

## Affinity 361

Chapter 361 - How Unlucky!

"I see you have the real lightning tree, you even gave it to your friend, such amazing kinship is rare to find," The young man said with a strange smile.

"Who I give what I obtain is none of your business," Grey replied calmly.

"Sorry, my bad," The young man apologized while raising both hands as if surrendering.

"Do you have what I want?" He asked after apologizing.

"Yes," Grey took out the orb from his pocket. It was neatly wrapped in a cloth.

"Can I see it, it'll be a shame if you were to dupe me twice," The young man said, stretching out his right hand.

"I want something from you," Grey said, placing the orb back in his pocket.

"You're going to bargain with what I've paid for?" The young man raised a brow.

"Well, technically, you didn't pay for it. Had I not acted quickly, then you'd not only have it, you'd also have the lightning tree. You only gave me that to show your sincerity, in case I was the one who obtained the orb in the end." Grey replied with his hand on his chin as if thinking.

"But don't worry, I don't want anything major from you," Grey said again with a wave of his hands.

"Fine, what do you want?" The young man said with gritted teeth.

"Do you have more of that liquid? If yes, can I have some, if no, then where can I find it?" Grey asked.

"The one on the pendant?" The young man asked to be sure.

Grey nodded, before taking out the pendant which had lost its glow.

"No, I don't have it. Neither do I know where to find it," The young man replied.

"A shame, looks like you wouldn't be getting the orb afterall," Grey said while shaking his head sympathetically.

"Look, it was given to me by my father. It helps keep the mind clear, so I always have it on me. I only gave it to you because this was more important to me," The young man said in exasperation.

"You really don't know?" Grey asked again.

"No," The young man shook his head.

Grey sighed when the young man shook his head, before sitting on the ground, not showing any signs of wanting to give the orb to the young man. He was trying to see if the young man knew something but was not telling him.

"What are you doing?" The young man asked, his face filled to the brim with anger.

"Sitting, and I suggest you should be going. I can fetch a hefty sum from this, and I might even get the information I want as well," Grey brought out the orb, tossing it into the air and catching it.

The young man looked at Grey with veins already appearing on his forehead.

"I've heard of a rumor about a liquid like this being in the Magical beasts forest," The young man said.

"Oh, so you knew something?" Grey looked at the young man.

"It's a rumor, I'm not certain of it." The young man responded.

"I feel you know more than what you're divulging," Grey squinted his eyes.

'Dammit! I hate this boy, I'll kill him and his friend after I collect the first orb. I'll take the second orb off his dead body.' The young man thought inside.

"There's a place in the Magical beasts forest that's filled with bamboo, it's said it can be found there, a whole pond. But like I said, it's only a rumor, and the Magical beasts forest isn't like the Chimera forest," The young man said.

"You see, now did you die after telling me about it?" Grey asked with a playful smile.

Although he wasn't even fifty percent sure what the young man said was accurate, he would try to find out from others as well. And besides, there's a huge chance that the young man was only lying so he could take the orb, there's no way he would be able to find out anyway.

The young man looked at him with angry eyes, before stretching out his hand again.

Grey didn't keep the orb any longer, he threw it in the direction of the young man. But the scene he saw next shook him to the core.

As soon as the orb got to the hand of the young man, he opened his mouth and swallowed the orb in one big gulp.

Boom!

An energy explosion shot out from his body, spreading in all directions.

Crack! Crack!

The array Grey set up outside the cave suddenly started cracking from the energy that the young man was giving off.

"Crap! He's... breaking through," Grey was stunned by what was happening.

He knew the young man was in the Late stages of the Origin Plane, but he never really bothered with him since he was confident in his abilities to fight against those in the Origin Plane.

But never in his wildest dreams did he think the young man would ingest the orb, and start breaking through. And from the energy he was giving off, he seemed to be breaking through to the Overlord Plane.

"How unlucky!" Grey rushed over to where the array was located, and immediately started reinforcing it.

If the array was to fall apart, the energy the young man was giving off would do a lot of damage to Reynolds who was in the middle of cultivating.

Grey wasn't feeling any pressure from the young man, he attributed it to what happened when Alice's father also tried pressuring him with the superior aura of an Overlord Plane expert.

He had tried attacking the young man while he was still in a somewhat unconscious state, but all his attacks seemed to be repelled by an unseen force.

'This guy's definitely going to try to kill me for sure, but I can't escape now since Rey is here. Damn it!' Grey thought while staring at the young man.

'I can only depend on that now,' He quickly came to a conclusion and sat down in front of the array in a crossed leg position.

He was going to fight against the young man, using the Fusion State.. For some reason, he actually felt excited.

#### Chapter 362 - Fighting Against An Overlord Plane Expert

Reynolds, who was inside the cave sensed the unrest outside, opened his eyes. When he saw Grey sitting calmly in front of the cave, he closed his eyes once again.

He was already very close to breaking through to the Fifth stage of the Origin Plane, but there was still just barely over half of the lightning tree essence left. If he wanted to completely refine it, it would take another day or two.

'I'll need to hurry up,' He said to himself.

He could tell that whoever Grey was about to face was very powerful, and the only reason he wasn't escaping was because of him.

Outside the cave.

Grey was slowly starting to merge his essence beads together. He was quite expectant of how strong he would become.

Presently, he had seven elements, and given how the Fusion State usually works, it would boost his stage by seven stages. That should take him to the Third stage of the Overlord Plane. But he didn't know if the Fusion State would push him into Overlord Plane, after all, it was a different Plane, not a stage.

The energy the young man was giving off continued rising. After a few minutes, it slowly started dying down.

The young man soon opened his eyes, staring in Grey's direction.

"Boy, where's the second orb?" He asked while turning to face him.

Grey, who had his eyes shut all this while slowly opened it, and it flashed with seven different colors for about a tenth of a second before returning to normal.

'Thanks to his long breakthrough, I was able to completely fuse all seven essence orbs,' He thought to himself.

"Which orb are you talking about?" Grey asked with a lost look.

He kept his aura safely hidden, not to alert the young man of his sudden increase in strength.

"Don't lie to me, boy, I could kill you with a snap of my fingers right now. There are two orbs below the lightning tree, the one you gave to me, and one that's even greater," The young man said with a light snort.

That light snort sent out a tremendous energy wave, but to his surprise, Grey didn't move an inch, neither did anything happen to the array.

"My eyes never fail me, I knew you were special," The young man said, not too bothered with Grey not being affected by the energy wave he sent out.

He already saw Grey as someone he could kill whenever he wanted, so he decided to entertain him only for a little bit. Once he gets the orb, he'll kill him. If he finds out Grey doesn't have it, he'll kill him as well, either, Grey dies.

"I had no knowledge of the red orb, well, until you spoke about it. Does that mean there's a second one as well?" Grey feigned ignorance.

His acting was so good that the young man didn't think he was lying. He knew Grey didn't know about the red orb being under the lightning tree, so there was no way he could've known of the other one unless it was just beneath the first orb and he saw it.

'Hmm, could it be that one of those people searched the place?' The young man asked himself.

"Since you don't know about it, then there's no use in leaving you alive anymore. I'll quickly kill you and chase after those people from the guild," The young man said.

After saying that, he waved his hand, and a huge red lightning fist appeared mid-air, it shot straight towards the cave.

He wanted to kill Grey and Reynolds in one clean strike. The strength in the lightning fist was not something anyone in the Origin Plane would be able to defend against.

Although the difference between the Peak of the Origin Plane and the First stage of the Overlord Plane was just a single step, the difference in strength is huge. A single Overlord Plane expert could kill over twenty Peak Origin Plane experts in a battle.

Grey looked above him, looking at the fist. A smile formed on his lips as he stood up, he cracked his fist, before darting a look at the young man.

Whoosh! Boom!

Grey suddenly disappeared from the ground, appearing in front of the fist, with his hand covered in blue flames, he punched the lightning fist, and it exploded.

The shockwave from the explosion spread out in all directions, destroying the trees around the cave, but not affecting the cave in any way.

The young man unconsciously took a step back in shock when he saw this happening. He waved his hand and easily neutralized the energy wave that was coming his way.

After the energy settled down, the young man got another shock.

"Impossible!" He said in disbelief.

"Come on, it's been a while I felt this good," Grey motioned to the young man with his hands, while standing in the air.

"How's this possible?" The young man took to the sky, standing opposite Grey.

"There are a lot of things you'll never be able to understand, so there's no use explaining." Grey blinked twice even before he finished his statement.

After blinking twice, he disappeared, a huge hammer soon appeared on the left side of the young man, slamming towards him.

The young man who was still looking at where Grey was previously standing managed to quickly sense the attack. With a twist of his body, he dodged the attack while punching the hammer with a lightning fist.

Lightning ran across the hammer, before destroying the rocks into debris.

Grey appeared on his right side, and attacked again, this time, with the fire element.

Boom! Bang!

It didn't take up to a minute before the area they were fighting in was completely left in ruins, other than the cave, the other parts of the area were completely destroyed, and this was just from the aftereffects of the attacks, not the main attacks.

"Haha, this is amazing!" Grey laughed out while attacking again.

Boom! Bang!

His fire snake was met with a lightning bolt which caused both attacks to explode, pushing both fighters back a few meters in the air.



## Chapter 363 - Fighting Against An Overlord Plane Expert II

Boom!

Grey was pushed back by the attack of the young man.

Swoosh!

The young man suddenly appeared close to him, punching him with his hands coated in lightning.

Crack! Bang!

The blue vest's protective light broke when the fist got close. Grey slammed into the ground from mid-air.

"How's he doing it?" The young man muttered while looking at the dust that kicked up after Grey slammed into the ground.

His pupils suddenly dilated when he didn't see any sights of Grey in the crater he formed after he slammed into the ground.

Whoosh! Bam!

Grey suddenly appeared above him and smashed him with both fists tightly connected together. The force of the attack was so powerful that even after it sent the young man plummeting into the ground, Grey turned a few times in the air before managing to regain his balance.

Boom!

The young man crashed heavily into the ground, creating an even greater crater than the one Grey did when he crashed previously.

Grey stood mid-air, looking down at the crater with a dominant expression.

The dust soon died down, and Grey saw the young man standing up, looking at him.

He disappeared again, appearing on the left side of the young man, but the young man was able to block the attack, but was forced to retreat a few steps back by the force.

Bang! Bam! Boom!

They continued fighting with both fighters getting hit by the other's attack.

Buzz! Crash!

A red lightning rain suddenly started with Grey stuck in the middle, but with a flicker of his body, he disappeared from the attack range.

"Hmm, you're not in the Overlord Plane, but I can't say you're in the Origin Plane either," The young man said to Grey.

He just broke through, so he wasn't the most powerful person in the First stage of the Overlord Plane right now, but given the uniqueness of his lightning, he could fight against those in the First stage of the Overlord Plane.

While they had been battling, he had tried to sense what was going on with Grey, but he hadn't been able to comprehend it.

"Heh! As I said, there's no use in explaining it to you," Grey scoffed while cleaning the blood that was flowing from the side of his mouth.

He wasn't the only one hurt, the young man was also injured, and Grey was sure he had some internal injuries as well due to the number of times he had punched him on the body.

The young man attacked once again, sending multiple lightning bolts to attack Grey while going closer as well. He had noticed that Grey was very welcoming to hand-to-hand combat, and since he could cover his fists with the lightning element to increase the strength of his attacks, he decided to get closer to him.

Grey looked at the lightning, as well as the young man that was coming his way.

'It's time to use a third element in this battle,' He said to himself.

Although he had been using three elements so far, the young man had no knowledge of the space element which he was using for mostly escaping. He didn't know any space element attacks, and he hadn't been able to study it properly, so for now, he was only using it for escaping or dodging attacks.

The element he decided to use was the darkness element. The reason for this, it's insane destructive nature. Since the young man wanted to engage in hand-to-hand combat, he would slowly inject darkness essence into his body, causing him unimaginable harm.

Grey quickly used his fire element to block the lightning strikes that were coming his way, before charging at the young man with hands coated with both the fire and the darkness element. The fire element was at the top, so it shielded the darkness element.

Bam! Bang!

The sound of flesh hitting flesh started resonating in the entire forest. Grey naturally had the advantage in this fistfight due to him having superior physical strength compared to his opponent.

In the cave.

It had been five minutes since the battle started, and the array was still intact, that's to Grey always protecting it, and moving the battle away from that area.

Crack!

A cracking sound came from Reynolds' body, he had successfully broken through to the Fifth stage of the Origin Plane.

There was still half of the essence left in the lightning tree.

Reynolds looked at the lightning tree, before staring outside, his expression changed when he saw the damage that had occurred just after the entrance of the cave.

Even inside the cave, he could feel the tremors of the battle that was going on outside.

Reynolds looked at the lightning tree in his hands, and an idea popped into his head. He had never heard of anything like that happening before, but he felt that there was a chance it might work, he wanted to use the lightning tree on his Elemental Warrior.

As soon as the thought came to his head, he immediately implemented it. He summoned his Elemental Warrior and started channeling the essence in the lightning tree into it. At first, he didn't see any response, but after almost a minute, he noticed that the essence in the lightning tree was suddenly depleting at a tremendous speed.

This was when a thought came to him, it's not that no one ever tried to do it, it was just that where the hell would they get such a huge amount of elemental essence to feed it.

Within the space of a single minute, the Elemental Warrior had sucked one-fourth of the essence that was left in the lightning tree, this was something that took Reynolds around six hours or so.

Even after sucking one-fourth of the essence, there weren't any visible changes in the aura of the Elemental Warrior, it was still around the Seventh stage of the Origin Plane, with strength that could rival that of an Eighth stage expert.

It was after it had taken half of what was left in the lightning tree did Reynolds start seeing changes in the Elemental Warrior.

Chapter 364 - Of Course Not!

'Great! It's improving!' Reynolds exclaimed in his mind.

The aura of the Elemental Warrior was slowly approaching the peak of the Seventh stage, from how it was going, Reynolds was certain it would get to the Eighth stage, or even the Ninth stage of the Origin Plane before the essence in the lightning tree was used up.

Outside the cave.

While Reynolds was trying to boost the Elemental Warrior's strength to further increase his own arsenal, Grey was fighting a gruesome battle with the young man.

With both fighters opting to go for close combat, it was easy for them to be damaged from an attack from the opponent.

Grey was more fortunate in the battle due to his speed and the space element, the young man, not so much.

Bam! Bang!

Both fighters punched each other solidly on the chest, before retreating backward.

The young man immediately tried to catch his breath as they separated, likewise Grey.

They had been exchanging blows for over two minutes now, and both had suffered some damages that they needed to recover from. Having a better physique, Grey wasn't too hurt, at least not internally.

The young man on the other hand was getting the help of his new found strength in breaking through to the Overlord Plane to help repair most of the damages he had suffered. The higher the Plane of an Elementalist, the quicker they are able to recover from injuries.

But there's no way the young man would be able to completely recover within a day or two after suffering such damages, he was only using the energy to make sure they didn't worsen.

"Such a strange essence bead," The young man suddenly said.

He couldn't figure out what was going on with Grey, but given the fact that he knew Grey had two elements, he was surprised he was only sensing one essence bead in his body. Not just that, but he couldn't even properly observe it, there's an unknown force that always pushes his spiritual senses away when he got too close.

"How did you not die after swallowing that orb, given the essence in it, you should've exploded," Grey said, gasping for breath mid-sentence.

"We both have our secrets. I'd really like to take that bead out of you when you're dead," The young man said.

"Heh! And you think you can kill me?" Grey scoffed, not at all afraid of the young man.

"You used a special technique to merge your essence beads, thereby drastically increasing your strength. The thing about such techniques is that they all have time limits, all I need to do is hang on until said time limit," The young man said with a calm smile.

It was like he could see everything unfolding, how he killed Grey and his friend.

"You think you can make it that long?" Grey asked with a smirk.

Although he knew the Fusion State couldn't last forever, he knew he could still hold on for another eight to ten minutes. He could even push himself and hang on for another fifteen minutes.

Given the amount of darkness essence he had injected in the young man, he was sure to die if he didn't attend to it within the next ten minutes max.

The area they were currently in was around seven hundred meters away from Reynolds, but Grey was making sure to keep a close eye on the cave. He could sense that the lightning tree's essence was depleting at a fast pace, and he couldn't help but be worried.

"Why do you... Cough! Cough!"

The young man who was talking coughed, when he placed his hand on his mouth, he was stunned when he saw black blood coming out from his mouth.

'Poison?'

This was the first thought that came to his head, but he quickly dismissed it since the only way he could be poisoned was if he ate something. He didn't recall eating anything for the past month now, even when he was at the inn, he wasn't really drinking or eating anything.

'It must be his doing, but how?' He looked at Grey with dread.

Coughing up black blood mostly represented him ingesting poison, but since that shouldn't be possible, and from Grey's smile, he could tell it was his doing.

He hastily sent his spiritual sense inside himself, and he was further shocked by his findings. He saw threads of black energy wreaking havoc on his inside, it was a horrifying scene to behold.

"Darkness element? You have the darkness element?!" The young man asked in shock.

"Of course not," Grey denied with a shy smile.

"You arrogant fool, do you think this can stop me?" The young man said with a shady expression.

"Of course not," Grey said with the same expression again. His smile soon vanished before adding, "But this can,"

After saying that, he snapped his finger, and eight inscriptions appeared mid-air, all appearing within two meters of the young man in different positions. They all released a black spike at the same time, impaling the young man from different positions.

It was impossible to escape!

"Argh!"

The young man screamed in pain as the attacks stabbed him on different parts of his body, some even went on the come out from the other side of his body. Luckily, he managed to move his head and his chest, or else, he would've been killed instantly.

"Ah... the art of surprise, such a wonderful technique," Grey moaned in pleasure while looking at the injured young man.

"In... inscriptions! You're an inscriber as well?" The young man looked at Grey, and fear was starting to appear in his eyes.

What else is this young man? He's everything!

"Of course not," Grey said with the same shy smile.

Grey's answer and shy expression annoyed the young man so much that he started vibrating, making the injuries around and inside his body worse.

Blarg!

The young man couldn't keep it in anymore and spat out a mouthful of black blood.. This time it wasn't from the injuries, but it was because of pure unbridled rage.

Chapter 365 - The Boss Is Coming

"Ah!" The young man screamed in rage.



An energy wave shot out from his body, spreading out in all directions. It managed to destroy the attacks of the inscriptions while destroying them as well.

"Just you watch, I'll kill you!" The young man said, and to Grey's utmost surprise, the young man turned and fled.

"Huh? It wasn't supposed to go like this," Grey said with surprise.

He didn't chase after the young man, not because he couldn't catch up to him, but because he needed to leave this place along with Reynolds.

A terrifying aura was speeding towards where they were fighting from the Chimera forest, and if his guess was correct, it was none other than the Chimera.

Sensing two energies that surpassed the Origin Plane fighting close to its territory for so long must have alerted it.

'The lightning tree's essence has been exhausted, it time to leave,'

Grey quickly disappeared from the sky.

In the cave.

The Elemental Warrior just finished absorbing the last part of the essence, its aura had gotten to the Eighth stage of the Origin Plane.

Grey suddenly appeared in the cave, and as if it was by instinct, the Elemental Warrior attacked with its lightning sword.

Grey flicked his hand and a fireball blasted the Elemental Warrior, sending it flying.

Bang!

It crashed into the wall on the side.

"That's rude!" Reynolds immediately stood up and yelled at Grey, before dismissing his Elemental Warrior.

"Come on, you were trying to show off," Grey said while spreading his hand.

Reynolds couldn't help but give out an embarrassed smile. He knew Grey was the only one who could appear from nowhere in the cave, but after seeing the increase in the strength of his Elemental Warrior, he couldn't help it, he wanted to see how Grey could fare against it, after all, it could currently rival a Ninth stage Origin Plane expert.

Seeing how easily Grey was able to send his Elemental Warrior flying with a single attack, he couldn't help but shake his head wryly.

"Wait? How come you're this powerful?" Reynolds asked in shock when he sensed the energy that was radiating off of Grey's body.

"We're leaving, the boss is coming, and we can't do anything to it," Grey grabbed him and immediately disappeared from the cave, he didn't even bother to take what was left of the essence stones that he used to make the array.

Boom!

A few seconds after Grey and Reynolds disappeared from the cave, an attack destroyed the cave, easily destroying the array that was protecting it.

"Deceitful humans!" An enraged voice spoke out from afar.

Grey and Reynolds were currently far away, in fact, they had moved so far that they had surprisingly overtaken the group who were still in the Rocky Mountains.

With two more blinks, Grey and Reynolds appeared after the swamp, where the horses were tied.

"Alright, we should be safe here."

Grey's voice came from the void before the duo appeared close to the horses.

Reynolds currently had a look of incredulity on his face, all he saw were three flashes of light, and they were already here? Did Grey know how many kilometers they had to travel to get here?

"The space element is such an overpowered element. It's the perfect escape element," He said in awe.

No matter how he felt about his Elemental Warrior being trounced by Grey a few seconds ago, it had been thrown to the back of his head after what just happened.

They just traveled a distance that would usually take them hours to travel within a mere four or five seconds, that was insane!

"Wait! What was coming?" He suddenly asked.

He recalled hearing Grey saying the boss was coming.

"If I'm not mistaken, it was the Chimera," Grey replied while sitting on the ground, tired.

Reynolds watched him, and his eyes widened when he sensed Grey's energy started diminishing. It soon got to the level of the Sixth stage of the Origin Plane.

'How's this possible? What sort of technique is Grey cultivating?' He asked himself.

He only gave Grey a glance before going to loosen their horses, they needed to leave before the others got here. There's also the danger of the Chimera if it decides to chase.

Grey was currently feeling weak from the battle he had with the young man, and he wasn't even sure he could fight properly in the meantime. Luckily, he exited the Fusion State on his own and didn't have to stay till its end.

"Bud, how come you only got to the Fifth stage?" Grey couldn't help but ask as they started heading back.

"Well, after I sensed the battle going on outside..." Reynolds went on to tell Grey how he decided to give the essence to his Elemental Warrior.

"That ingenious," Grey couldn't help but praise.

"How are we going to deal with those plants?" Reynolds suddenly asked.

"Crap! Lightning is ineffective against them?" Grey asked with a dark look.

Reynolds nodded.

'Damn it! I should've carried the horses with me, and taken them to the side.' Grey thought dejectedly.

He was trying to recover from the fight, now he had to fight against the plants as well.

With no other option, he prepared himself before they got close to the forest. They couldn't wait on the open field before the forest because it would mean giving the others an opportunity to catch up to them.

They entered the forest, with Grey fighting against the plants on his own. He set up multiple fire inscriptions around them, to use them to help him as he fought against them.

Since they were only two, they traveled through the forest faster than when they were a group. After about thirty minutes, they arrived on the open field after the forest where the plants were staying.

As soon as they got there, Grey immediately raised an earth wall to form a tent, and instantly started sleeping.. He didn't say anything, nor did he even give Reynolds a glance, he just went to sleep on the ground.

Chapter 366 - I Can Refine Anything!

The next day.

Grey woke up a little later than he usually does, the sun was already shining brightly in the sky.

"Damn, using the space element so many times is so taxing," He complained as he stepped out of his tent.

Reynolds was sitting casually a few meters away from where he was, the communication device was on his hand, which indicated that he was speaking with Alice.

"You're awake," He said when he saw Grey walking towards him.

"Yeah, I'm still tired though," Grey held his head before sitting down close to Reynolds.

"What do you plan to do now?" He asked after a while.

Since they've already gotten the lightning tree, then there was no need in staying here anymore. Grey also had important matters to attend to, finding a way to heal Void.

He had gotten some clues from the young man, and he planned to immediately head there after seeing Klaus.

"I'll continue training. You know you're not the only one who needs to grow stronger," Reynolds said.

"Yeah, given the current strength of your Elemental Warrior, you don't really have anything to worry about in the Origin Plane. Only those in the Overlord Plane can threaten you now," Grey said with a smile.

"Really? Given how you were able to send it flying with a single attack, I really doubt that." Reynolds said in a disbelieving tone.

"My strength at that time should be above the Origin Plane, so it doesn't really count," Grey replied casually.

There was no use in hiding that his strength was high, it wasn't like Reynolds didn't see him. Although he wouldn't tell him about the Fusion State, he also wouldn't deny the fact that he had a special technique that could boost his strength significantly.

"Who were you fighting against?" Reynolds asked.

Since Grey said his strength was above the Origin Plane, it meant whoever he was fighting against must've been in the Overlord Plane. There wasn't anyone in the Overlord Plane amongst those in the groups, so he found it quite strange.

"Remember that guy who came asking for my assistance?" asked Grey.

Reynolds thought for a while before nodding his head.

"Actually, he has a special kind of lightning, red lightning..." Grey explained why the young man came to ask for his help, and also how he got to the Overlord Plane.

"Wait, you mean he actually swallowed an orb that had more essence than the lightning tree, and survived?" Reynolds asked in shock.

"Correction, he swallowed it and advanced," Grey said.

"That's insane!" Reynolds said.

"If I think about it correctly, I think I've done something like that before," Grey placed his hand on his chin while going deep in thoughts.

"I can't seem to remember it, but I think I can," He shook his head after a while.

Grey doesn't have a problem with refining things that contain so much essence due to the orb. He could even swallow beast cores like they were candy, but he doesn't really do it.

"Monster," Reynolds murmured while giving Grey a weird look.

"We'll have to wait a little longer before leaving. Ah... I really need some rest," Grey laid on the ground, looking at the sky.

Reynolds looked at him before asking, "What about that guy? You said he promised to kill you before he left,"

"He's not someone we should concern ourselves with, remember, he escaped. I think I can deal with him when we next meet. My only worry now is that he might search for you as well," Grey expressed his concern.

There was a slim possibility of the young man killing Reynolds if he ever saw him, so he naturally couldn't remove this possibility.

"I'll be fine," Reynolds said.

"You said your Elemental Warrior was able to absorb the lightning tree?" Grey suddenly asked.

"Yeah, I didn't even think it would be possible at first," Reynolds said.

'Hmm, would it also be able to absorb the other orb?' Grey fell deep in thoughts.

If the Elemental Warrior could absorb the lightning tree, then technically, it should also be able to orb the red orb. It was lightning essence after all. If it's possible, then the Elemental Warrior would receive a significant boost in strength, further guaranteeing Reynolds' safety.

"See if it could absorb this," Grey brought out the orb, handing it to Reynolds.

Reynolds collected the orb, looking at it seriously.

"This is what that guy wanted, right?"

"Yeah, but I don't think he knows I have it, even if he does, it's not like he could take it,"

"What did you plan to do with it?"

"Refine it,"

"I thought it was for those with red lightning alone?"

"Oh please, I can refine anything as long as it has an elemental essence in it,"

Looking at Grey's confident demeanor as he said this, Reynolds was sure he wasn't lying.

He looked at the orb with a confused expression, to be honest, he didn't want to take it. The reason for this was simple, Grey had already given him the lightning tree.



Although he felt grateful for having such an amazing friend, he felt taking this as well was no different from taking advantage of Grey's kindness. Yes, Grey was the one who gave it to him. But being the one who receives and never gives didn't feel great.

"I don't need it," Reynolds tossed the orb back to Grey.

"What do you mean, no?" Grey asked, confused.

It was just an orb that contained lightning essence, why did he reject it?

"I don't need it," Reynolds remained resolute in his decision.

It already felt like he was dependent on Grey, taking this just so he could advance faster would mean he wanted to continue depending on him.

"Stop being stupid and take it. This is not the time to be reasonable, right now, we need as much upgrade as we need. I'm heading to the Magical beasts' forest, I'm bound to obtain something that would boost my strength." Grey said.

"Yes, that's all the more reason you need it. The Magical beasts' forest isn't somewhere even the Chimera can do as it pleases, yet it was able to make you flee while you were in that powerful state. To be honest, you need this more than I do," Reynolds said.

Grey looked at him, not responding.. The place soon fell into silence.

Chapter 367 - Like Candy

"You're being stupid, you know that, right?" Grey finally spoke up.

"It's not like it's the first time," Reynolds with a shrug which threw Grey into a fit of laughter.

"Fine, I'll refine it. You know what, I'll do it now," Grey said before walking back into the tent he made.

Since Reynolds wanted him to refine it, then he would do it now. Besides, he wasn't sure if he would get an opportunity again before stepping into the Magical beasts' forest.

Reynolds watched him go in with a smile. He could've accepted the orb and improved the strength of his Elemental Warrior, sensing the essence inside, he was sure it would've been able to get to the Overlord Plane. But, Grey was the one in more danger when he looked at it properly.

The Emperor was not only searching for him, but so were the three other empires. Even though they had been unable to catch him now, what if he was seen by someone stronger than the young man he fought the previous day, then what?

Inside the tent.

Grey looked at the orb and shook his head wryly, he didn't really want Reynolds to be annoyed, hence he decided to take it. Besides, dragging who would refine the orb was useless. Since Reynolds refused, he would most likely not refine it even if he left it on the ground next to him.

He closed his eyes, and prepared to refine the orb, thinking of how the young man did it, he had the impulse of doing it.

'What have I got to lose?'

With that, he opened his mouth and tossed the orb inside.

With a single gulp, the orb went straight down to his stomach. As soon as it got there, it exploded out with terrifying energy that scared the hell out of Grey.

But as soon as the energy exploded out, a second energy was emitted from Grey's body. The energy was able to quickly tame the wild energy that was coming out of the orb.

'Oh, I knew I could do it,' He thought while focusing on trying to direct the docile energy to his lightning essence bead.

Although he said this, his back was saying something different. His clothes were currently soaked with sweat from fright.

With the amount of energy in the orb, Grey felt confident in not just breaking through to the Seventh stage, but the Eighth stage as well. That was not the only thing he was confident about, the second thing was an increase in his lightning element's elemental grade.

He had been unable to improve the grade of his lightning element for a long time now, so he actually felt quite happy refining this. The reason he suggested giving it to Reynolds was when he found out that the Elemental Warrior could absorb it.

After guiding the red lightning essence to his essence bead, he slowly started to integrate it with his lightning essence bead.

He was taken aback when he noticed that when the red lightning essence entered his essence bead, it did not change to the normal silver-colored lightning essence inside, instead, it remained the same color.

He didn't think much about it and focused on guiding the essence, for now. When he had completely refined everything, then he would think about what was going on with the red lightning essence.

Because of the way he swallowed the orb, the speed in the refining process improved to a terrifying rate. Compared to others, his speed had always been faster, but now, it was almost on the same level as the speed with which the Elemental Warrior was absorbing the lightning tree's essence.

Within the short time of ten minutes, he had completely refined the essence contained within the orb. It was only after completely absorbing it did his breakthrough begin.

Boom! Bang!

A violent energy shot out of his body, destroying the earth tent he made.

Reynolds, who was sitting on the ground, was shocked by the energy wave that spread in his direction.

"What the hell! What's he up to now?"

He quickly retreated fifty meters away from the place, but after standing, he realized it didn't change much, so he retreated further back.

"He's going to draw so much attention," Reynolds shook his head while looking around vigilantly.

'He's only breaking through in the Origin Plane. Only God knows what sort of ruckus he'll make when he's breaking through to the Overlord Plane.'

He prepared himself in case anyone came close. Although he knew no one would come, it didn't hurt to be too careful.

Swoosh!

The energy wave soon kicked up wind around Grey, and inside the wind, red lightning could be seen moving around it.

Two minutes later, the wind storm slowly started reducing.

Grey could be seen sitting with his eyes still closed, it was like he knew nothing of what happened around him a few minutes ago.

He opened his eyes, and red lightning flashed across it. A smile formed on his lips as he stared at his hand, at the tip of his finger was a little red lightning bolt.

'So, that's why it didn't change. But how come it's on a separate side?' He thought to himself.

Presently, his lightning essence bead has two colors, half of it was the normal silver color, while the other half was surprisingly red lightning.

Grey never expected he would actually obtain it, but what was more unexpected was that he could actually switch between the lightning he wishes to use. The red lightning was naturally more powerful, but it was more eye-catching.

"Hey, what's with all the ruckus every time you breakthrough?" Reynolds asked from afar.

"It's not always, only on some special occasions," Grey said.

"Wait, how come it didn't take you up to fifteen minutes?" Reynolds asked while looking behind Grey as if searching for the orb.

"I swallowed the orb, it made refining faster," Grey said with a smirk.

"Monster,"

For the second time within an hour, Reynolds murmured the same word while looking at Grey like he was something else.

Chapter 368 - Growth

"What stage did you get to?" Reynolds asked after managing to stop looking at Grey weirdly.

"Eighth stage, but I'm not too far from the Ninth stage," Grey replied after checking himself to confirm.

"Looks like you're going to be the first to get to the Overlord Plane. To think we were already in the Arcane Plane when you even haven't started cultivating," Reynolds said in awe.

This was something that had always surprised him, Grey's speed was unfathomable. In a short space of just three years, Grey has gone from a regular person, to someone who's already close to the Overlord Plane.

How was that even possible?

"Yeah, when I think about it carefully, it is kinda unbelievable," Grey replied.

Klaus was in the Third stage the last time Grey saw him, but he was sure he would've already broken through to the Fourth stage already, given the fact that Alice had broken through and he was ahead of her.

Thanks to the lightning tree, Reynolds not only got to the Fifth stage, but his Elemental Warrior also got a major boost that took it to the Eighth stage. It could rival those in the Ninth stage without any problems. This meant that Reynolds currently faced no danger as long as whoever was sent after him was in the Origin Plane.

Unknowingly, Grey's influence had actually made the group grow faster than they would usually do, after all, no one wants to get left behind. Even if Grey grows more powerful, at least they didn't want to be too far behind.

"We should get going," Grey said while looking in the direction of the forest inhabited by those sentient plants.

He could sense the group was making their way here, and they were already almost halfway through the forest.

'Looks like the Chimera didn't give chase,' He thought.

"Yeah, I wonder how the couple is doing?" Reynolds nodded before recalling Lukka and his wife.

He had grown to like the couple during the expedition. They were of much help, especially the map they gave to the duo while they were still in the Chimera forest. Without the map, they might have accidentally stepped into one of the territories of magical beasts in the Overlord Plane while leaving the place.

"They should be fine, I guess," Grey replied.

Given Lukka's strength, he didn't think that there would be anyone who could kill him single-handedly in the group. And since the guild seemed united, he guessed no one would attack them.

With nothing left for the duo to do in the forest, they immediately started their journey away from it.

Grey planned to leave as soon as they left the forest. Initially, he didn't want to create the teleportation array anywhere, but after finding out they would still need at least one week of traveling to get to Eternal City, he gave up the idea and would rather create the array somewhere secluded close to the mercenary town.

They wouldn't really get to the town since Reynolds would definitely be assaulted by people from the guild if found, so not going back there was the best option.

Two days later.

After traveling for two days, the duo was finally within range of the town, but they had no plans of going there.

When they got there, Grey told Reynolds of the array he was going to make which would transport him to Frost City in as little as a minute or so.

"The space element sure is wonderful, it would be nice if we could have something like this positioned all over the empire though. It would make traveling easier," Reynolds shook his head.

"I plan to make more, but the amount of essence stones it consumes is terrifying," Grey said.

If he could make more teleportation arrays, then moving would be easy for himself and his group. Only those close to him would be aware of the arrays, and how to start them up.

He would place a restriction on them so others couldn't use it, but that's something he would think about later in the future, for now, he was focused on heading back to Frost City, visiting Alice once more, before heading out to meet Klaus.

Amongst all his friends, Klaus was the one he was actually hoping to see more, the reason, he's Klaus, who doesn't want to be with him?

Oh, wait, there's probably a ton of people who would want him dead given how annoying he is.

"I'd like to see Klaus though, it's been so long," Reynolds said.

"Yeah. Luckily, you can talk to him when I give him his communication device," Grey said, comforting Reynolds.

"This thing's a lifesaver. Who would've thought that there would be a way to communicate with people even when they're not close to you?" Reynolds looked at the communication device lovingly.

"Come on, I need to find a good location to create the array," Grey said before moving away from the path that led to the town.

The duo went into the bushes around, searching for a place Grey felt was secure enough, and after almost two hours, they found nothing.

There was no cave nor a tree-packed place in the forest.

"This place's impossible. We should've just done it back in the forest." Grey complained grumpily.

"Why don't we head in the direction of Eternal City? We'll definitely find a spot there, and I'll be closer to my place," Reynolds suggested.

"Yeah, we should do that." Grey agreed.

Reynolds planned to continue his training. Now that he knew there was a way he could boost the strength of his Elemental Warrior ahead of him, he wanted to take it to the Overlord Plane as soon as he could.



Although they were heading in Eternal City's direction, he wasn't really going there. The only reason he suggested this was in case he was in Frost City and wanted to come to Eternal City, then this would shorten his journey by a week or two.

They followed the route Reynolds took, and on the next day, Grey found a secure place to make the second array.

### Chapter 369 - Goodbye, Rey

"I have to say, this place is nice," Reynolds commented while looking around the cave.

The rumbling sound of water crashing to the ground was resonating in the cave. The cave was well hidden behind a waterfall.

"Yeah, quite nice. Hopefully, other people won't find it." Grey said.

"I'm less concerned about people, and more concerned about magical beasts. Just imagine appearing here all of a sudden and an eight-foot Water Bear pounces on you. That wouldn't be nice, in any way," Reynolds said, a little annoyed.

"Come on, it was only a small hit. And besides, you were the one who said you didn't need any help," Grey laughed when he looked at Reynolds' sour expression.

When they found the cave, it was occupied by a Water Bear. The Bear was in the Sixth stage of the Origin Plane.

Grey initially wanted to scare it away with an attack, but Reynolds said he wanted to test out his strength. After advancing, he hadn't seen a worthy opponent. He couldn't say he wanted to fight with Grey given how overpowered Grey was, so on seeing the Bear, he was excited.

The cave was quite spacious, around one hundred to one hundred and twenty meters wide.

When the battle first started, the Bear was quite conservative since it was wary of Grey sneak attacking it. But as time went on, it noticed Grey didn't even have any plans of fighting, he went to the side and watched.

It immediately exploded out with raw strength which stunned Reynolds. The sudden change caught Reynolds by surprise which allowed the Bear to land a swiping strike at him. It sent him flying, slamming into the side of the cave.

Although he defeated the Bear at the end, the pain he felt all over wasn't something to joke about. The Bear truly planned on killing him with that strike.

He didn't kill the Bear in the end, letting it go with a small wound. The wound wouldn't really affect its daily life, so he counted it as being lenient with it.

"It's lucky I let it live," Reynolds snorted.

"Come on, you were invading its home, it's bound to attack. You don't expect it to just sit there and watch you take it, right?" Grey chuckled.

"\*Sigh\* I guess it was right to attack, but damn! That hit was ferocious," Reynolds massaged his left arm as he responded.

Grey laughed before he got to work, he would be the only one using the array. Reynolds only accompanied him so he would know where the array was, and because he wanted to spend a little more time with his friend.

Even though they would be able to communicate more frequently, he doubted Grey would be that free given how much of a training freak he was.

Some minutes later, Grey completed the array, looking at it intensely.

'There should be a way to link all arrays together, given how this one is only connected to that particular coordinates, it would be difficult to use it to get to another place. I'd have to modify the array when I next plan to use it.' Grey thought.

"I guess you'll be leaving now?" Reynolds said while looking at the array.

He still couldn't figure out how these weird lines could move someone from one part of the empire to another in a short time. Arrays had always stumped him, especially how they worked.

'No need to think about it, my brain might explode if I think about it too much.' He said to himself.

"Yeah, we'll see sooner than expected, hopefully," Grey said.

"Try to stay alive," Reynolds advised.

"Of course, who do you think can stop me if I want to escape?" Grey said confidently.

"An extremely strong, and fast Peak Overlord Plane expert," Reynolds replied after thinking for a while.

"You're no fun, it's a rhetorical question, you weren't supposed to answer that," Grey almost facepalmed.

He knew a Wind or even Lightning Overlord Plane expert at the peak of the Plane could catch up to his speed even in the Fusion State, but he didn't think the emperor would really send someone that strong after him.

"I'm just stating facts," Reynolds replied with a shrug.

"Haha, it's nice being with you again. We'll soon be able to meet up freely again, soon," Grey punched Reynolds on his shoulder lightly.

"Yeah, I hope so," Reynolds replied as he watched Grey step into the array.

His eyes almost shot out when he saw the number of essence stones Grey brought out.

Essence stones were divided into three grades, low, medium, and high. And currently sprawling on the ground were over fifty medium-grade essence stones, which was a lot, given how rare essence stones were in the Azure continent.

There were very few essence stone mines in the continent, and it was greatly fought over by not only the empires but the big families as well.

Now he understood why Grey said the consumption was insane. He wasn't lying, it truly was insane.

"Where did you get so many essence stones?" Reynolds couldn't help but ask.

"Oh, this? I took it from Alice's dad," Grey replied.

"There's no way he'd give you that much. You stole it," Reynolds immediately concluded.

"It's not stealing if Alice was the one who gave me permission," Grey smiled.

"Damn, her dad would probably be crying after finding out so many essence stones are gone, and he doesn't even have any idea where they went,"

"It's not like he doesn't deserve it," Grey muttered quietly.

"Alright Rey, I'll be going now. I suppose you already know how to use the array?" Grey asked.

He remembered telling Reynolds how to use the array, but he didn't know if he would be able to.

"Yeah, I think. You know what, show me again just to be sure," Reynolds said calmly.

"You're not even embarrassed you couldn't get it the first time?" Grey rolled his eyes, before going all over again on how to use the array.

It was a very simple process, all he had to do is strike two spots after placing the stones in the right positions.

After showing Reynolds how to use it, he activated the array.

"Goodbye, Rey,"

Chapter 370 - Changed Lightning Region

"Goodbye, Grey. Hope to see you guys sooner," Reynolds waved at Grey as he watched the array lightning up.

With a bright flash, the light peaked before going down as quickly as it peaked.

After the light died down, Reynolds was the only one left in the cave. This was the first time he was seeing this outside the trial land, well, he didn't really see much of this in the trial land, so he was quite fascinated with what he saw.

'Luckily, Grey's my friend.' He thought to himself.

The lines of the array soon disappeared, like they were never there. According to Grey, he did this so that others wouldn't be aware of the array's presence in the cave.

The people of the continent aren't dumb, them being able to activate the array to the trial land which was more complex than his own showed that.

Reynolds decided to rest in the cave for two hours, after that, he left, heading for where next he might hear of a lightning element treasure. His new discovery of the fact that his Elemental Warrior could improve its strength was still shocking.

He planned to halt his own cultivation so that he could boost his Elemental Warrior to the Overlord Plane. Only then, will he be able to walk freely. But for the meantime, he would cultivate whenever he could since he knew such treasures couldn't be found anywhere.

But if he ever finds any, he would be focusing them on his Elemental Warrior.

.....

In a cave, not too far from Frost City.

Array lines suddenly lit up, shocking the few small critters in the place. They looked at the place where the light was coming from, and Grey suddenly appeared out of nowhere.

Grey looked around the cave, he knew there wouldn't be any large beasts here, so he didn't really find it surprising.

The small animals he saw in the cave were harmless, although they were magical beasts, they tended not to attack people.

The only thing was that they were squirrels. Grey had a thing against rat-type magical beasts after his encounter with those bunnies in the trial land.

It's not that he was scared of them, he just didn't like encountering them. They always remind him of that hateful bunny. He wasn't scared of the other bunnies, but that bunny in particular, well, he doesn't even think of it as a bunny anymore.

It's quite surprising how someone like Grey who would charge into a horde of beasts fearlessly without thinking much about it, having such a deep-seated fear for such small animals because of a single bunny.

'I better start going,'

Grey quickly disappeared from the cave, appearing outside the cave.

The teleportation from where he previously was to here took less than a minute or so. The space element sure makes moving easier, and better.

After leaving the cave, Grey observed the area properly.

'Hmm, I haven't even checked the elemental grade of my lightning element. We left hurriedly because of those people,'

Grey climbed up the hill where the cave was situated, after getting to the peak he sat down. The hill was only around fifty meters or so high, but he got a good view of the entire forest from there.

He sat down in a crossed leg position, then closed his eyes.

....

Chaos space.

Grey appeared in the Chaos Space, and the first thing he did was to go to the lightning region. He wanted to confirm something, if his deduction was correct, then it was a mind-blowing ability.

After getting there, he looked at the lightning region, wide-eyed.

The lightning region was currently separated into two, although merged, it was two separate things. The left part was filled with silver lightning dancing about, and on the right side, red lightning could be seen dancing.

There was a place where both lightnings merged.

With a curious expression on his face, Grey walked into the lightning region, half part of his body was in the silver lightning, while the other half was in the red lightning.

His body was struck with both lightning at the same time, and he could clearly feel the difference between both. The silver lightning had a better shocking ability than the red lightning, but the explosive power of the red lightning was far superior than that of the silver one.

Although the silver lightning had more electric power, the red lightning can cause burns faster than the silver one. It was quite strange, thinking about it. It was almost like it had more of a fire style than a lightning style.

Other than that, the red lightning was faster. This would greatly increase Grey's already terrifying speed.

'Can I use both lightnings at once? If I can, then that would be amazing,'

Grey soon disappeared from the lightning region, appearing at the top of the hill where the stone was located. He didn't come here to comprehend his lightning element, he came to check its grade.

Once he was done with that, he would leave the Chaos space immediately, heading over to see Alice.

Since meeting up with Reynolds, he hadn't spoken to her too frequently. He had been too focused on his training whenever he was free, and since Reynolds was speaking to her, she wasn't really that lonely.

On appearing in the temple, he steadily walked to the small stone platform on it. The testing rock could be seen embedded on a small pillar.

Without wasting any time, he placed his right hand on the stone. And energy left the stone, running through Grey's physical body, before returning to the stone.

Grey still hasn't been able to comprehend how this thing works. This was clearly another space, and only his consciousness could enter this place, yet it is still able to interact with his physical body.



'Maybe it's because this space is in my body.'

Grey threw the thought to the back of his head, he would worry about it later. For now, he wanted to see the outcome of his lightning element's elemental grade.

He curiously looked at the stone.