

Affinity 381

Chapter 381 - Unexpected Discovery

Grey stayed in the office for a few more minutes, after not finding anything, he finally gave up on it and left.

He decided he had spent enough time searching around the office, so it was probably time to go back to see if he could check Jean's room again.

And to his greatest surprise, Jean was still busy. He finally gave up and decided to go back to his room.

He still had about a day or two to search again, it couldn't be that Jean would continue doing it for two nights straight, right?

The thought of that gave him a sense of foreboding as if something like this would actually happen. He suddenly recalled what he heard from the Earl sisters while asking around about the families in Frost City. According to the sisters, the head of the Smith family was a lecherous man and had forced many men to leave their wives if he found them appealing.

Some of the ladies would jump into his hands willingly, after all, the Smith family were extremely rich, while others would rather die than have anything to do with him.

Although, all these were just rumors, given how widely spread they were, it couldn't be said that they were baseless.

Seeing what was happening, Grey could see that there's a high chance that these rumors were true.

After going back to his room, Grey continued reading his books. There were a lot of them, and some of them were huge. Even if he decided to only read for a week, he wouldn't be able to read more than half of them.

Void was crazy, he literally took almost all the books that had to do with forge mastering. In fact, Grey had the feeling that when Void told him that he didn't take all the books, he was lying, he probably took all the books on forge mastering.

The next day went by slowly, Grey did nothing other than reading, he only took a few minutes of his time to respond to some of Alice's messages, but he quickly forgot about her after he got engrossed in reading.

Grey's obsession with learning was massive, he would rather spend most of his time learning new things and training than talking to others.

Klaus had been the one who mostly disturbed his training, he couldn't chase him away since he was Klaus. Alice mostly left him alone whenever he was training, especially now that she could speak with Reynolds, she usually didn't disturb him.

Reynolds wasn't as persistent as Klaus, so he wasn't really able to stop him from training.

Later that night.

'What the hell?! This man's a...!' Grey was short of words.

Just like the previous night, Jean was still very much awake, this time, he was with the second lady from the previous day.

His left eye was twitching from time to time from annoyance, how would he be able to steal from them if he was unable to sneak into the room.

He gave up on the idea of searching Jean's room, instead, he would try to find the vault in the building.

The building was huge, so searching around would be a little difficult. He decided to first search all the places he found suspicious.

He even went to the place where the vault of the Lunar City mayor's manor was located according to Klaus. Since the buildings had the same designs, he didn't see any harm in trying it.

Lunar City mayor's manor vault was actually located in the kitchen, as odd as it sounded, it was true. There was a secret passageway that led to the vault.

Grey soon started sweeping across all the places he marked in the small map he made of the Smith family's manor.

And before long, there were only two places left in the map that was marked, Jean's room, and the garden at the back of his office.

Grey snuck into the garden, there was a small building in the garden. When he got there, his suspicion increased because he could actually sense an Overlord Plane expert guarding the place.

The expert was only in the First stage, so Grey didn't feel any fear in him being able to sense him. Even Jean who was in the Third stage was unable to sense him while he was outside his bedroom, much less this person who was two stages below him.

After sneaking into the building, he was able to quickly sense the presence of another room hidden inside. It wasn't hard to notice, he didn't even spend much effort.

Normally, people would set up arrays that would hide the presence of hidden rooms from Earth Elementalists since they would be able to easily notice these places with the help of the earth element's sensory ability.

Grey monitored the place for a while, not rushing inside. Given how easy it was to locate it, he found it strange. Although people wouldn't be able to come here since the expert would stop them once the person was noticed, it was still too easy.

After waiting for almost twenty minutes, Grey finally decided to go in, he prepared himself. He would first appear inside and quickly disappear within a second or two. That time was enough for him to get the general situation of what it's like inside the secret room, and what was kept inside.

He soon vanished from the building, entering the secret room. When he appeared there, the sight before him stunned him so much that he was unable to leave according to his plan.

In front of him was a huge open space, and cages could be seen all around, in each of the cages were women, both old and young. None of the women looked to be above forty, they were all kept in the cages like prisoners.

From how they looked, he could tell that most of them were suffering.

A malevolent aura almost burst out of his body when he saw a young girl who was around eight or ten years old tied to a chain in one of the cages.

He wasn't a saint or a hero, but there were things he could not accept.

Chapter 382 - Unbridled Rage

Grey stood on the same spot for a good two minutes, but none of the ladies noticed him. Although he didn't even try to hide his aura, they still didn't sense him.

The eyes of some of the ladies were dull and lifeless, given the injury marks on the body of some of them, it was easy to see how much they've suffered.

Grey was sure most of them had already given up on life, and would most probably want to die than continue living such a hellish life. Of everyone here, what Grey found more absurd was still the young girl who was around eight or ten years old, he still couldn't wrap his head around why they would even keep her locked up.

The young girl hadn't even properly developed, what was she doing here?

Grey looked around for a while, his heart aching for these people. If he didn't see them, then he wouldn't care about it even if he heard about it, but seeing them now, he couldn't leave without doing anything.

'Hmm, I can't kill all the people here, obviously, and I still don't know how the Emperor would react if they find me missing when they come. Since that's the case, I'll slowly corrode the essence beads of the people below the Overlord Plane, if possible, I don't mind corroding their life forces,' He thought as he started strolling around the place.

While strolling around, he noticed none of the ladies even looked at him, they all had their heads hung low, looking at the ground.

He currently had his robe on, and even wore a mask since he couldn't take the risk of being seen. On getting close to where the little girl's cage was, he heard something that made him angrier.

The little girl was mumbling three words repeatedly, the words were, 'Please kill me'. Even Grey who rarely showed his emotions was almost in tears when he heard this, his eyes red from anger.

'How could the Smith family be this inhumane?!' He yelled in his heart.

For such a little girl to give up on life, even to the extent of actually begging to be killed, it was unimaginable what Jean and his people had done to her.

Grey didn't speak to her, instead, he walked away from the cage. The longer he stayed in the place, the more he wanted to kill every single living being associated with the Smith family. At this rate, he might even kill the horses and beasts in the manor, if he found people who were friends with the Smith family, he might kill them as well.

That's how much hatred he currently bore towards the Smith family! It was so high that even people speaking to them might be affected by it.

After walking around for another ten minutes, he unexpectedly found another secret passageway, this one was much harder to notice compared to the one at the garden. He could already guess it led to the vault, but he wasn't excited after finding it.

He walked inside the vault, and different treasures appeared before him. Plants, rare stones used for forging, essence stones, books containing different magical techniques, elemental weapons, and so on.

He didn't feel a shred of excitement even after seeing what he was searching for.

As soon as Grey touched the essence stones, his expression suddenly changed. Due to his emotions, he got careless and didn't even check for any traps in the place, he only wanted to take the essence stones and leave.

When he touched the stones, an array immediately lit up in the secret room. It was a trapping array, and even those at the Peak of the Overlord Plane would find it extremely difficult to escape from it.

Well, those without the space element.

Since the people of the Azure continent knew nothing about the space element, there was naturally no way for them to counter it, so no matter how powerful their arrays were, it couldn't trap Grey or Void. This is the reason they could go almost anywhere unhindered in the Azure continent.

The trapping array wasn't the only thing that was activated, another array was also activated. The second array was to notify all the experts in the manor that the vault had been breached by someone.

'*Sigh* I'll grab what I can then,'

With a sigh, Grey sucked in as many essence stones as he possibly could. Previously, there was an area designated for essence stones, the number of stones there was well over hundreds of thousands, and Grey just took more than fifty percent of them.

Of the fifty percent Grey took, more than half of the stones were mid or high-grade stones, the ones left were all low-grade stones.

The reason he was unable to take all of them was simple: he didn't have any enough space in his storage ring to take them. Had Void been here, given how big his spatial storage was, then they would've been able to completely sweep the entire vault in a matter of seconds.

After taking the essence stones, Grey turned around and casually walked out of the secret room.

Outside the secret room.

All the experts in the Smith manor whose cultivation stage was in the Overlord Plane were already rushing towards the secret room. Surprisingly, there were different places to go into the vault.

Just like Grey thought, there was one in Jean's room. He was the first amongst all the people to get to the vault, on seeing that the things were intact, he heaved a sigh, there were some extremely valuable treasures in this place that the family couldn't bear to lose.

His expression changed when he noticed that the array was still intact, but no one was in the vault. After looking around, he almost fainted when he saw how little the essence stones numbered.

Given how rare it was to get essence stones in the Azure continent, it was a rare commodity even for the big families. Although they had an easier time getting it compared to the others, it still wasn't that much.

There were few essence stones mines in the Azure continent as a whole, and each empire controlled about twenty-five or so.

Chapter 383 - New Plan

Jean appeared in the room a few seconds after Grey left. The second person to get to the vault was the expert who was at the garden.

He was taken aback when he saw the trapping array intact, it wasn't even destroyed which meant the thief should be in the vault. Unfortunately for him, when he walked in, all he saw was Jean in his sleeping robe.

"Where's the thief?" He asked after looking around.

"Whoever came to steal the essence stones has escaped. But given how quickly they escaped with that many stones, I'm starting to have doubts if it isn't someone from the family," Jean said.

Each family all had their problems, so it was normal for Jean to suspect someone in the family. There's no way someone would be able to take that many essence stones in such a short time.

When he sensed the alert, he was still having fun with the lady, he instantly pushed her from on top of him, grabbed his robe, and dashed down, yet he found the array intact, and more than fifty percent of the essence stones gone..

'Wait... this is the first time something like this is happening, and it was when that small brat was brought to the manor. Could it be related to him, or is it just a coincidence?' Jean suddenly thought about Grey.

Since sending Grey to the room, he hadn't seen or heard about him again.

"Go and check if the boy is in the room," He ordered the man.

The man hurriedly left the vault, while the other experts were coming into the room.

Given the speed of an Overlord Plane expert, it was impossible for an Origin Plane expert to be faster than them, even if said Origin Plane expert were to be at the Peak of the Plane.

In a flash, the man appeared outside the garden, and within two seconds, he had gotten to where Grey was kept.

Normally, since Grey was in the Origin Plane, if he was the one who stole the essence stones, there's no way he would've been able to sneak back into the room in this short amount of time.

It hadn't even been up to one minute since the alert went off, so it was impossible for him to have already hurried back without being spotted. Unfortunately for them, they can't judge Grey using normal reasoning.

When he appeared outside the room, he immediately opened the door, walking inside directly.

"Huh?" He paused and looked at the door.

He was sure he sensed something from the door just now, but the feeling was very faint, almost negligible.

After shaking his head to get the strange feeling out, he walked in. Seated crossed legs at the center of the room was Grey.

On sensing someone walking in, Grey opened his eyes which were still cold from what he saw at the garden.

His emotionless gaze stunned the man for a few seconds, he couldn't even speak any word for a few seconds.

"Is it time for me to leave?" Grey asked.

"No, I only came to see if you were alright. Do you need anything?" The man asked.

Grey shook his head.

"Alright," The man nodded before excusing himself.

After he left, Grey looked at him with a soft mischievous smile. When he returned, he thought of the possibility of them suspecting him, so he hastily created a small darkness array in front of the door, whoever stepped into the room would activate the array.

The darkness element will immediately sneakily slide into their body from the array, slowly corroding their insides.

Of all the elements, there was none that had such destructive powers, well, the space element would also have it, but Grey didn't really know how to properly use it until now. Other than teleporting with it, he didn't know any way to use it to attack.

He might be able to use it to make his attacks appear in front of his opponents immediately, or like Void's innate skill, to protect himself.

'It should take a while before this guy notices, maybe I'll be gone already.' He thought.

After finding those ladies, he had completely changed his plan. Once he leaves, he would hang around the manor, while slowly corroding the people's essence beads and life force.

Given how the Smith family usually carries themselves, they had created enemies in all places, Grey couldn't even imagine what would happen to them if their enemies found out about them being poisoned.

They would attack the weakened Smith family, especially the Reiss family, they might be the first to even attack them. There's a chance that the Earl family might join in as well.

Grey stayed in his room, waiting for the commotion he caused to subside. Once it subsides, he would immediately start his new plan.

Since he had already gotten the essence stones, there was nothing left for him to do in the Smith manor. But he wanted to wait till the people from the Capital arrived, that way the Smith family wouldn't have a way to avoid facing any issues.

Even if the Emperor didn't kill them, then there's a chance that he would punish them heavily for playing games with him.

Grey even hoped the people the Emperor would send over should all be in the Origin Plane, or at most, one should be in the First stage of the Overlord Plane. That way, he would set an ambush for them when they were leaving, making it seem like the Smith family found out what Grey had, and decided to kill off the Emperor's people.

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The Smith family increased the surveillance around the manor, hoping to catch the thief before he escaped.

Grey wasn't concerned about their increased surveillance, even if they brought out a whole army of Overlord Plane experts, they still wouldn't be able to sense him if he didn't want them to.

He started his plan that very night since he knew the people from the Capital would either come after sunrise, or the next day. There wasn't much time, the manor was huge, and there were a lot of people in the manor.

Chapter 384 - Asking For Help

'I think it's best to make an array that will cover the entire Smith manor.' Grey thought rigorously.

He was seriously contemplating on how to literally wipe off the entire Smith family, but on thinking about it properly, he really couldn't.

The reason for this was because not everyone in the Smith manor knew about this, and killing some innocent people wasn't really too good for him. And making such a big array would take him weeks to complete, given the size of the manor.

After going through some plans, he decided to speak with Gerald and see if there was an easier way to do this.

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'There's a bunch of women kept in cages in the Smith manor?!' Gerald's stunned voice reverberated in Grey's head.

Clearly, he didn't expect Jean would actually do something like this. There had been lots of rumors about his deeds while he was younger, but according to what was known, he had stopped those things when he was about to vie for the position of the clan head in the Smith family.

Given such characters, there's no way some of the old folks in the family would agree to it.

'Yes, there's even a young girl around eight to ten years old...' Grey told him what he overheard the little girl saying while he was there.

'Are you sure about this?' Gerald questioned seriously.

This was a very serious matter, so there was no way he was going to just charge to the Smith manor if he wasn't sure of it.

'Yes, I saw this personally,' Grey affirmed.

'But how did you... *sigh* Never mind, everyone has their secrets. You said you could escape anytime you want?' Gerald asked.

'Yes, but I want to wait till the Emperor's people arrive first before leaving,' Grey replied.

'Hmm, the Crowned Prince would be the one leading the charge, so if you could, leave now. According to what I've found out, they had already set off yesterday, so they'll be arriving before noon,' Gerald advised.

'The Crowned Prince?' Grey was slightly taken aback, not expecting the Emperor to send someone so important.

He heard of the Crowned Prince coming to Lunar Academy while they were still in the trial land. Other than the Twelfth Prince, he hadn't come in contact with any of the other princes.

'Yes. He's a very cunning individual for his age, and I don't think it would be possible for you to escape under his surveillance when he gets to the manor, so I propose you leave right now,' Gerald urged.

It was already almost sunrise, but most cultivators rarely sleep, especially him due to being in a hot seat right now. Since Grey went to the Smith manor, Gerald found it extremely difficult to close his eyes for too long.

Whenever he does, he would always see something like a vision of Grey being killed, and Chris charging into Frost City, causing a massacre, and he was among the people who were killed!

So the sooner Grey left, the safer he would feel.

'Okay, I'll be leaving then. Will you be able to take care of this matter then?' Grey asked.

Since Gerald had advised, he wouldn't take the risk of staying. If the people coming were ordinary, then he might have continued staying, but since the Crowned Prince was coming, then other experts at the Overlord Plane would be coming as well.

'Yes, the Crown Prince coming will make things easier. I'll expose Jean in front of him after they've been unable to provide you. Since he would already be in a tough situation, this matter will send him to his grave, as well as those involved,' Gerald said confidently.

Given his status, there are few people in the empire he couldn't see whenever he pleases, and the Crown Prince was not one of those people.

'Okay, I'll leave this matter to you then. Thank you,' Grey said before keeping the communication device.

He looked at the walls around the room with an emotionless face, the Smith family were lucky he wasn't strong enough, or else, he would've directly razed the manor to the ground.

Time flew by, and the sun was already up. Grey was still seated in his room, there were around three hours or so before noon, so he was already preparing himself to silently exit the manor.

To be honest, he was a little tired because of the high frequency at which he was using the space element lately. After escaping, he planned to rest for a day or so before visiting Alice.

Initially, he only wanted to visit her, but after seeing the progress Reynolds made, he changed his mind. There was no way Alice would be able to grow quickly if she was left in the secret room.

So he wanted to take her out of there, that way, she could explore just like Reynolds, and get fortuitous encounters that would make her improve faster. She would also be able to fight against people and magical beasts during her journey, so her battle prowess would also increase from that.

Just as Grey was about to leave the room, he heard the door opening, and one of the guards stepped in.

"Come let's go, they will be here soon,"

Grey stood up and followed them, his expression was calm as always, only his eyes betrayed his face. He still couldn't help it, whenever he thought of what the little girl said, all he felt was unbridled rage.

The guards took him through different pathways before they got to a small room at the back of the hall. Given how it looked, Grey was sure it hadn't been long since it was built, most likely because of his earth element, so it was built completely from wood.

"You'll stay here, for now," The guard locked the door after saying this.

Grey noticed that over six Overlord Plane experts were currently outside the small room, and from what he knew, the other side of the room was where the main building's hall was located.

'Heh! They think I wouldn't be able to escape even in this place?'

Grey scoffed, not bothered by all the people outside. It wasn't like they could sense him anyway, so he was not bothered.

Two hours later.

The Smith manor.

Jean and eight elders from the Smith family could be seen standing at the front of the manor's main building, all with a smile plastered across their faces.

They just received word that the Crown Prince would be arriving soon, he made a stop at the Lenz manor to visit Gerald, so they all came out to welcome him.

Before long, the guards at the gate saw the Lenz manor's carriage coming in their direction.

The manor guards didn't dare to be unruly like they were when Grey came with the Earl family, even if the Crown Prince wasn't in this carriage, they also wouldn't dare to tell Gerald to walk into the manor.

They quickly opened the gates with heads bowed to show their respect as the carriage went into the manor.

Jean and the elders were taken aback when they saw the Lenz manor's insignia on the carriage.

They knew the Crown Prince made a stop there, but they didn't expect that Gerald would actually come along

"Why's that old man coming along?" Jean asked while still keeping the smile on his face.

"I don't know, but I don't think it's anything good. I heard he housed the kid the last time the kid came to the City," An elder behind him replied.

"Hmph! If he's here to make trouble for us, then he should prepare himself." Another elder snorted coldly.

They didn't have any good relationship with the Lenz organization, things turned for the worse after the incident that occurred during old man Gerald's birthday ceremony when Grey severely injured the family's prodigies.

The carriage stopped in front of them, and old man Gerald was the first to alight the carriage, after alighting, a young man came out as well.

The young man was dressed in gold and white clothes, with a lion embroidered on the left chest pocket of the shirt. His handsome face as well as long curly black hair was a sight to behold.

Although he wasn't on the same level as Grey and Klaus when it came to who's more handsome, he could definitely be regarded as a handsome figure wherever he went. That was all on the premise that the people didn't encounter Klaus and Grey first.

"Greetings His Highness the Crowned Prince, it's the pleasure of the entire Smith family to be graced by your presence," Jean bowed, accompanied by the elders.

Although all of them were older than the Crown Prince, in respect of status, they were below him. Since he would be the one to rule them later in the future, they were all below him.

The Crown Prince nodded, "Take me to him,"

He didn't plan on staying here for long, after seeing Grey, he would immediately return back to the Capital.

Grey's use to them was just too precious. If they could get the Great Earth Essence Liquid, it would be better, if they couldn't, then they had to find a way to make sure Grey supported them. If not, well, they'd just eliminate the threat.

Of all the possibilities, the Crown Prince was sure that the last of them would be the most viable one, after all, there might be a stage Grey grew to, then controlling him would be impossible.

Chapter 385 - Exasperated Jean

"Right this way your highness," Jean forced out a smile before leading the way.

He had set up a small banquet to welcome the Crown Prince, but unfortunately, the Crown Prince didn't even give him the chance and went straight to the point.

Gerald followed behind them confidently, he had already spoken to Grey before the Crown Prince arrived, and Grey had confirmed that he had already left the manor.

He didn't care how Grey left, all that mattered was that he was no longer there. He also asked him if he was sure the ladies were still kept in the cage, which Grey affirmed to.

Jean tried starting a conversation with the Crown Prince as he led them to the place, but after only getting a 'hmm' and a nod from him, he knew the Crown Prince didn't want to speak to him.

He felt angered by this, after all, it had been a long time since someone neglected him in this manner. Other than Gerald, no one else had neglected him in Frost City.

Even though he was angry, he still wore a fake smile on his face..

It didn't take long before they got to the back of the main building where the room was built.

"We made a wooden room just for this kid since he's an Earth Elementalist. There are eight Overlord Plane experts guarding this place, so that some people wouldn't come to rescue him," Jean spoke the last part of his statement while purposely looking at Gerald.

The Crown Prince saw how he was looking at Gerald, and turned to look at him.

Gerald didn't say anything, no one here had the right to question him. Even if the Emperor were here, he didn't have the right.

Jean smiled internally, when he saw how the Crown Prince looked at Gerald. He had never liked him.

"Open the door," He ordered as they got close.

His head held high thinking of the contribution he had made to the empire.

Creak...

The guard opened the door before turning around to look at Jean. He didn't even look inside the room since he was sure Grey was inside.

Jean's smile suddenly froze, he looked inside the room, then back at the guard again.

Jean wasn't the only one who was wearing a weird expression, everyone who was accompanying him also wore the same weird expression.

The guard was taken aback when he saw their expressions, he couldn't help but turn to take a peek at the room. He almost fainted from shock when he saw that it was completely empty.

"Eh?" He exclaimed and charged into the room, looking everywhere to make sure Grey wasn't hiding.

The second guard charged in as well when he saw his flustered comrade.

They checked behind the door, and everywhere in the room. They even started slowly demolishing the room, taking out pieces of wood to check underneath it.

"Where... where did he go?" The second guard asked in exasperation.

"What do you mean where did he go? Am I the only one guarding this place?" The flustered first guard yelled at the other one angrily.

They were both charged with guarding this place, and they were both outside, so why was the other guy asking him where Grey went as if he was the only one guarding the place.

They didn't dare to come out of the room, according to their knowledge of Jean, they were most likely going to suffer a terrible punishment, if they were lucky, their cultivation would be destroyed, if they were not, they would be killed.

Outside the room.

Jean and the others still hadn't come to terms with what they thought was happening. They thought about it, but they didn't want to believe it, especially the people from the Smith family.

The repercussions of summoning the Crown Prince here and not providing Grey was something they didn't dare to think of.

The Smith family weren't the strongest, their wealth was what had kept them in such a high position. Although they had some experts in the Overlord Plane, it couldn't be compared to the other families, and some of their experts were actually people they hired.

"Where's he?" The Crown Prince asked, his face devoid of any emotions.

"Your... your highness, the boy should be inside," Jean stuttered a little, but managed to quickly compose himself. The thought of Grey escaping wasn't something he believed was happening.

He currently felt maybe Grey had hidden somewhere in the room. Yes, that was it, he hid in the room.

"Bring the boy, his highness is waiting," He ordered.

His voice scared the two guards to the extreme.

They managed to come out of the room. The first guard was the one who broke the news to Jean, "My lord, the... the... the boy is... gone,"

While speaking, none of the guards dared to look at the face of Jean, they only focused on the ground.

"What?!" Jean exclaimed with his eyes widened.

"Come out here now!" He ordered while looking around.

Six Early stages Overlord Plane experts flew down from the sky, while two Mid stage experts came from the ground.

"What's the meaning of this?" The Crown Prince asked with a blank expression.

No one knew what he was thinking.

"Your highness, I can explain. The boy was here this morning. I even checked a few hours ago." Jean quickly tried to explain, "Where did you people put him?"

After explaining to the Crown Prince, he turned to the experts. The Early stage experts were hired, but the Mid stage experts were part of the family, people he trusted with his life. He was a hundred percent certain that they wouldn't betray him given their relationship.

"Isn't he inside?" One of the Overlord Plane experts in the Mid stages asked, a little confused.

Both experts in the Mid stages were Earth Elementalists, this was why they were able to perfectly sink into the ground and out without any problems.

All Earth Elementalists could do this, but it's only after getting to the Overlord Plane before they could.

"This... this..." Jean was short of words, he wanted to try to explain, but he didn't know what to say.

Chapter 386 - Shattered Hopes

"Jean Smith, you told my father that you had the boy we were searching for, now for the last time, where is he?" The Crown Prince asked, his voice turning cold.

"Ah... yes... yes... the boy. You see... he... he took him!" Jean stuttered, before pointing at Gerald.

He wanted to try to pin the blame on him, since he kept him the last time, then there's a chance he was the one who saved him.

"Hmph! Point that finger in my direction one more time, and you'll lose your entire arm," Gerald snorted.

"Blazh, as you can see, they don't have the kid," He turned to the Crown Prince.

Blazh looked at Gerald with a suspicious gaze, but he knew he couldn't question him. Although he was suspicious of him, he knew Gerald didn't have Grey.

Jean wouldn't bring him here if Gerald truly did have Grey, he would've taken them there directly..

"You have two hours to provide the boy, if he's not brought here by that time, then..." Blazh didn't complete his statement, but Jean and the others knew exactly what he meant and couldn't help but shudder.

"How did a kid in the Origin Plane escape from under the watch of so many experts?" Gerald couldn't help but ask.

He suddenly recalled something after he asked this question. When he went to Grey's room when Grey just comprehended the space element, he couldn't sense his presence at all, although he didn't know of the space element, but he knew whatever Grey was doing at that time, must be something that was far above their knowledge.

'That kid is just as mysterious as his Teacher. Luckily, I'm not their enemy!' He thought while looking at the current pitiful Smith family.

Jean and the others were sweating profusely, and from what Gerald knew, there was no way for them to find Grey, even if they turned the entire city upside down.

To be extra sure, he told Grey to leave the city entirely, this way, he wouldn't be at risk in case of any unforeseen situations.

"The room was closed, we didn't see anyone coming out of the room, nor are there any holes in the room the boy could use in escaping. This means he had help from someone, and that person is among us," One of the Mid stage experts said.

There was no way someone in the Late stage of the Overlord Plane could escape from them in such a well guarded environment. One has to know that there were over eight experts watching a room that had a single door. If someone wanted to leave the room, then they had to go out through the door.

Even if they decided to break the wood, it would surely make a slight vibration which the Earth Elementalists could sense. If for instance the person managed to break the wood using the wind element to perfectly slice through it, not making any sounds, then there was no way for that said person to join the woods back, so when they were searching the room previously, they would've been able to see the sliced wood.

"Find him, you two, head to the Earl family and ask them to bring the boy here now!" Jean ordered.

"What does the Earl family have to do with this? If I remember correctly, they were the ones who brought the boy to you the first time," Gerald asked.

Jean was only trying to find trouble with the Earl family, and he didn't want that to happen. Given how exasperated Jean looked, there's a high chance that he might attack them when they're unable to give him Grey.

"We're only going there to ask, and why are you even trying to stop me from asking them?" Jean asked.

"The first time, you bullied them, when you clearly know that they don't have any ties with the kid. Although I don't involve myself in what is happening in the city, I'm fully aware of what was going on secretly or publicly," Gerald replied nonchalantly.

"They are only going to question them." Jean said, after saying that, he turned to look at the ten people who were supposed to guard the room, "Come with us, none of you is allowed to move away from our sight,"

They were all suspects in this situation, and Jean was hoping to use them as a scapegoat in case they were unable to find Grey.

Gerald looked at him coldly before they all moved to the main building's hall. He didn't tell the Crown Prince of the ladies yet, he wanted to wait until the two hours time was up, then when the fire was blazing, he would add more fuel to it.

There had been reports of missing ladies in the City for a long time now, and none of the ladies had ever been found. Some of the ladies were even from some well off families in different cities, including the Capital City.

Gerald was sure there was no way the Crown Prince was going to let this matter slide if he found out. Not just him, but the families of the ladies as well. This matter will surely bury the Smith family, then added to them being unable to provide Grey, they were literally finished.

Two hours later.

Jean was currently seated on his chair, his clothes completely soaked from sweat, and his legs shaking uncontrollably.

Blazh had his eyes closed all this while, as soon as the time reached, he opened his eyes and looked at Jean.

"Time's up Jean Smith, where's the boy?" He looked at him with emotionless eyes.

"Your highness, please, give us more time, I swear we will be able to find him," Jean immediately started begging.

"Tell that to my father, cease them," Blazh said nonchalantly.

"Blazh, if I may?" Gerald suddenly stood up from where he was sitting.

Blazh was surprised when he saw Gerald stopping him, he could tell there was bad blood between the duo, so why was he stopping him.

Hope appeared in Jean's eyes when he saw Gerald standing up, he felt he wanted to speak on his behalf.

"Over the past years, there have been multiple cases of missing ladies. None of them has been found yet, according to my sources, they are kept in the Smith manor," Gerald explained calmly.

Jean who thought he had been saved almost collapsed when he heard this, his hopes shattered into pieces.

Chapter 387 - Plunged To The Depths Of Despair

"Old man Gerald, what's the meaning of this?" Jean quickly put himself together and scolded.

"You're abducting girls, and keeping them in your manor to have fun with them," Gerald said calmly.

"Old man Gerald, because I respect you doesn't mean you can slander me. I have never, and will never do such evil acts." Jean said with a face filled with anger, he turned to Blazh, "Your highness, like I said, give us some more time, I assure you, we can find the boy,"

Blazh looked at Jean, before switching his gaze to Gerald, "Old man Gerald, is what you're saying the truth?"

"Do I look so bored that I'll falsely accuse this moron?" Gerald asked apathetically.

"Old man Gerald! I will not stand by and watch you accuse me of something I have no idea about." Jean yelled angrily, he turned to Blazh, "Your highness, I think it'll be better if we went to the Capital now, I need to report to your father about this evil accusation,"

Although Jean was panicking, he was still trying his best to get Blazh out of the manor. He had also secretly crushed something that would notify someone to move the cages away from the secret room.

As long as he could hold them here for at least three minutes, everything would be fine.

"Hmph! You're only saying this to escape punishment. Blazh, no need to ask any more questions, come with me, I'll take you there myself," Gerald snorted coldly, he already knew Jean was trying to stop them.

"Old man Gerald, this is my manor, the Smith manor, not the Lenz organization's manor. If you are going anywhere in my manor, then I should be the one inviting you." Jean said coldly.

He was already under a hot seat because Grey escaped, if Blazh were to find out about the ladies in the cages, then he was done for. Not just him, but the entire Smith family.

Gerald looked at Jean with a smile, he enjoyed seeing him look this desperate, but what he enjoyed more was seeing him think he has hope before it crumbles.

Presently, he had already sent Diluc to the garden. Diluc has not only gotten there, but he has captured the Overlord Plane expert there, so no matter how long Jean tries to delay them, it wouldn't change a thing.

"Old man Gerald, where are they kept?" Blazh asked Gerald.

He couldn't let this matter rest given the caliber of it.

Even in Capital City, there have been families who have reported to the Emperor of their missing children, and most of them were ladies, young ladies. If it were to turn out that Jean was the one holding them, then he was as good as dead.

"Yes Gerald, if they are in my manor, where are they kept?" Jean asked, forgoing all formalities.

"No need to be in a hurry, I'll take you all there," Gerald chuckled before heading out of the hall.

Jean took a deep breath before following behind them. He had tried to stop them for a few minutes, although it wasn't up to the time he wanted, he was sure he would be able to delay them another

minute or so. All he needed was one or two more minutes and the expert should've been able to remove all the evidence.

While they were walking, he started introducing the manor to Blazh. He even went as far as calling his daughter, the young lady Grey fought with, hoping to introduce her to Blazh.

But his fake smile turned for the worse when she got there. The young lady looked pale, and appeared to be very weak.

"What's wrong?" He asked hurriedly while approaching her.

The group naturally stopped on seeing him hurry towards his daughter.

Jean on the other hand was beside himself with joy, he didn't care to know what happened to his daughter, but whatever it was, is a life saver.

"Father, since the battle I had with Zeke Hoover, I haven't been feeling too fine," The young lady explained.

"Since you fought with him?" Jean asked, confused.

Elementalists don't usually get sick, although there are a few cases, but they were rarely natural. After their bodies have been refined by the elements, it would improve by a whole lot, making them impervious to sickness.

The young lady nodded her head, Jean's happy heart shook.

"Give me your hand," He had already grabbed her hand when he said this.

After placing his thumb on her hand, he closed his eyes.

"This... how?" Jean opened his eyes in horror.

It was like he was falling into despair.

"Father, what's it?" The young lady asked anxiously on seeing her father's reaction.

"Your... essence bead. It's seventy percent damaged," Jean replied with a lost expression.

'What's going on? What did I do for all this to happen to me?' He looked at the sky with a look that showed extreme pain.

The young lady was the hope of the entire Smith family, she was the one who has had the highest potential amongst all the children ever born to the family. Although they were a big family, they knew that it wouldn't last forever. They were wealthy, but they weren't strong individually.

The experts they hired could easily be tempted by an enemy of the family, this would make them betray them, so they weren't too safe with them.

If the young lady were to truly get to the legendary Sage Plane, then they would be able to attract talents to the family, talents they would groom to love and respect the family's rules.

"What?!"

The young lady, as well as the remaining elders who were beside Jean exclaimed.

The elders all hurried to grab hold of her hand, checking it for themselves. Their expressions all changed when they saw this.

Gerald who was looking from the side, couldn't help but shake his head.

'This boy is just as vicious as his Teacher. All the girl wanted to do was spar, yet he crippled her, and in the presence of an Overlord Plane expert, amazing! He's just as daring as his Teacher.'

He couldn't help but wonder what the empire might turn to when Grey grew to the same strength as Chris. Given the personality of both people, it's most likely even the Emperor wouldn't want to get on their bad sides.

'No wonder they want to eliminate him as soon as possible.' He thought.

But to be honest, Gerald felt the Emperor was making the wrong decision. If he were the Emperor, then he would've tried to befriend Grey, instead of making him feel like a fugitive. Just think of what they could do if they had someone like Grey and Chris behind them.

He felt the Qilin empire would be able to easily dominate the other two empires with just those two on their sides.

He had done more research on Grey, and found out it had just been three years since he started cultivating, this made him all the more certain he had to build a stable relationship with him even if it meant offending the entire Qilin empire!

"Jean Smith, you're wasting my time," Blazh said coldly.

Whatever happened to the Smith family had nothing to do with him, all he wanted to do now was return to the Capital, with Jean Smith.

Although Jean Smith might not be executed because Grey escaped, he wouldn't escape punishment. But if they were to find out that he truly was abducting ladies, then the punishment will not be light.

Jean turned to look at Blazh and old man Gerald, the luster in his eyes was gone. He wasn't even happy he had been able to successfully delay them.

Sigh...

He sighed heavily, and it was like a aged by at least five years.

Gerald looked at him with a pitiful expression, it was like he was witnessing the scene of Chris almost annihilating an entire family again, only this time, he was doing it with the help of others.

Chris was brutish, while Grey on the other hand was cunning. But Gerald was sure if Grey was strong enough, then he might've done even more than what Chris did.

They had spent a considerable time with the young lady, so when they got to where the garden was located at the back of the main building, over five minutes had gone by.

Jean was comforted by the fact that Gerald would mislead Blazh, even if they wouldn't punish him, it would at least make the punishment on him for not being able to provide Grey not as harsh as before.

"There's a secret room here," Gerald said.

"That's the place I keep all the rare flowers," Jean said before leading them to the building in the garden.

He opened the door that led inside, after they walked in.

"You see, just like I said, where I keep all..." He paused mid sentence, in front of him were multiple cages, with ladies chained inside.

This time, he didn't only fall into despair, but he immediately plunged to the depth. His previous black hair started to whiten at an incredible pace, the process was visible to the naked eye.

Chapter 388 - According To Plan

One hour before Blazh got to Frost City.

Smith manor.

After Grey was taken to his new room, he didn't leave immediately, instead, he waited for an hour or so.

Jean came to the room to see if he was there, as well as some other elders in the manor.

While he was waiting, he was communicating with Alice. Since old man Gerald told him to go outside the city, then he would just take her along.

Grey soon disappeared from the room, appearing behind some flowers by the side. He made sure to conceal his aura, while also ensuring he didn't make the slightest sound or vibration, even when standing on the ground.

After leaving the room, he went over to the garden to check if the ladies were still there.. It would be awkward if Jean had moved the girls because of what happened the previous day.

Luckily, Jean didn't think that the person who entered the vault passed through that side because of the expert that was guarding that area.

He confirmed the ladies were still in the secret room before leaving the Smith manor. When he got outside, he breathed out heavily.

'Damn it! This thing's consumption rate is terrifying, and it wears the body and mind simultaneously.' He complained.

Now he understood why Void would always sleep after fighting or using the space element for a long period of time. He was exhausted!

If not for the fact that he had to take Alice out, then he would've found an Inn to sleep.

He quickly maneuvered through the streets of Frost City, getting to the Reiss manor in no time.

With a sour expression on his face, he was forced to once again use the space element.

Thirty minutes later.

Outside Frost City.

Grey and Alice could be seen heading towards the forest by the side of the city. Grey was taking her to the cave he created the array, he wanted nothing else than to rest right now.

When they got there, he informed old man Gerald he was out of the city, because sitting in a crossed leg position, trying to recover. Even his face had turned pale from the excess usage of the space element.

Alice watched on as Grey went into a semi-conscious state.

Grey had given her a rough rundown of what was going to happen in the Smith family.

When she heard about what Jean had been doing, she was incensed. Three years ago, one of her cousins went missing. Even with the broad network the Reiss family had, they were unable to locate her.

It has been three years now, if she wasn't wrong, then Jean Smith is most likely the one who kidnapped her.

She knew her father was not in the city, and she didn't want the elders in the family to know she was leaving the manor, or else they would not agree to it, even her father would not agree to it.

Since there was nothing for her to do, she decided to cultivate instead. It was better than just sitting around doing nothing.

Five hours later.

Grey opened his eyes, revitalized. His face had regained most of its color, but he still needed rest.

He looked around, after seeing Alice was still there, he stood up, heading towards the exit of the cave.

Alice noticed his movements, and also opened her eyes.

"You're awake," She said while also standing up.

"Yeah," Grey nodded before asking, "How long has it been?"

"Around five hours or so," Alice replied.

"Hmm, then the Crown Prince must've left already," Grey brought out the communication device he got from old man Gerald.

He wanted to see how far things had played out.

After sending a message to old man Gerald, he was instantly replied, it was almost like old man Gerald had been waiting for his message all this while.

'Grey my boy, how are you doing?' His enthusiastic voice reverberated in Grey's head.

Grey was forced to look at the device again, to make sure it was the one he usually uses to communicate with old man Gerald.

'I'm fine. I wanted to ask how things went at the Smith manor?' Grey replied courteously before asking.

'It went according to plan. In fact, it was much better than I expected...!' Gerald went on to tell him what happened at the Smith manor.

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Smith manor, a few hours back.

"You see, just like I said, this is where I keep all..." Jean paused mid-sentence, in front of him were multiple cages with ladies chained inside.

Blazh looked at the expression of Jean which displayed horror. He had the expression of a criminal that was caught in the act.

Gerald wore a surprised look as well. Although Grey had already told him of this place, he didn't think it would actually be this big.

There were at least fifty cages in the room, and ladies were inside all of them. He had been researching the disappearance of the ladies in Frost City over the years, but he has always come up short, never being able to find who the culprit was.

He never expected Grey would be able to discover something like this after he willingly brought himself to the Smith family.

Some of the elders of the Smith family had shocked expressions, clearly, they knew nothing of this.

"Jean, what is this?" An Elder questioned angrily.

Jean hadn't been able to look away from the cages all around, he still hadn't been able to comprehend what was happening.

"But... but... I crushed it. Then why, why didn't he clear this place up?" He muttered to himself as he took slow steps towards the first cage in sight.

The ladies in the room didn't even show any reactions, even with the disturbance. It was like their souls had left them.

After years of torture, most people breakdown quickly, seeking death. Even if they don't die physically, they would die mentally.

It was better than having to be conscious while going through so much pain.

Gerald looked at the ladies trapped in the cages, he didn't know any of them, but he was sure some of them were from Frost City.

Unfortunately, it would be difficult for them to live normal lives even after freeing them. It would take them years before they might be able to recover.

Chapter 389 - I've Missed This!

"Cease him," Blazh ordered emotionlessly.

"As for the rest of you, you'll be coming with us to the Capital." He turned to the other elders.

This was a big offense, and the punishment was not light. There's a high chance the Emperor would order Jean Smith's execution, even if he's not executed, then his cultivation would be destroyed.

Given the number of enemies he had gained for himself due to this heinous act, it would be difficult for him to protect himself. Even the Smith family wouldn't be able to protect him, that's if there's a Smith family after this.

"You don't need to take them along, this is all my doing," Jean spoke, his voice bland.

"Hmph! That's not for you to decide," Blazh snorted coldly.

"Thank you for this important information, the empire would reward you accordingly," He bowed to old man Gerald to show his gratitude.

Gerald looked at Blazh, his bearing was amazing. If not for the fact that he knew him well, he would've thought Blazh had nothing against him from how he was acting.

"It's nothing, since I'm residing in the empire, then it's my duty to help out with what I can," He waved it off.

He didn't want to be rewarded for something he didn't discover. It was all thanks to Grey, but unfortunately, he couldn't tell Blazh that.

"Father will get back to you," Blazh said.

"Release the ladies and find out which families they're from. It would be best if this isn't made public, but given the circumstances of things, I doubt we'll be able to keep this matter a secret," He added.

Gerald didn't plan on doing anything else, he had already done his part, so now all that was left was to go back to his everyday carefree life. As long as Grey wasn't caught, and he successfully leaves this area, then nothing would disturb his life again.

Once Grey grew to the peak, then he would return valiantly, and beat up the Emperor for seeking his life.

Blazh was quick to wrap things up at the Smith manor, after that, they immediately left for the Capital.

Given the urgency of the matter when they came to call them, he didn't come with any extravagant ride or carriage befitting of a Crown Prince.

They hurried back to the Capital, and Jean was surprisingly on his best behavior, in fact, he hadn't said a word since Blazh refused to leave the elders behind.

Even the elders that were in seclusion were called out.

Seeing their reactions, Blazh knew they had no hand in this, but it was up to the Emperor to decide what to do to the Smith family.

With Blazh gone, the few people he left behind quickly released the ladies, trying to get them to their respective homes.

Two hours later.

The entire city was abuzz, the only thing the citizens were talking about was the act of the Smith family.

Those who had ties with the Smith family came out to publicly criticize their evil deed.

It was amazing how quickly news spread out, even old man Gerald was astounded by this fact.

The businesses of the Smith family in the city were closed down till further notice, even if they were opened, who would want to go and buy things from the current public enemy.

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Present time.

On hearing what happened from old man Gerald, Grey felt a little better inside.

He wasn't excited because he saved so many people, although it was something that would make most people feel good, Grey wasn't one of such people.

To be honest, all he wanted to do right now was to find a secret place, and start training peacefully, whenever he's free, he'd work on his research. Had Void not been injured, then he would search for his parents, after finding them, he would then start working on other things.

'*Sigh* Things never go as planned,' He shook his head.

"You just saved tens of people, you should be happy," Alice said when she saw his dull expression.

"Yay..." Grey said with a fake smile.

"I feel like pummeling you," Alice pouted on seeing Grey's fake show of happiness.

"You're such a boring person. This is why I enjoy Klaus and Reynolds' company more," She added.

"I'm not, I just don't indulge in self-exaltation as much as Klaus or Reynolds do. And besides, I have to find a way to heal Void, until then, I don't really think I can be too happy," Grey explained.

"That doesn't change the fact that you're boring," Alice said.

"Alright fine, it's nice saving those girls. Are you happy now?" Grey said with a resigned smile.

"Come, it's been a long time since I fought with someone. Let's spar!" Alice said with much enthusiasm.

"I'd rather not," Grey said.

Boom!

As soon as he finished his statement, he was nearly struck with a lightning bolt.

"What's that for?" Grey couldn't help but ask.

Unfortunately, he was met with another lightning bolt.

Alice was still in the Fourth stage of the Origin Plane, but her attack power was between the Sixth and Seventh stage of the Origin Plane.

Grey was forced to continue evading her attacks as she didn't stop attacking. Whenever he tried to speak, he would almost be struck by an attack. Had he not been this fast, then she'd have already struck him with lightning by now.

As they continued sparring, his mood was lifted a little bit. The reason he was this sulky was that he recalled the last time he visited Frost City, Void was with him, but now, Void was still sleeping peacefully in his storage ring.

He didn't even know what was going on with him, but he planned to see old man Gerald before leaving so he could check on him to see if the liquid he got from the young man back at the Chimera forest made any improvements to his condition.

They sparred for almost one hour, and even Grey was shocked by Alice's urge to battle. Even after so long, she didn't want to stop.

"Hehe, I've missed this so much!"

Chapter 390 - I Should've Come Here Earlier!

The next day.

Grey decided it was time to leave Frost City, but before leaving, he wanted to go and meet up with old man Gerald, to check out Void's condition.

The liquid he got from the young man back at the Chimera forest should make some improvements to Void's condition, well, that's what he thought.

He told Alice the reason he brought her out, and seeing her expression, he could tell she approved of it. Alice enjoyed fighting, so staying in one place for months now must've bored her.

She didn't delay and immediately left even before Grey headed to Frost City.. After hearing Reynolds' current strength, she felt pressured to improve quicker.

She didn't even want to talk about Grey's crazy growth, he wasn't someone who they should try to compare themselves with. Grey makes advancing a stage look so easy, while it actually isn't.

With Alice gone, Grey headed to Frost City. Old man Gerald told him to make sure he stayed hidden since there was no guarantee that Blazh wasn't waiting for him.

Thirty minutes later.

Lenz manor.

In the secret room Grey stayed the previous time.

"Hmm, there's still no improvement to his condition," Gerald said before passing Void over to Grey.

Grey sighed with a sour expression, "Thank you for your assistance, I guess I'll have to get a large amount of that liquid."

"What liquid?" Gerald asked curiously.

Grey told him of a liquid he used, but he didn't tell him the name of the liquid.

"Oh right, I forgot to ask. The liquid helps to soothe the mind, making one think clearly. I've forgotten its name, but I'm sure it's what I obtained." Grey replied with a thoughtful expression.

"Hmm, could it be the Resurgence Liquid?" Gerald questioned.

If what Grey was speaking about was this liquid, then there's a chance that it should be able to heal Void. That's if he could get a large amount of it.

"Yes, that's it!" Grey replied.

He had been racking his brain to try to recall its name, but he was unable to. He had only seen it in a book, and he was only glancing through, after looking at its appearance and what it did, he didn't really read more about it, nor did he try to find out about it.

"Then it should be able to help your cat. I'm not a hundred percent certain about it, but from what it's usually used for, I believe it would help." Gerald replied after a while.

"Okay. I found out from someone that it could be found in the magical beasts' forest..." Grey told him of the location the young man told him, while also asking if it was correct.

According to the young man, there's a bamboo forest in the magical beasts' forest where there was an entire pond of this Resurgence Liquid.

Given the wide network the Lenz organization has, and also how quickly they were able to get hold of information, Grey felt old man Gerald might be able to help him confirm if what the young man said was true. Besides, according to the young man, it was a rumor.

"I'll see what I can find. I haven't heard of anything about that for now, so I can't be too sure. You can wait until I get some feedback," Gerald replied after thinking for some time.

"I'll pass. I still have the communication device with me, so you can inform me whenever you get something. Thanks for your help, I'm grateful," Grey bowed to show his appreciation.

"You don't need to be too formal with me, I'm just helping a friend's student." Gerald chuckled.

"Thank you once again, I'll be leaving the city now. I'll probably be heading to the magical beasts' forest from here," Grey bowed again.

After that, he left Frost City once again, this time, it would be a long time before he returns, if he ever returns that is.

Now, he was heading out to find Klaus. Since Klaus left the Academy, they hadn't had any type of contact. It was relatively easier to find Alice and Reynolds since they were in one area. But Klaus was constantly moving further away from him.

The time he spent in the Chimera forest further increased the distance between them. But amongst the group, he felt less worried about Klaus. The reason for this was simple, the Principal was with him. Given the strength of the Principal, it would be very difficult for anyone to take Klaus from his hands.

Not just that, but Instructor Blake was also with them.

Klaus was safer than even Alice who was kept in the Reiss manor. There was no way for the Emperor to track them down since the Principal would be wary of that.

After he left Frost City, he took out the tracking disc, he looked at the dots. He could see Alice's dot moving quickly away from where he was currently standing. Reynolds' light dot was still, this indicated that he wasn't moving anywhere.

Klaus' light dot was quite a long distance away from where his dot was. And he guessed there were thousands of miles between them.

According to his calculation from the time he went to meet Reynolds, then it would take him at least four to five weeks before he got to where Klaus was currently located. And given how Klaus' dot was still moving, he knew it would take a long time before he could actually meet up with him.

'I wonder how he's doing? Given his personality, a lot of people would've tried to kill him already, maybe even the Principal and Instructor Blake,' He thought to himself with a rare smile.

Klaus was the one he was actually closer to amongst his friends, and thinking about all his antics, he couldn't help but smile. Klaus was a troublemaker, he'd annoy anyone and everyone, especially now that himself or Reynolds was with him. He would try to find another way to say all the crazy things in his head.

....

"How does he move this quickly?" Grey's annoyed voice rang out from the side of a pathway.

He was currently walking out of a small city, well, it should actually be called a town, but since it was called a city, Grey wasn't going to complain given Red City was just as small but it was still called a city.

The device was currently in his hands, and Klaus' light dot could be seen not too far from his own, but the dot was moving away.

It has been over seven weeks since he left Frost City, but he hadn't been able to find Klaus till now. This was already a week more than what he predicted, but he couldn't complain since Klaus seemed to always be on the move.

His journey has been very boring over the past seven weeks, nothing meaningful happening. In his free time, he had been studying forge mastering very hard. Other than that, he also frequently communicated with Alice and Reynolds, checking how they were doing.

Alice had surprisingly broken through to the Fifth stage of the Origin Plane, this came as a huge surprise to Grey since he didn't expect her to break through this quickly.

According to her, she had been going around, fighting.

Her method of training seemed strange to say the least, but Grey knew battling was the best and quickest way to grow stronger.

Alice also told him of the high number of resources she had refined while she was in the secret room cultivating. It was like the battles brought out the remnant of the resources in her body.

The people she had been battling with were surprisingly bandits, she had been going around, searching for bandits to beat up.

There were a few times she had been placed in a dangerous situation, but having the lightning element meant that she was faster than most Elementalists, as long as she didn't get involved with people in the Seventh or Eighth stage of the Origin Plane, then she didn't have any issues.

She could even escape from a Seventh stage Origin Plane expert if they were alone, but if the expert had help, then she would find it difficult to escape.

Reynolds was having a great time on his end, he hasn't faced much of a challenge, but neither had he seen anything that would make him improve.

Grey felt he would improve whenever he was placed in a difficult position. Given the strength of the Elemental Warrior, it was difficult for him to have any problems with people in the Origin Plane, so he was pretty safe.

'*Sigh* Klaus would most likely be having fun by now.' He thought to himself.

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While Grey was thinking of Klaus enjoying himself, some kilometers away, Klaus truly was enjoying himself.

"Ah... this place is great! Who would've thought that there was such a treasure in this small town. I should've come here earlier!" He said while sitting in a small icy pool.