got to the exit of the forest. Given the fact that most of the people were running after the lightning tree, Grey guessed they would be the first people to exit the forest.

On leaving the forest, Grey was surprised to see Lukka sitting at the place where the guild camped.

"You're Grey, right?" Lukka stood up, walking in their direction.

"Yes," Grey nodded calmly.

He didn't feel scared or worried about the appearance of Lukka.

"I never thought you'd be the one who would obtain it," Lukka said.

"I do," Grey smiled.

"Where's that guy you were chasing?" He asked when he didn't see any signs of the Lightning Elementalist.

"He managed to escape, but without his brothers, he isn't much of a problem," Lukka replied.

"Oh, how unfortunate," Grey shook his head softly.

"So, what now?" He asked, looking at Lukka.

"You should leave before the others come, if they find you here, they wouldn't be so welcoming. They might've let you leave the first time, but I'm not sure they'd let you go for a second time," Lukka advised.

"I'm not bothered by them. It's not like they can do anything to me," Grey shrugged.

But in the end, he took Lukka's advise, leaving with Reynolds.

Chapter 356 - Where's He?

Grey and Reynolds left the camp, heading back on their own.

"Will you refine it now, or later?" Grey looked at Reynolds.

"I think it's best I find a place here to refine it," Reynolds replied after pondering for a few minutes.

"I guessed as much," Grey said.

He was also eager to feed Void the liquid that was in the pendant the young man gave to him.

They walked into the forest, if they went further, they would reach the rocky mountain.

The duo soon found a cave in the forest, after Grey walked around to ensure it was safe, he made an array around the cave, before stepping into the cave, along with Reynolds.

He tossed the lightning tree to Reynolds, before going to the side of the cave. He planned to protect him while he was refining the tree.

Reynolds quickly unwrapped the cloth that Grey used in covering it. As soon as the cloth left the lightning tree, lightning essence immediately spread out in all directions.

"Wouldn't this attract people here?" Reynolds couldn't help but ask when he saw how powerful the essence was.

Given the purity, as well as the intensity of the essence, it was bound to attract attention not just from people, but the magical beasts that reside in this part of the forest.

"I've taken care of that, the array I made will help hide the aura from going out, so you don't need to worry about that," Grey assured him.

"Okay," Reynolds nodded, before he closed his eyes with the lightning tree placed on his lap.

Grey watched him for a few minutes, before taking out the pendant he took from the young man.

'I wonder if he'll have more?' He thought.

He took out the two orbs he removed from the ground under the tree. When he sensed them, a surprised expression appeared on his face.

The first orb he took didn't have as much essence as the second one. The second one was not only better, it had a higher density as well.

'How come he didn't tell me of this one, or could it be he didn't know of it?'

Multiple questions ran through Grey's head as he studied the orbs. Red lightning danced around the first orb, with lightning essence that's almost double the intensity of that in the lightning tree.

Grey kept the orbs back in the storage ring, he would think about that later, for now, he wanted to see what effects this liquid would have on Void.

He brought Void out of the storage ring, placing him on his lap. With little to no effort, he opened the pendant, and the teardrop-like liquid was flowing lightly in the pendant.

When the pendant opened, the liquid spread out an aura that soothed his head, making him think more clearly. This feeling gave him a little bit more hope in the liquid being able to help Void.

He used his spiritual energy to wrap the liquid, lifting it from the pendant, before gently opening Void's mouth, placing it in it.

After the liquid entered Void's mouth, it quickly dissolved inside, spreading into his entire body. The outer part of Void's body lit up with the bluish light the liquid gave off.

Grey watched on patiently as the light surrounded Void, shaking a little. He couldn't help it, he was nervous.

After five minutes went by, the light surrounding Void started to die down. He looked at him with hopeful eyes, but to his dismay, there was no reaction from Void.

'It didn't work,' He thought sadly, disappointment evident on his face.

Grey ran his hand through the fur of Void. He sat in that position with Void on his lap for over two hours.

Later that night.

Buzz! Crack!

Grey raised his head, looking at Reynolds. Lightning was currently dancing around Reynolds' body, giving off a glowing light.

Grey waved his hand, creating an earth wall at the entrance of the cave, sealing the light inside the cave.

He stood up, walking outside.

"He's about to break through," He muttered while walking out.

...

Chimera forest.

After Grey threw the lightning tree at the young man.

The young man went in another direction, hoping to escape with the lightning tree. Although it was not his objective in coming here, it wouldn't hurt gaining the boost from the lightning tree as well.

It didn't take long though before he figured out that they had been duped by Grey.

After running for around ten minutes, he suddenly noticed that the aura the lightning tree was giving off was starting to decrease.

"Huh? What's happening?" He asked in shock.

He looked at the lightning tree he had in his hand, and his expression changed drastically.

"Shit! He scammed us!" He yelled out, before ditching the tree.

The Leopard which was chasing after him, went after the tree, on seeing it, it was infuriated.

Roar!

With an angry roar, it sent lightning in all directions, striking some of the people who were behind it.

The young man had a wry smile on his face. After managing to escape from the infuriated attack of the Leopard, he hid somewhere, to try to regain his breath.

Running for so long under the numerous attacks from the Leopard was difficult. He was hit on a couple of occasions, but luckily, they were not severe.

"Heh! That guy," He laughed lightly.

He waited for two hours, recovering the essence he spent on escaping, before turning back in the direction of the hill.

Thirty minutes later.

The young man stood at the top of the hill, walking towards where the lightning tree was previously stood.

"How did he even do that?" He asked in confusion when he recalled how Grey switched positions with him.

If Grey had disappeared and appeared close to him, he would've at least believed it was probably because Grey was insanely fast, but Grey not only appeared there, but he also switched places with him. Had he not been fast, then he would've been killed by one of the magical beasts in the area.

He shook his head, after not being able to figure out how it was possible.

'He collected the orb, luckily I told him of it. But he wouldn't sense, or see the second orb.' The young man bent down, before he started digging the place.

The reason he told Grey of the first orb was so that he would be able to acquire both orbs. The second one was far better than the first one. But it rarely releases any aura, and on multiple occasions, it forms not under the tree, but somewhere around it.

Unknown to the young man, the second orb not only formed under the tree, but Grey had escaped with it.

One hour later, he had dug almost ten meters around the place where the lightning tree was standing, digging it over five meters deep, but he found nothing.

"Where is it?" He asked with an exasperated look.

He was looking haggard from digging so much, a little frustrated since he knew the orb rarely formed very far or deep from where the tree stood.

He calmed his mind, before he started digging deeper. He tried to console himself with the thought of this one forming a little further away from how it usually forms.

Two more hours went by.

"Where's it?" The young man asked with his hands on his head.

"That bastard! He took it as well," The young man said with bloodshot eyes.

The thought of someone else taking it didn't come across his mind, he knew only a few people knew of the first orb, much less the second orb.

This was something he learned from an ancient text his father acquired. Because of his unique lightning, this seemed perfect for him.

He had been searching for a lightning tree for years, and now after finding it, he was unable to obtain what he came for. He even gave Grey the precious pendant he had, all for nothing.

"Where's he?" He looked climbed up from the hole he had dug on the hilltop.

He jumped down from the hill, heading in the direction where they set up camp.

Thirty minutes later.

The young man came out of the forest, and immediately headed straight for the guild's camp.

The people from the guild were still there, planning to leave the next day.

When the young man came out, some of the people who chased after him from the other camps ran in his direction.

"Where's the lightning tree?" Someone asked.

They didn't hear the young man when he yelled, neither did they see him ditching the lightning tree. They only saw the attack of the Leopard, and not all of them saw that.

"That guy duped us, the tree he threw our way was fake," The young man said with an angry look.

The young man walked towards the guild.

"Where's he?"

Chapter 357 - Scared Old Man

The leader of the expedition confronted the young man as he walked towards their camp.

"He's gone, you don't expect him to stay here after obtaining the lightning tree, do you?" He asked the young man with a calm voice.

"Hmph! There's something of mine that he has," The young man snorted coldly.

"What does that have to do with us?" The leader of the expedition asked, this time, releasing some of his aura.

"Nothing, but can you tell me where he came from?" The young man changed his approach.

"I don't even know him, he only accompanied us by chance. And besides, even if I did know him, I wouldn't tell you a thing about him," The leader of the expedition said.

The young man looked at the leader, and then at the couple. Seeing their attitude, he knew he would be getting nothing from them. With nothing else to do, he walked back to his camp.

Back at the cave.

Reynolds had successfully broken through to the Fourth stage of the Origin Plane, but he didn't stop there. There was still quite a lot of essence in the tree, so he wanted to improve further.

Grey was currently standing outside the cave, looking into the silent forest. The thought of searching for the young man came to his mind, but leaving Reynolds here alone was a little too dangerous. Although he made some arrays around the cave as well as its entrance, he wasn't sure if it could shield off those beasts at the Peak of the Origin Plane.

It was soon daybreak, but Reynolds was still in the middle of his strengthening. With nothing to do, Grey decided to practice the Great Void technique. It was a powerful skill to begin with, so gaining better mastery of it would bring a lot of advantages to him.

Just the switch skill that came with it already made him almost unbeatable in fights.

'The danger levels will decrease by some margin now. I really need to see that guy,' Grey thought while looking at the cave.

He guessed the young man would be searching for him, even more so after he duped them. He couldn't take the risk of not seeing the young man since he needed to know where and how he got that liquid.

After setting up a few more arrays around the cave just to be sure, he vanished into the forest, heading to where the groups camped.

It took him ten minutes to get to the place, it wasn't really far from where they were hiding anyway, but he was sure the people wouldn't go through that area.

On getting there, he saw the groups had already started to pack up, preparing to leave the area.

'Luckily, I moved early,' He heaved a sigh of relief, but he stayed hidden.

He knew some of the people there would attack him if they saw him, after all, the appealness of the lightning tree hasn't decreased by even the slightest.

It didn't take long before he saw who he was searching for, now all that remains was how to get the attention of the young man.

'*Sigh* Forget it, what's the use of hiding anyway, it's not like they can kill me,' He thought before taking a step out of the forest.

Just as he took a step out, he hastily turned around, heading back into the forest.

'That's too risky, I'll need to think of something,' He climbed onto the branch of the tree at the start of the forest, while monitoring the movements of the people.

Ten minutes later, the group started moving out. Other than the cores they obtained in the expedition, they got nothing else. Some of them even had it worse, dying.

Rustle!

A silent rustle caught Grey's attention. The sound felt exactly like when someone was sneaking through the woods, silently.

'Huh? Someone's here,' He thought before turning his head around to look behind him.

Just as his head was still turning, he caught sight of a lightning arrow shooting towards him. The lightning arrow was already within three meters of him, drawing nearer even while his head was still turning.

The arrow will surely be able to pierce his head before he turns around completely.

Buzz! Boom!

Grey vanished from the tree, dodging the arrow by a slight margin.

The arrow crashed into the tree, destroying it in the process.

The commotion attracted the attention of the groups who just started to move away from where they camped.

"What's that?" Lukka asked, looking in the direction of where the sound came from.

"It's a lightning based attack," The leader of the expedition said.

Although they were over seven hundred meters away from the tree, he could still see the silvery flash of lightning from the explosion.

Lukka squinted his eyes, looking at the area of the explosion.

"Stay here, I'll be back shortly," He said to his wife.

"Okay," His wife nodded.

Lukka was the only one who decided to head in that direction. The reason for this was simple, no one wanted to get involved in a fight that had absolutely nothing to do with them. There's a chance that two powerful magical beasts were fighting, so going near the area might incur the wrath of both beasts.

'I didn't think the moron stayed behind,' Lukka thought with a smirk as he headed closer to the forest.

He guessed it correctly, it was the attack of the Lightning Elementalist from the triplet. When he chased after him, he managed to slip away due to some tricks. But he never thought he wouldn't go far.

'But, who is he attacking? He's not stupid enough to attract my attention when he fully knows I would come for his head,' He paused, but only for a few seconds before continuing.

He thought of the possibility of this being a trap, but he just couldn't stop himself from not checking it out. After what the triplet had done to him and his wife, he couldn't stand to let this chance go.

At the forest.

Grey appeared on the tree close to the one he was previously standing on. He didn't know who attacked him, or where the attack came from.

He looked in the direction of where the arrow came from, but he couldn't see or sense anyone.

'Dammit! How could I have been so careless?' He said a little angry at himself.

If not for the space element, then he would've either died from that attack, or would've been severely injured.

"Who's there? Come out!" Grey called out.

"Boy, there's something strange about your movement technique,"

Grey heard a voice coming from every angle. It was like the person was speaking from different places, making it difficult to pinpoint his location.

"Come out, and I might tell you about it," Grey spoke calmly.

He felt the voice was familiar when he heard it, but he didn't know where he had heard it before.

"How did you switch places with me?"

The voice asked another question.

"Oh! It's you! I knew the voice was familiar. Haha, now I don't have to worry," Grey laughed out while using his hand to rub his chest.

The fear of the unknown was something that affected anyone, not knowing who was attacking him scared him a little, but now that he knew it was the Lightning Elementalist from the triplet, he felt unbothered.

Grey's behavior annoyed the Lightning Elementalist. It was like he didn't take him seriously after finding out he was the one speaking.

"What insolence! Do you think I can't kill you from where you stand?" The Lightning Elementalist said angrily.

"Hehe, if you aren't scared, why are you hiding?" Grey laughed in an annoying way, further infuriating the Lightning Elementalist.

Swoosh! Buzz! Bang!

Another lightning arrow shot towards Grey from the right, but he was able to quickly see it this time.

He moved to the other side, before sending a fireball in the direction the lightning arrow came from.

Boom!

The fireball exploded, covering a wide range, but there was no reaction from the place.

"If you think I am in the position where the arrow comes from, then you still have a lot to learn, boy," The Lightning Elementalist's voice spoke out steadily.

"Hmm, come on out old man. Oh wait, I forgot, you're scared of a little boy, that's why you ran away the last time," Grey said while laughing out loud.

When the Lightning Elementalist recalled how Grey used the Leopard to attack him and his brothers, he was annoyed.

"You little brat is the reason why two of my brothers are dead," The Lightning Elementalist said angrily.

"And here I am, the reason even you are going to die as well," Grey spread out both hands.

Swoosh! Bam!

Another arrow shot towards Grey, but he was able to dodge it, while attacking where the attack came from.

"Why are you still here?" Lukka's voice came from behind Grey.

Chapter 358 - I Tried

"I knew you were the one coming," Grey turned to look at Lukka.

"Watch out!" Lukka raised his left hand, a bolt of lightning shooting out of it.

Grey smiled, before quickly evading the attack that was coming from behind him.

?

Boom!

Lukka's lightning bolt struck the lightning arrow that was meant for Grey's head.

"Trying to sneak attack me won't work," Grey's appeared on another tree before saying.

"Hmph! I'll get you one way or another," The Lightning Elementalist snorted coldly.

"I didn't think you'd get to this level where you would sneak attack a kid," Lukka said while looking around the forest, trying to figure out the Lightning Elementalist's position.

"Once the kid dies, you're next," The Lightning Elementalist said confidently.

"Bold of you to assume you can kill me," Grey said while twirling his right index finger in the air.

"Heh, if not for the fear of this guy aiding you, I'd have come out long ago to kill you," The Lightning Elementalist scoffed.

"Okay, how about this, we should make a bet. As long as you come out on your own, he'll promise not to intervene in the fight. That way, you could fight against him when you're done killing me. How does that sound?" Grey asked, still twirling his finger.

"Do I look like a child you could trick with a few words? I've been a mercenary for years now, I know more than believing an enemy," The Lightning Elementalist said, not believing Grey's words one bit.

"Well, I tried," Grey said with a shrug.

"What do you mean you tried?" The Lightning Elementalist asked, a little confused.

Even Lukka looked at Grey with a strange expression.

"I mean, I tried giving you an opportunity to at least give you a fair fight, but guess you were too foolish to take it," Grey said with a strange smile while tilting his head to his left.

He looked right through the trees as if he could peer through them. Around eighty meters away from where he was standing, the Lightning Elementalist could be seen looking at them.

"Im... impossible! How did you find me?" The Lightning Elementalist was stunned by the fact that Grey had managed to locate him.

This was something even Lukka couldn't do, and Lukka was stronger than himself.

"Haha, it's simple. But you see, I don't like divulging my secrets to dead people, it's just of no use to them," Grey laughed out loud.

"You little brat! I'll kill you even if it's the last thing I do!" The Lightning Elementalist said, before sending out multiple lightning arrows in Grey and Lukka's direction.

They were forced to dodge the attacks of the Lightning Elementalist, but they made sure to follow his movements because he tried slipping away again. This was exactly how he escaped from Lukka's hand the last time, luckily, Grey managed to find him this time.

Lukka looked at Grey, feeling surprised by his prowess. He thought about how Grey managed to find the Lightning Elementalist, it was then that he recalled when they were crossing the swamp.

At that time, Grey would occasionally place his finger in the swamp, and after doing that, he would get the general location of where the beasts were, and where they weren't.

'I see, no wonder he was twirling his hand while speaking, he was using that thing. Such a resourceful kid, he would do well as a mercenary,' He praised Grey in his mind.

"You can't hide anymore, old man. Stand there so you can join your brothers quickly," Grey said before chasing after the Lightning Elementalist.

Lukka joined in on the chase as well, he couldn't allow the Lightning Elementalist to escape for a second time.

Boom! Bang!

They attacked as they chased after him.

Being adept in movement techniques, the Lightning Elementalist managed to dodge most of their attacks while also dishing out some of his own.

Boom! Bam!

Their battle quickly moved deeper into the forest as the Lightning Elementalist tried to escape.

On the open field.

The people quickly noticed that Lukka had joined in on the battle. The leader of the expedition as well as his wife were able to figure out he was fighting against the Lightning Elementalist as soon as the battle intensified, but they didn't know who was there as well.

"Do you think we should assist him?" Someone amongst the guild members asked.

"No need, Lukka will be alright," The leader of the expedition said.

He couldn't allow the others to go since there were some who were closely linked to the triplet. If not for the chaos at the time Lukka and his wife killed two of them, then some of the people here would have intervened.

But that was not the only reason though, the second reason was that just as the triplet had people who would support them, so did the couple. A brawl would definitely start if that happens, causing chaos between them. The guild might even end up breaking since some of them here were the old-timers of the guild.

The guild does have some people who are already in the Overlord Plane, but being in the Overlord Plane puts them above these petty skirmishes of those in the Origin Plane. They rarely involve themselves with what's happening with the guild, they would only show themselves if anything were to threaten it.

Some of the people here dying wouldn't really bring much harm to the guild since multiple mercenaries seek to join the guild on a daily basis.

The leader of the expedition looked in the direction for a few more minutes before speaking to the others.

"We should get going, Lukka knows the way,"

With his command, they started the journey back. Surprisingly, Lukka's wife didn't seem too bothered about her husband, she was just that confident in his abilities.

The guild's group was not the only ones who stopped to look at where the explosion came from, all three groups stopped. But Lukka was the only one who showed any interest in going there.

The young man who Grey saw at the inn looked in the direction of the explosion, and just as their group was about to leave, he caught a small glimpse of a blue flame exploding.

'It's him!'

Chapter 359 - Bullying The Weak

The young man slipped away from his group, before charging towards the forest. He had heard of people with rare flames, but Grey was the only one he had seen. Those blue flames of his were too distinctive.

'He better remember our deal, or else he'll get the other side of me.' He thought while running towards where the explosion was coming from.

In the forest.

Grey and Lukka were still chasing after the Lightning Elementalist. Being faster than Lukka, Grey had managed to close up the gap on multiple occasions, but the Lightning Elementalist would always attack in a precise manner that would force him to defend against the attack, delaying him in the process.

"You're faster than he is, can you try to catch him?" Lukka asked after Grey was pushed back again by the Lightning Elementalist's attack.

"Well, I'm trying my best, but he's acting like a slippery fox," Grey said, cursing at the same time.

"Make a feint," Lukka said.

"What?" Grey asked, unsure of what Lukka was getting at.

"Make a feint," Lukka repeated himself.

"I heard you the first time, I just don't... oh... you mean a feint?" Grey was about to complain when he suddenly understood what Lukka meant.

"Yes," Lukka nodded.

"That's easy," Grey said before speeding past Lukka once again.

"Is that... wow!" Lukka had been stunned by Grey's speed from the first time he saw him running. This time though, he caught something that he had not seen before whenever Grey was running, lightning.

He had witnessed Grey using two elements so far, now with the addition of the lightning element, that makes it three. Although there were Multi-Elementalists, they are very rare, so seeing one as young and as talented as Grey was quite amazing.

Grey's burst of speed attracted the Lightning Elementalist's attention, and just like before he struck out. But to his surprise, Grey stopped before the attack came, before shooting past the place where his attack struck with even greater speed.

Swoosh! Buzz! Bang!

The Lightning Elementalist immediately started attacking wildly, trying to make sure Grey didn't get close to him. But after moving closer, Grey didn't plan on retreating anymore.

Bang!

Grey sent a fireball in his direction, blasting the tree branch he was about to stand on, making him lose his footing, falling to the ground.

Lukka was still some meters away, but Grey naturally had no problems with fighting against the Lightning Elementalist on his own. All it would take was time, but he knew he would surely be able to defeat the Lightning Elementalist.

Swoosh! Boom! Bam!

Grey and the Lightning Elementalist continued exchanging moves as soon as they got close to each other, destroying most of the trees around them.

When Lukka got there, he had the impulse of screaming, 'Is he even a kid anymore?'. Grey's fighting capabilities were insane, one has to recall that Grey was still in the Sixth stage of the Origin Plane, while the Lightning Elementalist was in the Ninth stage.

The Lightning Elementalist could even be regarded with those who were at the very Peak of the Origin Plane, yet Grey was fighting against him, and the battle seems to be balanced.

Lukka watched on from the side, it's not that he didn't want to assist Grey, but looking at the battle, he didn't think he would do much better than him.

Although he was stronger than the Lightning Elementalist, he had to admit to the fact that he couldn't just kill him willy-nilly, it would take a good deal of effort on his part.

Looking at the battle, he decided it was best he stayed out of Grey's way. He would only join in if the Lightning Elementalist was on the verge of escaping, although he didn't think he would get that chance seeing how well Grey was keeping him grounded.

Boom! Bang!

Grey's fireball explosion pushed the Lightning Elementalist back, slamming him into the tree behind him.

"Damn it! This kid is a monster!" The Lightning Elementalist was lost for words.

Grey was starting to gain the advantage over him, and the battle hadn't even been up to five minutes.

The explosive power of Grey's fireballs was almost impossible to defend against. Even when he manages to dodge them, the aftereffects of the explosion still carry so much punch that they could cause major damages if not handled properly.

"Hey, you see, it's just like I said, you'll fight against me while he watches from the side," Grey walked towards him in a dominant fashion.

After being in multiple battles, and almost always coming out on top, Grey developed a dominant aura that shows forth whenever he battles. This aura alone dwindles the spirit of whoever is fighting against him, it's like they know beforehand that they were fighting a lost battle.

Grey rarely fights any battles without confidence, this confidence makes him believe no matter what happens, he would surely come out on top.

"We're just getting started, boy. I'll show you what it means to be a mercenary," The Lightning Elementalist moved from the tree, dodging Grey's fire attack.

"You see, funny enough, the first person I killed was a mercenary," Grey chuckled before attacking once again.

Earth spikes sprang up from the ground, forcing the Lightning Elementalist to go airborne.

When the Lightning Elementalist went airborne, Grey immediately attacked with a widespread lake of flames that covered a twenty meters radius, not giving the Lightning Elementalist any chances of landing.

With the Lightning Elementalist airborne, Grey started attacking with his fire and earth element simultaneously.

Smack!

An opportunity presented itself and Grey created a large earth pillar that he used to smack the Lightning Elementalist flying.

Bang! Bam! Crash!

The Lightning Elementalist went through four trees, destroying them, before crashing hard onto the ground.

Lukka clicked his tongue on seeing Grey bullying the Lightning Elementalist, he couldn't even say it was a fight among equals.. The difference between both fighters was clear for all to see, Grey was simply bullying the weak.

Chapter 360 - Afterimage

Bam! Bang!

The Lightning Elementalist was sent flying once again by Grey's attack, this time, crashing hard into a tree, almost breaking it in two.

Grey appeared in front of him with no time to spare, punching him straight in the face, sending him flying again.

Bang! Crash!

The Lightning Elementalist crashed into the ground, sliding for almost twenty meters before stopping in a small crater his body formed.

"Such a brutish way of fighting," Lukka muttered, feeling a little empathetic for the Lightning Elementalist.

Grey's way of fighting was strange amongst Elementalists, he had noticed it the first time when he saw Grey exchanging blows with the Stone Apes with his bare fists.

Elementalist usually outgrow this method of fighting once they get to the Arcane Plane, yet, Grey was still using it, and for some reason, he noticed Grey's physical strength was far superior to theirs.

Grey kicked the Lightning Elementalist, sending him into the air once again, while he was still mid-air, he appeared above him, stomping on his chest heavily, stamping him into the ground.

Crack!

The Lightning Elementalist coughed out blood before he even reached the ground. After landing, he felt a sharp pain coming from his chest.

Over fifty percent of his rib bones were broken from Grey's aggressive attack.

He tried to open his mouth, but blood was the only thing that came out of it, lots of blood.

"You're weaker than I expected," Grey remarked casually after landing.

His casual remark threw Lukka off his feet.

'What do you mean he's weaker than you expected? You're the one who's stronger than normal!' He almost screamed out loud, but he managed to keep himself calm not to give away his image.

Cough! Cough!

The Lightning Elementalist continued coughing blood, he tried moving his arms to cover his mouth, but he could barely move them.

"I'm done, you can complete your revenge now," Grey turned to Lukka.

The Lightning Elementalist could barely move, so he didn't see any reason in fighting anymore. He still had to search for the young man to see if he could acquire more of that liquid.

Lukka looked at Grey for some time, before shaking his head. He had completely given up the idea of looking at Grey normally.

Buzz! Swoosh!

Grey blinked twice before disappearing from his position.

Lukka's pupils enlarged when he saw Grey suddenly disappearing. A lightning arrow shot past the place where Grey was previously standing.

"What sort of movement technique is that? Or has he been able to attain the legendary speed that allows one to leave behind an afterimage when moving?" Lukka muttered to himself in shock.

Bam!

The lightning arrow struck a tree, almost destroying it.

Grey soon appeared a few meters away, "I knew you wouldn't give up so easily, even when you can't move, you're still plotting a sneak attack,"

Lukka was so shocked by Grey's movement that he stood rooted to the ground, not moving an inch. He had read of people who attained unimaginable speed that allows them to move so quickly that they leave behind an image of themselves even after leaving the place.

'That explains why the Leopard was unable to keep up to him. This boy is unbelievable!' He thought.

Grey didn't know what was currently going through Lukka's mind, all he did was escape from the sneak attack with the space element. Although he had also read of people who were able to leave afterimages due to their speed, he hadn't gotten to that level, yet.

"Aren't you going to kill him? Although, I think he would still die anyway, given how serious his injuries look," He called out to Lukka who had spaced out.

"Oh, right." Lukka came back to his senses, with a point of his finger, he sent a tiny lightning bolt that shot past the forehead of the Lightning Elementalist, leaving a small hole in it.

The Lightning Elementalist twitched twice before his movement stopped completely.

"What are you still doing in the forest?" Lukka asked after taking care of the Lightning Elementalist.

"Rey's refining the lightning tree, I'm guarding him while we're here," Grey replied.

"You also have the lightning element, right?" Lukka asked.

Grey looked at him for a few seconds before nodding.

"Hmm, you're a good friend," Lukka said before turning around.

Not everyone would give up the chance of getting stronger for their friend, he could tell Grey didn't even split the tree with Reynolds, allowing him to refine everything which would bring him better benefits.

"He'd do the same for me," Grey replied with a small smile, "All my friends would,"

He said the last statement while caressing the ring on his hand.

"It's good to know you have such friends, your horses will be left at the same place. Make sure you leave here on time," Lukka said before turning around.

"Okay, thanks for your help," Grey waved at him before following after him.

Lukka noticed he was coming in his direction, but refrain from asking anything else. He coated himself with lightning, before disappearing, chasing after his group.

The fight lasted around fifteen to twenty minutes, so he guessed the others would've left by now.

Grey soon got to the edge of the forest again, but this time, he didn't see anyone there.

"They must've left, but I don't think that guy would leave without taking what he asked for," He muttered.

After waiting for almost thirty minutes, he decided it was time to go back. He had to check up on Reynolds, to ensure he was doing okay.

When he got to where the cave was located, he was surprised to see the young man sitting outside the cave, seemingly waiting for him.

Grey's expression changed only for a second before hiding it.

"How did you find this place?" He asked as he walked up to the young man.

"It's not that hard to find, if you know what you want, that is," The young man replied with a smile.