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Chapter 41: Lord Of The Misty Mountain

Grey was in a great mood, he still remembers how gloomy he was when he entered the canyon. "Who knew this canyon was such a wonderful place" a wide grin spread across his face.

After he woke the unconscious men, he asked them to lead him to their hideout. When they got to the hideout, Grey realized the hideout wasn't far from where he met them, it was only about two hundred and fifty meters from there.

The hideout was well hidden which would help the bandits go unnoticed if people came in search of them. There were chairs, tables, and even beds. It was nicely decorated and felt comfortable to live in. The bandits were living comfortably in the canyon, they must have robbed a lot of people since they could afford all this.

He still remembered how stunned the bandits were when he told them to take out all their money. When they brought out the money they had with them, Grey found two gold coins, he estimated there were over one thousand silver coins, with copper coins taking the majority.

A single gold coin was equivalent to one hundred silver coins. This was a huge fortune for the current Grey. If he had a single gold coin, he would have been able to get a horse and travel at a more comfortable pace.

He took both of the gold coins, and also took all the silver coins. Grey left the copper coins with them since he didn't want to completely wreck them. And besides carrying so many copper coins would be stressful.

"I'm such a nice person" The leader almost fainted when he heard Grey make this remark.

If Grey had seen these copper coins earlier, there was no way he would have thought of going through the canyons. But now since he was rich, he held the copper coins in disdain.

"This is a really nice profession, no wonder lots of people engage in it," said Grey with a multitude of emotions.

He suddenly felt intoxicated with how quickly he was able to make money.

"I can't go around robbing people though," Grey said thoughtfully. He was contemplating about it.

"Forget it, I'm rich for now and that's all that matters. I'll try to hunt some magical beast and sell their cores" Grey discarded the thought of robbing.

Willow City is bustling. Being the only city close to the Misty Mountain, it became the resting ground for adventurers who wanted to go into the mountain.

Grey was currently sitting in a restaurant having a wonderful meal. He came to this restaurant for two reasons, first, he wanted to eat something nice after 'earning' money. Second, he wanted to know what was going on in the mountain.

This was the perfect place to find out what was going on since a lot of people come here to dine. And just as expected, he heard a major event took place in the Misty Mountain.

"Even an Origin Plane powerhouse was killed," a man said in a bewildered voice. Due to him suddenly raising his voice, he attracted attention from the people around them.

Grey shifted his gaze to where the voice came from. Two men who were eating close to his table were having an animated conversation.

"Yes. He trespassed into the territory of the Lord of the mountain and was killed immediately by the beast. The others were lucky to escape" the man opposite him said.

"But we all know the Lord of the mountain attacks intruders on sight, why would they even venture there when they knew they weren't a match for the beast?" the first man said.

"I heard it was because of a natural treasure. They accidentally noticed traces of it, and tracked it there" the second man said.

"A natural treasure?" the first man asked while a glint flashed through his eyes.

"Yes, but they refused to say the details of the treasure. But they said it hadn't completely formed yet. I heard they're forming a party to once again head back into the depths of the mountain" the second man said.

When the surrounding people heard what they were saying, they all shook their heads in disappointment, since their Planes were too low to be involved in that kind of struggle.

"Hello Mister, can you please tell me what part of the mountain did the treasure appeared in?" Grey went up to them and asked.

The man who was just speaking earlier didn't show any response. When Grey noticed this, he placed a silver coin on the table. The man was surprised when he saw the silver coin, he quickly kept it before telling Grey what he knew.

Grey left the restaurant after acquiring the information he wanted, 'Luckily I'm headed to the northern part of the mountain'.

Grey found out from the man that the treasure appeared in the southern part of the mountain. The reason he asked of this was to know if he was headed in the same direction as to where the treasure appeared.

He planned on quitting the mission if the treasure was also located in the northern part of the forest since he had no plans of seeking death.

The Lord of the Misty Mountain is said to already have half a step into the Overlord Plane, if it is able to get the treasure, its chances of breaking through would be increased greatly.

Grey headed over to the mountain. Because of this unexpected event, he wanted to finish his mission as soon as possible so he could get out of the mountain.

Grey noticed a lot of people heading into the mountain, some are in groups, while others are alone. From the looks of where they were headed, it wasn't hard to guess they were all going towards the southern part of the mountain.
magic

What shocked Grey the most, was the fact that the majority of the people headed in that direction were still in the Arcane Plane. These were people who were going to see if they might be lucky to obtain the treasure.

Although they knew it was dangerous, they still headed there like moths attracted to flames. Many of them will probably not return from this journey, some might not even reach their destination since there were still magical beasts in the Origin Plane at the mountain.

Grey didn't think too much about them and headed into the mountain. He planned on training his techniques, so he could use them faster. If he had been able to use a technique immediately, he wouldn't have been put in such a bad spot by the bandits during the battle.

He also planned on also training with his blades to have a better understanding of them. He went deeper into the mountain since the beast at the outer region wasn't worth his time.

Chapter 42: Wind Wolves

THUD

"Awooo" A cry of pain left the mouth of the beast which was sent flying. The beast hit a nearby tree violently. On closer inspection, one could see different cut marks on its body.

The beast was a Wind wolf, they usually grow to the Late stages of the Arcane Plane, and there have even been records of Wind wolves breaking through to the Origin Plane. This Wind wolf wasn't much though, it was only still at the peak of the Fusion Plane and still can't use the trademark 'wind blades' the wolves are good at.

Wind wolves usually move in packs, but surprisingly, this one was all alone.

Due to being injured in multiple places, the wolf had already lost its ability to fight back. It just laid on the floor motionless and stared at the human who was walking closer to it with hate filled eyes.

The human stood in front of the wolf and gave it a decisive blow, ending its life with a simple stab to the head.

"This is just a Fusion Plane beast yet it is so hard to deal with" The voice of a youth complained.

Grey had already headed more than four kilometers into the mountain. The Misty Mountain is said to cover an area of over seven hundred kilometers in length and spanned over a width of over three hundred kilometers.

Grey was still in the outer region of the mountain. From the information he gathered, getting past the one hundred and fifty kilometers mark, he would start seeing beasts in the Early stages of the Arcane Plane. The deeper he heads in, the stronger the beasts get.

But some strong beasts have been heard wandering in the outer region of the mountain, unless you're unlucky, you will most likely not encounter them. Magical beasts have always had a strong repulse towards humans, and have something like a kill on sight policy whenever they encounter one.

Humans also kill these beasts for different reasons, this is a cycle that has lasted for ages and will continue for more. A continuous battle between humans and magical beasts. Although it is said humans have the upper hand, there are beasts they don't dare to wantonly kill.

Grey had already engaged with six beast, with all of them being at the Late stages of the Fusion Plane. He was getting used to his weapon and also his techniques. He was moving at a slow pace to ensure he gets the best of his training as he heads deeper.

If he still couldn't completely use his techniques instantly, then he would be in a tight spot if he encounters a magical beast in the Arcane Plane. Gaining mastery of his techniques was a must for him. magic

Grey quickly departed the area, since this was a place infested with beasts, they are bound to be attracted to where he was by the smell of blood. Grey didn't forget to take out the core of the beast before leaving. He placed it in his backpack and went further into the mountain.

It was already almost sunset, Grey decided it was best to camp early since this was his first day in the mountain. He found a hole at the side of a huge tree, it was probably dug by a beast. But it had long been abandoned from the looks of it.

Grey patrolled the surrounding just to be extra sure, he cut down some branches from trees around then used them to cover the opening on the tree.

Grey being an Earth Elementalist, could sense any vibrations on the ground through the Earth element. He is also a very vigilant person with keen senses. So unless the intruder is an expert, he had no fear of not noticing them.

Grey sat in a meditative position and soon fell asleep.

Late at night, all was dark

"Rustle, rustle" The soft sound of something rustling against the grasses could be heard.

A group of powerfully built Wind wolves with grooming black fur were pacing about through the forest. Their green-tinted eyes were restlessly scouring the area as their strong limbs quietly stalked through the area.

Still seated crossed leg, Grey's eyes snapped open as he immediately stared southward. He couldn't see or hear anything, but he knew the vibrations he felt from the ground were real. Although soft, he was able to feel them.

This was the sensory ability being an Earth Elementalist gives. One can easily sense things using the tremors on the ground.

"A group of magical beasts is headed in this direction. They will reach here in approximately two minutes" Grey deduced from the vibrations. There was no way he could know the Plane of the beasts, or what type of beasts they were.

But since they were moving in a group, it was most likely a wolf pack. Since he was still in the outer regions, he didn't think there would be a pack filled with Arcane Plane beasts.

There are three major types of wolf packs; Ice wolves, Wind wolves, and Gray wolves. Gray wolf packs were the weakest with the Ice wolf pack being the strongest.

Grey came out of the tree to scout out the beasts. Peering through the trees, it was just as he had predicted. There was a group of Wind wolves moving in his direction. A fully grown Wind wolf will be at the Early stages of the Arcane Plane.

From what he could see, there were juveniles in the pack. There were about ten or fifteen Wind wolves.

'They shouldn't be hard to deal with. I'll have to leave this area once I'm done with the battle though' Grey thought.

The wolves quickly got to where he was and immediately charged at him when they saw him. Grey unsheathed both his short blades for the battle, he plans on ending the battle quickly then moving from this area.

The wolves were fast after having imbued their bodies with the Wind element. Grey wasn't any slower than they were. Within two minutes of the fight, he had already injured four of the wolves. With cut marks on different parts of their bodies.

The injured wolves cried out in pain.

"Crash!, Crash!, Crash!"

Grey successfully sent three wolves flying with strong kicks. He was already getting better with battling and is much more proficient with his blade. He was still uninjured during the battle, and this was thanks to his good use of his techniques.

"Hooooowl"

The wolves suddenly let out a loud howl, which was met with howls coming from all directions close by.

Grey suddenly felt a chill down his spine when he heard this, 'How did they get this close?' He asked himself with a stunned expression.

What he saw next shocked him. The wolves which were just coming out were all in the Arcane Plane, there were about eight coming out. Added with the previous thirteen, the pack was made up of twenty-one wolves.

When these wolves appeared, they immediately sent out their trademark attacks 'wind blades'. Over twenty deep green blades of wind appeared out of nowhere. Grey's scalp went numb when he saw this.

"Lightning Steps"

Grey immediately used his movement technique to escape the area of the attack. 'How can I be so unlucky?, this is just my first day in the mountain and I'm not even allowed a good night's rest' Grey complained as he escaped.

"Brother wolf, why don't we settle this amicably?. I know it was wrong of me to kill one of your brother, or sister. I will apologize for it" Grey yelled as he dodged their attacks.

The wolves snarled when they heard it. It was like his statement provoked them more. They immediately attacked again.

"Fuck" Grey cursed out loud before employing his movement technique to dodge the attacks again.

Chapter 43:Rescue

On seeing he was surrounded, Grey tried to leap into a nearby tree. He was able to dodge the first and second barrage of attack, but being mid-air, he was unable to dodge the next attack.

He quickly used the Earth Wall technique, although it was late, it was able to help him from getting any major damage. He was knocked off course by the impact of the attacks hitting his wall.

The moment he landed back on the floor, he quickly deployed the only technique in his arsenal which wasn't a single target attack.

"Shattered Rock"

Suddenly, the nearby earth began to crack and shatter.

Three skull-sized pieces of rock flew up and began to circle around Grey's head. These three rocks were all covered with earthen specks of light, he let out a deep shout. The three rocks rapidly shot off, carrying a gust of wind with them.

"SMASH!"

Two of the three stones were able to accurately hit two wolves with one of them missing its target. The wolves who were hit cried in pain. With two of the wolves in the Arcane Plane injured, he only had to deal with the remaining six.

The others attacked with more fervor as they saw their colleagues getting injured. The wolves were able to catch up with Grey due to their fast nature.

'I need to come up with a way to deal with the ones in the Arcane Plane' Grey thought.

He was thinking of a plan to deal with the wolves as he dodged their attacks while running. If there were only two wolves in the Arcane Plane present, he was confident he could deal with them. But with over five present, he wasn't that strong yet.

Grey saw a huge tree up ahead and an idea struck him. He quickly dashed towards it, when he got close, he leaped towards it. Grey stomped heavily on the tree with his right leg while turning his body mid-air. magic

"Lightning Steps"

While in a vertical position, he used his movement technique added with the force he generated from rebounding off the tree. He launched back towards the charging wolves and stab both his blades into the head of the unlucky wolf which he targeted.

The wolf died on the spot with blood flowing out of his head. There were now only Five wolves remaining among the wolves in the Arcane Plane. They had outrun the wolves in the Fusion Plane.

After killing one of the wolves, Grey created a distance between himself and the wolves. The wolf he killed was one of the leaders of the pack.

Of the eight wolves that appeared, only two were in the Second stage of the Arcane Plane. The remaining six were all in the First stage of the Arcane Plane just like Grey.

The wolves stared at him with furious eyes, the last surviving leader gave a furious howl and they all charged towards Grey. Grey was overjoyed when he noticed they weren't going to use their troublesome attacks again.

Magical beasts always engage in physical battles, and due to their strong defenses, they rarely lose out to humans in terms of it. When Grey saw them coming, he held his blade in a reverse grip and charged straight at them.

After his battle with the bandits, he gained some experience and he had been able to improve his fighting abilities since he entered the mountain. He had engaged in different battles and had grown with them.

Grey dodged the attacks of the wolves, while also dealing strikes of his own. Soon, he was able to injure another two but wasn't able to deal the last strike since he was disturbed by the remaining three. The rest wolves caught up with them.

Grey immediately came up with a skill that would deal more damages to the wolves. He coated his blades with lightning, this made his attacks more destructive.

When the last leader saw his pack members being killed one by one, it immediately turned tails and ran. The surviving wolves all turned around and also escaped with their leader.

Grey caught up with the injured two at the Arcane Plane and ended their lives.

"Huuu, they're finally gone" Grey breathed heavily. He was already sweating from the battle and he had already depleted most of his elemental essence. Using the techniques over and over again was really straining.

"Thankfully they left, I don't think I would've been able to support any more techniques" Grey felt lucky since he was able to overcome this challenge.

If it were others in the same plane as he was, they wouldn't have been able to support this much use of techniques. But Grey's essence was thicker hence it was more durable.

"This is a great haul. With the cores from these three beasts, I would be able to sell them for a lot." This was the first Arcane Plane beasts cores he had acquired. He was only able to kill three of the Arcane Plane wolves with the rest escaping. The majority of his kills were those in the Fusion Plane, but he had no complaints.

Grey retraced his steps and was able to easily find the tree where he slept. He picked up his backpack and moved to a different location since the noise from the battle must have alerted nearby beasts.

He found a cave in a secluded area in the mountain, after thorough searching to ensure it was unoccupied and that his environment was safe, he found

something to block the entrance of the cave. He immediately started cultivating to recover the elemental essence he lost during the fight.

The next morning, Grey was up early. He had completely recovered the essence and he even felt he made some improvements in his cultivation. He scoured the area and quickly found a pig.

A little spark of Lightning and his fire was up. He ate as much as he could to replenish his physical strength and also saved some for dinner. Unfortunately, there was no way he could take the entire meat with him.

Grey went deeper into the forest and had different battles. Things were going well for him since his main purpose of coming which was training was already going really well and he had also acquired some beast cores.

He had met humans during his journey but they had always avoided each other once they saw. Apart from magical beasts, humans were the major threats here. There are cases of people attacking each other because of greed or other reasons. Grey hadn't met anyone who attacked him but he had seen corpses of people over the course of his journey.

Some of the corpses had marks of being killed by beasts, while others, you could clearly see the traces of human attacks on their body. Grey had always known this is a place of survival of the fittest. Only the strong came could enter the deeper regions of the Misty Mountain.

Most of the people who come in here are hunters who are trying to get beast cores to sell. Getting a core from the beasts can be taxing and even very dangerous, but if they were able to ambush others who had already had some cores, they would be able to acquire more cores with lesser works.

After another two days, Grey soon passed the one hundred and fifty kilometers mark in the mountain. Now he had to be extra careful with his movements since he wasn't strong enough yet to walk freely in this part of the forest.

Although he could have reached past it sooner, he wanted to gain more training from his stay here. He would soon get to where the Lizards were said to be located in the mountain. Due to the thrill of his training, he had completely forgotten about what he heard about before entering the forest.

When he got to this part, he noticed human activity had increased and he would see groups of people or individuals within a range of every five hundred meters. Grey was very cautious with them since he didn't know them and would avoid them as much as possible.

"Arghh"

Grey heard a shout of pain coming from his left while he was walking, he stared at the direction the shout came from and went closer to know what was going on. He saw a group of youths being attacked by some beasts, three boys and two girls.

They were all in the Early stages of the Arcane Plane from the auras coming from their bodies. Grey could clearly sense the fear in them. One of the boys have been injured on his right leg and could barely stand on his own.

The two young ladies in the group were too scared to even attack. The two boys left were the only ones who were still able to fight, although barely.

The group was being attacked by four Conflagration Apes, these Apes were all fire attributes magical beasts and could deal some major damage if they get too close.

Clearly this was this group of youths' first time heading out to train, seems like they got too confident and charged all the way past the one hundred and fifty kilometers mark.

The sudden attack distracted the Ape for some time which gave the students some breathing space. Both boys who were attacking also stopped looking in the direction the attacks came from.

"Are you crazy?, why did you stop attacking?"

They suddenly heard a shout which made them recover quickly, they capitalized on the fact that the Apes were still trying to make heads of what was going on and were able to fatally injured one of them with a combined attack.

With Grey joining in the attacks, they managed to kill one of the Apes with the others escaping. Magical beasts in the Arcane Plane are far more intelligent than those in the Fusion Plane. The first time they try to do when losing was to escape, they only try to fight to the death when they no there is no way out.

"Thank you," One of the boys said while deeply bowing to Grey.

Grey turned and looked at the youths calmly.

Chapter 44: Red Lizards

Grey turned and looked at the youths calmly. He shifted his gaze to the one who was hurt.

"Thank you for lending a hand, if it weren't for you, we would have been in a tough spot," the youth said again

"It's okay," Grey said coolly. magic

When the youths got a clear view of his face, they were stunned. The boys almost thought he was a girl, as he could almost be described using the term 'beautiful'. The girls on the other hand were dazed, they never expected the youth who saved them to be this handsome.

"What are you all doing here anyway?" Grey turned to the youth who thanked him and asked.

"My name is Claude and this is Aaron, the two ladies are Nina and Tessa. And that's Ryan" The youth introduced himself and the others before continuing, "We're from the Idris Academy, we came out for training. We didn't expect to be attacked by those Apes just after getting here" Claude said with a wry smile.

"This is your first day here?" asked Grey. On seeing how they lacked experience, he guessed it probably might be.

"Yes, we heard you can only find beasts in the Arcane Plane after passing the one hundred and fifty kilometers mark" Claude answered truthfully.

Claude and the rest dropped their head in embarrassment. It was just like Grey said, after finding out beasts in the Arcane Plane were present after the one hundred and fifty kilometers mark, they charged in because they felt confident in their abilities. Clearly, they're still lacking.

"We'll not be able to stay here longer, since we have to take Ryan back to recover," Aaron said.

"Okay then, I'll be on my way now" Grey smiled before turning to leave.

After Grey left.

"We were lucky he showed up, else" Claude shuddered when he thought of what the outcome of the battle might be.

"Yeah" The rest nodded in unison. They truly were thankful for Grey's help.

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Grey was already getting close to the territory of the Red Lizards. Although not only the Lizards stay at this part of the mountain, they make up the majority of the beasts in the area.

"Hmmm, I should be close now. I wonder what they want to do with the eggs of the Lizard" It was quite baffling since the person only asked for the eggs and nothing more.

He soon found the first lizard's nest, but unfortunately, even after going through a tough struggle with the Lizard, it was empty.

The next nest he found, he couldn't get close because the Lizard was already in the Mid stages of the Arcane Plane. Grey kept on searching until he finally found the right target.

It was a Red Lizard in the Second stage of the Arcane Plane. Although it might be troublesome, Grey could still deal with it given his prowess. He quickly made short work of the Lizard and found only two eggs inside its nest.

"One to go" Grey extracted the core from the Lizard as he kept it with the eggs. His backpack was already almost filled. Luckily, the eggs weren't too big. They were the size of a human head, his backpack could hold them but that would be it.

He had already acquired close to ten cores of beasts in the Arcane Plane and more of those in the Fusion Plane. Grey went in search of the last egg since he was required to bring back three.

His experience in the mountain so far has been just as he wanted. He is now able to use his techniques faster and was also growing adept at fighting. Grey's learning speed truly was beyond normal.

That day ended without Grey seeing his target, although he got into some battles with some beasts, he was able to end it quickly. The only regret he had was that his backpack couldn't contain all the cores from the beasts.

The next morning, Grey got up and continued his search for the last egg. He soon found a nest inside a cave.

"Hopefully I can get the last egg from this nest" Grey had already found some nest, but either there are no eggs or the Lizards are stronger than him. He wanted to train to be stronger, not kill himself. Once he attacks and notices the difference in strength, he'll quickly escape to avoid injuries.

Getting injured this deep in the mountain won't be good for him since he was alone. Grey could deal with those in the Second stage of the Arcane Plane, he could hold out against those in the Third stage, but he doesn't stand a chance against those in the Mid stages.

Grey walked deeper into the cave with caution. If the lizard here is in the Mid stages, he will immediately flee the cave. When he got closer, he heaved a sigh as he saw an egg but the lizard wasn't present.

"Seems like the lizard isn't in the cave" Grey was quick to act and quickly kept the egg in his backpack and turned towards the exit.

"Hiss"

Grey heard the sound of something running quickly into the cave. He raised his head to see a huge eight-meter-long lizard staring at him with vicious eyes.

"Do these things place a trigger in their eggs so whenever someone touches it they will be aware?" Grey couldn't help but ask. He thought this would be the easiest egg he would acquire but seems like it's not the case.

What was more frustrating was the fact that the lizard in front of him was already in the Fourth stage of the Arcane Plane, there was no way he could defeat it. Even defending against it was not going to be easy.

The Lizard screeched and charged at him, it spat out a huge fireball that seemed to occupy most of the cave. Grey cursed his bad luck before using the Earth Wall technique to protect himself.

After the fireball died down, the Lizard was shocked when it couldn't find the human it just attacked. It screeched again and started searching for Grey.

Grey was nowhere to be found.

Chapter 45: Unwanted Guest

After some time, a rock fell from the side of the wall on the cave. A human body could be seen in the walls of the cave.

"F**k" Grey cursed before vomiting a mouthful of blood. He was really angry.

After the Red Lizard attacked with the Fireball, Grey decided to use his Earth Wall to block the attack. Who would have thought that the force from the attack would impale him into the side of the cave. Luckily, the Earth Wall he used followed him and ended up covering him in the wall of the cave.

"At least it was able to hide me from that stupid beast" Grey felt lucky also, he knew escaping from the Red Lizard would have been hard given the fact that he was inside the cave with the Lizard being the one close to the exit. For Grey to escape, he would have to pass the Lizard, which would have been difficult.

"Hmph, it's lucky I need to turn in this mission, else I would have waited until it returns then teach it a good lesson" Grey snorted coldly.

"Crack"

Cracking sounds could be heard from deep inside the cave, clearly, the Lizard was coming back.

"Damn, can't it just let me act tough in peace" Grey immediately turned tails and fled the cave without a second thought. Who was he kidding, there was no way he would want to face that beast again with his current strength. Besides, he was already slightly injured and needed to rest in order to recover his strength.

Grey successfully escaped from the area and went in search of a place where he could heal himself without worries. Since the injury wasn't that severe, simple meditation and some tonic would do.

The tonic was made from a special herb that had healing properties. "My mission is already successful with the acquisition of this egg, I should still

have a little over a week left before I hand in the mission" Grey calculated the time he left the sect and noticed he had been gone for six days now.

"I should heal up before I plan on what next to do" He would take it one step at a time since he wasn't in a race against time there was no harm in resting.

Grey healed up but his body was still a mess, "I haven't washed up since I came into the mountain" He enjoyed the refreshing feeling one gets after washing up. Grey decided he would search for a river in the mountain, it shouldn't be that hard since the Misty Mountain was huge. There was bound to be a river somewhere.

He started searching, but he made sure not to head in deeper into the mountain since he was already having a hard time with the beasts here. If he accidentally encounters a stronger beast, there was no telling if he would be as lucky as he was back in the cave.

Grey avoided most of the beasts that came his way. He has been searching for nearly the entire day without any results. He made camp and started eating the last piece of meat he had with him. It was already sunset, Grey always finds a place where he would stay before it gets dark completely.

He suddenly saw smoke coming from the south, "Hmm, who would be so foolish to make a fire in the woods when it's already getting dark?" Out of curiosity, Grey headed in the direction the smoke was coming from.

When Grey got there, he was surprised to see a familiar face. "It's them, but why are they still here?" He was puzzled. The people he saw were the two young ladies from the Idris Academy, Nina, and Tessa.

Since Grey was already an acquaintance, he thought it would be best to advise them against what they were doing. He walked closer to them.

When the two young ladies heard the sound of footsteps, they immediately sprang to their feet and they were shivering from fright. Grey was surprised by their reaction but what shocked him most was the state both ladies were in.

Their hairs were unkempt and some injuries could be seen on their bodies, they looked visibly exhausted and were pale.

"It's me don't be afraid" Grey spoke up when he saw the girls were shivering in fright.

The girls got a closer look at his face before tearing up instantly, they both ran towards him and started crying.

Grey was stunned by the sudden intimacy and couldn't speak for some time.

"What happened to you two, and where are the others?" Grey asked them after getting himself together. Although both girls can't be called world toppling beauties, they were still well above average and they had great figures. The tight clothes they wore brought out their hourglass shapes more.

'How can two beauties be alone here?' Grey's mind couldn't help but start wandering. But he didn't have any other thoughts about the girls and quickly separated himself from their embrace so they could speak.

"On our way out of the mountain, we were attacked by a group of mercenaries," Tessa said while sticking to Grey closely. "Thanks to Aaron and Claude, we were able to escape. But we don't know where they are now" She continued.

"What about the injured one?" Grey had already forgotten their names since he didn't really put it in his head. He felt they were people he would only see by chance, so what's the need of remembering their names. He would recognize them if he sees them, but remembering their names was something different.

"Ryan is dead, because of his injury he was unable to protect himself" Nina answered this time. "The leader of the mercenary is already at the Third stage of the Arcane Plane, we don't know if Claude and Aaron were able to escape since. They blocked them so I and Tessa could escape" She continued.

"And you decided to flee back into the mountain was the best choice?" asked Grey with a weird tone. It's understandable that they were attacked, but why would you flee into the mountain region again. It just doesn't make sense.

"We were panicking and since they came from our front, we could only flee backward" Tessa explained.

"So there might be a group of mercenaries searching for you two as we speak?" Grey asked. magic

"Yes," both ladies answered in unison.

"And you thought setting up a fire was a good idea?" He asked again.

Both girls looked at each other, confused by his questions.

"Do you know how I found you two?" Grey asked another question.

The girls shook their heads, they were still baffled how he found them.

"Because you called me here," Grey said with a light smile.

"Huh" the girls were surprised by his answer. How did we call him here?, this was what they were asking themselves.

"Because of the fire, you should know that you shouldn't make fires here when it's dark. It attracts unwanted guests" Grey put out the fire before he finished what he was saying. He could tell these young ladies weren't used to a hard life and the ordeals they had gone through lately was still too much for them to take.

He suddenly looked behind him and furrowed his brow.

"Hehehe, too late"

Chapter 46: First Kill!

Six men walked out of the woods with evil grins and eyes filled with lust. Both girls immediately turned paler from fear.

Grey's gaze turned cold as he glanced at the men. The men were all in the Arcane Plane with the one at the front was already the Third stage. 'This is going to be troublesome'.

Although beasts are stronger, humans are much more difficult to deal with in the same plane. Well, that only applies to beasts who haven't completely awoken their intelligence. Most beasts in the Arcane Plane have already awoken their intelligence, only some are much more intelligent. Some beasts are even more cunning than their human counterpart.

"Hmph, if not for those morons who delayed us, they would already have been in our arms. But it's not too late, the night is still fresh" Another said lewdly.

When Grey heard their conversation, he understood the reason they were attacked. They had been overcome by lust, after being in the mountains for so

long and not being with any women. Seeing the young beautiful ladies, their lust erupted.

"Brat, leave here now and we will act like you were never here," The leader said while looking at Grey.

Both girls looked at Grey with hopeful eyes. He was their only hope currently and they knew since the mercenaries have caught up with them, there's no way they could fight with them.

Grey shifted his gaze to both girls. He sighed before asking, "Can you at least deal with one each?". If they couldn't deal with even one of the mercenaries, he would leave them to their fate. He knew the rules of the jungle, only the strong survive.

There was no way he was going to risk his life battling these guys alone when there were two Arcane Plane Elementalists by his side. 'If only Alice was here' Grey thought of Alice when he saw how timid the girls were. If Alice was the one these guys dared to have thoughts about, Grey was confident she would kill them instantly.

Even if she spares them, they wouldn't be too far from death.

Both girls looked at each other clearly they weren't confident. " Can you at least delay them?" Grey asked again. Their timid nature is starting to annoy him, 'Seriously if you know you can't fight, what are you even doing here?' He almost said this out loud.

The girls didn't respond. They've sparred with others before but that was just sparring, this was a whole different matter. And the death of Ryan affected them mentally as well.

"Forget it, just don't get in my way and also, try not to die" Grey reminded them before turning towards the group. There was no way he could hold them all off, so even if the girls are too afraid to fight, they wouldn't have a choice.

"Seems like you've made a decision" The leader snickered, "A very foolish one I must say" He added coldly.

"Make sure he doesn't escape like the last one's, boys" He ordered coldly.

When the girls heard this statement, they felt a little bit better since both Claude and Aaron were able to escape.

"Boss last time was an accident, this time we will surely get the girls and this hero here would die," The man with a small build said with a tone filled with killing intent.

Grey squinted his eyes, 'They want to kill me. Interesting'. This was the first time he was going to have a life and death battle with humans. He unsheathed both his blades, this time there is no room for errors.

When he battled with the bandits, he noticed they only wanted to beat him up so he didn't really care. If he had taken out his weapons then, he would have been able to easily deal with them.

The mercenaries were all in the Arcane Plane, so the first challenge for Grey was how to get close to them.

When the mercenaries saw Grey taking out a weapon, they stopped their initial charge. If Grey had a technique that he uses with the weapon, it would be detrimental to them. The effects of a technique boosted with a weapon were terrifying.

But to their surprise, Grey charged at them.

"Get him," The leader said.

When the others heard this, they immediately released different attacks towards him. It was a colorful sight.

"Earth Wall"

A three-meter wall appeared in front of Grey. He stopped and hid behind the wall. The attacks all landed in the wall, due to Grey's thick elemental essence, the wall was very sturdy. The stronger he becomes, the sturdier it would also become.

Grey charged out from behind the wall and headed towards the one closest to him.

While Grey was engaged in battle with four of the men, the remaining two went towards the young ladies.

Nina summoned some courage and sent Ice Arrows towards the men. The leader was able to easily destroy the attack. "Pointless struggles, come with us willingly. I promise you will have a good time" He laughed heartily as he said the last parts of the sentence.

When Tessa saw Nina's was fighting, she gritted her teeth and also attacked. They knew Grey wouldn't be able to free himself and come help them soon, they can only depend on themselves and drag on as long as they can. magic

Although the leader was stronger than them, there was no way he could neglect their attacks.

On Grey's side

The long-range attacks of the mercenaries were annoying since it has been able to keep Grey at bay. Although the attacks can't touch him, he couldn't get close to them. He had tried using Shattered Rocks, but the speed of the rocks was too slow. The mercenaries were able to easily evade them.

"I should have taken a long-range Lightning attack" Grey regretted his choice of not taking a long-range lightning attack. With the speed of lightning, he would have at least gotten one of them by now. Even if it doesn't kill him, he would have a chance to get close.

An idea suddenly struck Grey, "Shattered Rocks". As the rocks flew up towards Grey from the ground, he quickly coated his feet with Lightning and did a tornado kick. He kicked one of the rocks strongly. As his foot connected with the rock, the rock was almost covered in lightning and shot towards one of the men at a lightning-fast speed.

The man only saw a light flash before him before he was sent flying. Grey didn't stop there, he used Lightning Steps to charge towards another man.

The men were distracted by the rock that suddenly hit their companion. Before they realized it, the man with a small build held his throat with blood streaming out of his mouth.

Grey had been able to quickly take out two of the four men. It was almost simultaneously.

The remaining two men looked at each other in horror. " He's a Dual Elementalist" One of them shouted towards their boss who had almost gotten the girls.

The boss turned and saw one of the men lying down a distance away, it was unknown if he was dead or alive. While the man with a small build was lying in a pool of his own blood.

"Lightning Elementalist"

Chapter 47:Overlord?!

Grey stared at his blade which had blood dripping from it, 'So that's how it feels huh'. He knew every Elementalist must kill, he had already known this day would come. He was not a heartless person, so seeing that he ended a life, he was somewhat shaky.

'If I wasn't strong enough then I would be the one lying in my own blood' Grey repeated this over again. He knew these people would kill him if he wasn't strong enough. If he didn't kill them, they would kill him.

Nina and Tessa were stunned when they heard what the leader said, "He's a Dual Elementalist, and his second element is the rare Lightning element". They had thought he was just an Earth Elementalist because when he helped them the previous time, he only used the earth element.

"He killed him," Tessa said with a shaky voice.

"Do you expect him to leave him?. Tessa, they deserve more than death, don't forget they killed Ryan and would've also done the same to Claude and Aaron if they didn't escape" Nina chided.

Tessa knew Nina was right, but she still couldn't accept reality. Now she knew why her parents always told her the world was a brutal place and only the strong at heart could make it.

"You little bastard, I will kill you" The leader roared in anger and threw an attack towards Grey. He was a Fire Elementalist, seeing his brothers being killed sent him into a frenzied state. Now he didn't have any thoughts towards the girls, he only wanted to kill Grey now.

Grey had already snapped out of the state he was previously when he killed the first man. He immediately got into his battle mode and blocked the flames with his blades which were covered in Lightning.

Grey dodged to the side, he breathed a sigh when the dragon passed by him.

The fire dragon suddenly turned mid-air and charged towards Grey from behind.

Grey who had already escaped to the side suddenly felt a chill and all the hairs on his body stood up. He immediately summoned a wall all around him. There was no time to think, the first thing that came to his mind when he felt the threat was to set up a defensive line before anything else.

He felt danger and his heartbeat intensified to a terrifying level. Just after the walls appeared, it was hit strongly.

BOOM

The wall at his back suddenly exploded from the violent attack. Rubbles flew everywhere and dust covered the area Grey was located.

The girls and the others were all looking at the battle with interest. The men didn't attack since they knew their boss would definitely be able to deal with Grey, although Grey was strong and was also a Dual Elementalist, they didn't believe he could skip two stages to defeat their boss.

There was no way for the girls to escape, so now all they can do was pray Grey can defeat the leader of the group or else they were done for.

The leader squinted his eyes and stared at the dust intently. He wanted to know if his ultimate attack got the kid. His plan was perfect, after attacking with a normal fireball, he would send his strongest move just behind it. Even if the opponent was able to dodge the surprise attack, he wouldn't expect what would follow next.

When the dust settled, everyone present focused on the place. The earth around the place was shattered and scorched around. Grey couldn't be seen anywhere.

Both girls turned dispirited when they didn't see Grey. "He lost"

"I knew the boss would deal with him easily. He didn't even have a corpse left" One of the men said with a smile. Although one of them was dead and it was unknown if the other was alive, it wasn't his problem. They all knew every battle they fought there would be a chance they might die. The prayer he always prays is 'If anyone going to die, Lord let it not be me' and it had worked for him so far. And it seems it's still working.

"I thought it would be difficult, who knew he was just trash," The leader said in disdain.

"You're next" The leader turned and said icily. "But don't worry, I won't kill you. You would have to entertain us every night" He said lewdly as he licked his lips viciously.

Despair filled both girls completely, this was the first time they came out to train. One of their friends is dead, they don't know where Claude and Aaron were and now they are about to be captured by these men. They felt deep regret, if they had known, they would have just stayed at the Academy.

The other men had already surrounded both girls and they laughed cruelly.

"Huh," A surprised sound came out of the leader's mouth. He turned towards the rubble and his pupils dilated from what he saw.

"Impossible" He blurted out with fear.

"Crack, Crack"

Sounds of lightning could be heard all around. The sky suddenly turned cloudy. A hand covered in lightning could be seen pushing the rocks from the body underneath it. Grey stood up from the rubble with a bare upper body with burn marks all around his body.

His shirt had been burnt completely and he was currently only covered from his waist down to his knee, from his knee down to his feet was also opened. The remaining cloth on his body had different holes on them, clearly, they were burnt.

Grey floated up into the air. He looked like the God of Lightning.

Lightning snakes could be seen dancing all around Grey's body, his eyes glowed with bright blue color and his black hair was dancing in the windless night.

"What is that" The men exclaimed when they saw Grey's appearance. They knew Elementalist could cover themselves in their elements completely, but it was something only people in the Overlord Plane could achieve. It was impossible for those in the Arcane Plane or even the Origin Plane to do this.

What was even more shocking was the fact that Grey was currently standing midair. That was not something an Arcane Plane Elementalist could do.

Grey looked at them with his emotionless glowing eyes.

They all felt terror, including the girls. The pressure Grey was radiating was something they had never felt before.

Grey stretched his hands towards the leader and pointed a finger at him.

"Crack, Crack"

The clouds were immediately filled with activity, the leader felt a terror he had never felt before.

"Plop"

The leader knelt on the ground, "My lord, please spare me" He started begging for his life. He thought Grey was a strong expert who hid his cultivation and now that he was angered he decided to unleash his full strength.

"Crack, Crack"

The activity intensified in the clouds, clearly, a bolt of lightning would fall soon.

The leader was scared shitless. When he noticed Grey didn't respond, he stood up and ran for his life.

"Crash"

A lightning bolt almost the size of an arm came crashing down towards the leader.

BANG

The lightning struck the leader fiercely.

"Arghhh"

A horrid scream could be heard from the location the leader fled to.

The rest of the group felt their scalp tingle when they heard this. It's not that they too didn't want to run, but fear had already pinned their legs to the ground. They all raised their heads to see Grey staring at them.

'Lord if he's going to kill anyone else, let it not be me' The man said his prayer in his heart with fear, he could swear he saw death when he stared into Grey's eyes a moment ago.

"Crash, Crash, Crash"

BANG, BANG, BANG

Three explosions rang out as three bolts of lightning came crashing down on the remaining three men. Unfortunately, his prayer didn't work out this time.

After eliminating the men, Grey turned his attention towards the two girls. Nina and Tessa immediately started shivering with fear, they could still smell the charred flesh of the men and hear the horrid scream of the leader in their heads. They couldn't speak.

Grey slowly moved towards them. As he was getting closer, the girls were retreating in fear. He suddenly stopped and looked at them.

Suddenly the sky started clearing up and the lightning on Grey's body started dying down. When the last lightning disappeared and his eyes returned to normal, he collapsed.

The southern part of the Misty Mountain

"What is that?" A middle-aged man said while looking at the North suspiciously.

"Lightning!, an Overlord Plane expert," Another said with fear after he figured out the cause of the lightning.

"What is an Overlord Plane expert doing in the mountain, don't tell me they're here for the treasure too?" A lady asked with apprehension.

"No, I don't think so. From the aura, the expert must be in a battle with another expert" An old man said. The old man had a wise visage and anyone who sees him will think he's a harmless old man. Only those who were familiar with him knew how cruel he was.

"Let's go investigate" Someone suddenly suggested.

"Are you insane?" The middle-aged man looked at the man who brought up the suggestion like he was a fool.

"If you want to die you can do it alone, why would you bring up the idea for us all to go together. Were we born on the same day?" The old man said with an annoyed tone.

The man immediately shut his mouth, he realized he made a mistake by bringing up such a suggestion. magic

The North has already been tagged a danger zone by all the experts gathered here. They were all in the Origin Plane, but a single Overlord Plane expert could kill them like they were ants.

Deep in the mountain, a fifteen-meter Stone Lion looked towards the north with fear. This was the King of the Misty Mountain. A magical beast that was close to the Overlord Plane, yet at the thought of there being an Overlord Plane expert in its territory, it was scared.

If it were to be someone in the Origin Plane, it would have come out and attacked without a second thought.

The northern part of the Misty Mountain.

The entire area was in a silent state, all the beasts close to where the battle took place had already fled the vicinity.

The girls looked at the unconscious Grey with gaping mouths. The burns on his body were gone, and his fair skin was visible for them to see. His well-developed muscles and his handsome face were a sight to behold. The girls' emotions went from fear to awe.

They were relieved when the sky cleared up, it was a sign Grey wouldn't harm them. But, how can he be so powerful?.

Chapter 48: What's Going On?!

magic

Two figures could be seen moving swiftly in the cover of the night. Both were ladies and on the shoulder of one of them was an unconscious young man.

"This is a good spot," Nina said towards her companion.

"Yes," Tessa replied.

At their front was a cave that was dimly lit. They had been searching for a place to rest since leaving the place where the battle occurred. They took the unconscious Grey with them but had only managed to see this unoccupied cave.

"Strange, did you notice we didn't come across even one beast all this while" Nina suddenly asked Tessa as she placed Grey on the floor.

"Yes, I noticed it too. Usually, beasts are very active at night" Tessa nodded confirming what Nina said.

Over the course of their search for a place to rest, they didn't find a beast. Although they didn't want to, but not encountering any felt strange.

"Forget it, we're safe and that's all that we should be concerned about"

Nina walked out of the cave in search of what she was going to use to block the entrance of the cave. She cut down some branches and used them to block the entrance.

"How do you think he did it?" Nina asked as she looked at Grey.

"What?" Tessa asked, clearly not sure of what Nina was talking about.

"You know, become so strong all of a sudden" Nina still couldn't get her mind off what happened earlier. The way Grey dealt with the mercenaries like they were ants, all he did was stretch out a hand, and it started raining lightning. It was an unforgettable experience, something both girls will not be able to wipe out from their memories for a long time.

"I don't know. I heard there were secret techniques which are used to raise cultivation levels, but not by this much" Tessa said after some time. She had heard of these secret techniques from her father and knew they were detrimental to the body of the user.

"These sorts of techniques always comes with an effect towards the user. If what he used was something like this, then it must have been a high leveled one" Tessa continued with her hypothesis.

"I hope he will be alright," Nina said. She didn't care if what Grey used was a secret technique, all she knew was that Grey saved them and that's what truly matters. She only asked out of curiosity.

Both ladies continued talking about other things and soon they fell asleep.

The next morning.

Grey opened his eyes and was surprised when he saw rocks all around him, he tried standing, but his body was a wreck. He felt pain all over his body, and it was like something drained all the energy from him.

When both girls heard the small sound Grey made when he tried to stand up, they turned around.

"Grey, you're awake," Tessa said happily. Clearly she was also worried about their savior.

Grey was surprised by the voice, he didn't remember how he got here. A beautiful face suddenly popped up in front of him.

"Are you feeling any better?" Nina asked as she also walked closer.

Another beautiful face popped up again, "What's going on?" Grey blurted out unconsciously. He was confused by what these two beauties were doing here with him. He knew they were alone since he didn't hear any other sounds of movement apart from the two girls.

The girls were confused by his question and how he looked at them. Grey was currently looking at them like they were strangers, "Could it be that he doesn't remember anything?" Tessa whispered to Nina.

"Maybe" Nina shrugged.

Grey suddenly felt a sharp pain in his head, he couldn't help but grit his teeth because of it. He managed to move his hand towards his head. Scenes from the previous night started flashing past his eyes. The pain died down after some time.

"How did we escape the mercenaries?" Grey asked the girls after remembering what happened. The last thing he remembered was setting up a defensive wall. Since that was the last thing he remembered, it obviously meant he lost. There was no one else there and from the little interactions he had with both girls, there's no way they could defeat the mercenaries.

"Well, it seems like he remembers us but doesn't know how we escaped" Nina whispered to Tessa.

"Maybe it's one of the effects of the technique" Tessa whispered to Nina.

"You know I can hear you right?" Grey spoke again when he saw both girls weren't answering his questions.

They finally turned their attention towards him.

"You don't remember how you defeated them?" Nina asked just to be sure.

"Defeated who, I'm talking about the mercenaries" Grey reminded them, he thought maybe the girls were talking about the Apes.

Grey's answer showed he really didn't remember, so Nina went on to tell him about everything that happened. Grey's mouth was left agape since he didn't believe the person they were talking about was him.

"You truly don't remember any of it?" Tessa asked.

"No, I blanked out after his attack destroyed my walls," Grey said sincerely. 'Could it be because of the pearl?' Grey was baffled by what they told him. This is the only thing he could think of which might cause what they said.

There's no way he used a secret technique, he didn't even know any. After thinking about it for a while, he still couldn't think of a reason. He could only attribute it to the pearl which had assimilated with him.

Grey was finally able to sit down, when he saw the condition his clothes were, he suddenly thought of his backpack. 'My money' Grey almost said out loud when he remembered his backpack.

"Did you bring my backpack?" Grey asked, the most important thing to him right now was his money. There was no way he would be able to see free money like that again, and the cores he has gathered were inside.

"Yes, it's there" Tessa was the one who replied as she pointed towards a particular spot in the cave. When Grey looked at where she was pointing, he saw his backpack along with his blades by the side.

"Thank you. If you hadn't come, we would have already been captured by now" Nina thanked Grey wholeheartedly. This was the second time Grey had saved their lives. Tessa also offered her thanks when she saw her friend thanking Grey.

Grey just nodded as a reply. Since his essence was drained, he wanted to cultivate as soon as possible since they were still in the mountain.

He sat crossed leg and started cultivating.

'I broke through' Grey was surprised when he noticed this. It hasn't even been up to fifteen days since he broke through to the First stage of the Arcane Plane, but now he had made another breakthrough.

Grey replenished some of his essences before they left the cave. The girls wanted to head out of the mountain, they had already experienced so much over their short stay in it. He decided to accompany them till they got to the outer region of the mountain, after that he'll head back in.

He didn't have any plans of leaving yet. Since he came out to train, he'll make sure to train till his heart's content.

He sat crossed leg and started meditating, he noticed something while he was cultivating earlier, but he couldn't confirm it while the girls were still present. Now that he was alone, he wanted to check it out.

He entered into the chaos space and went towards the stone used for testing. After placing his hand on it, the energy entered his body just like before.

After the energy returned, the stone lit up.

Chapter 49: Unexpected Rewards

When Grey saw the results, a look of ecstasy immediately spread across his face. His Lightning grade had advanced to blue, the thing that caught his attention was the appearance of a new color on the stone. This represented he had gotten a new element. Although the grade was still Pink, it wasn't an issue for him since he could improve it.

With the addition of the Wind element, he would now be a Multi Elementalist. He had not heard of anyone in the history of the empire being one. Now he would be much faster in terms of cultivation, and also in terms of speed.

"What an unexpected surprise," Grey said with joy. With this, he could well be said to be ahead of his peers.

Grey stayed inside the cave and replenished the rest of his essence. With the addition of the Wind element, his absorption speed was almost double his previous speed and the amount of elemental essence he could refine was terrifying.

The essence in the area suddenly dropped. The beasts in the area immediately felt puzzled by the sudden decrease in the essence in the area. When Grey also noticed it, he was shocked.

"How will I be able to cultivate in the Academy if this continues" He felt a headache. Luckily the essence returned in a short period of time, when he tried it again, it wasn't as strong as the first time.

After Grey finished his round of cultivation, it was already midday. "I should go check out how strong I've become after breaking through. Then, also get something to eat" He got up and left the cave.

Grey mobilized the Wind and Lightning element in his body and started moving. He felt lighter and much nimbler, his speed had increased to a terrifying level. With his current speed, if he uses 'Lightning Steps' His speed should be able to catch up with those Wind Elementalist in the Fourth or even Fifth stage of the Arcane Plane.

Due to the refinement his body got from the breakthrough and the new element, his body grew stronger. Added to his normal intense physical training, the strength of his body alone could almost rival those at the Peak of the Fusion Plane. His body will continue going stronger with every breakthrough, coupled with his own training, he'll be a force to be reckoned with.

"Now I shouldn't have a problem with defeating those at the Third stage of the Arcane Plane easily. Although I don't know if I can defeat those in the Fourth stage, I shouldn't have a problem defending myself and even escaping unharmed" Since there was a gulf between the Early and Mid-stages of the Arcane Plane, Grey wasn't sure if he could defeat someone in the Fourth stage while still being in the Second stage.

Grey engaged in battle with beasts in the Third stage of the Arcane Plane and was able to defeat them easily without wasting too much effort. He felt great since he was advancing at a fast pace, he knew once his friends noticed his cultivation after his return, they would be shocked.

The southern part of the mountain

"The treasure is about to completely mature," The old man amongst the group said.

The others had all felt it also, they looked at the valley ahead of them with greed visible in their eyes. Getting one of the treasures meant a chance to break through to the Overlord Plane, they had all been stuck in the Origin Plane for a long time now with no hope of breaking through.

The old man walked up to the middle-aged man in the group. "Hey Mark, why don't we join hands together to take the fruits. You can feel the amount of essence in the right, even if we got one we would be able to share it equally and break through our current bottlenecks"

The middle-aged man didn't reply and stared at the valley instead deep in thoughts. He knew for one person to be able to successfully get one of the fruits would be very difficult.

Inside the valley, a tree which was about four meters in height and three meters thick could be seen in an open space. There were only two red-colored fruits on it. This was what they were all here for.

This tree was a rare treasure that was birthed from the essence of the world. Its fruits are filled with pure essence which was very beneficial to all Elementarists. Even those in the Overlord Plane wouldn't mind taking them.

Not too far from the valley, in the deepest part of the mountain. The Stone Lion raised its head and looked in the direction of the valley. Its gigantic body got up in a flash and charged towards the valley at an insane speed. Its body clearly didn't hinder its speed in any way.

Not just the Stone Lion, other beasts in the Origin Plane all over the mountain were all headed in the direction of the valley. They all wanted to get a chance at the treasure.

The struggle for the treasure was about to start. Although the Stone Lion was the strongest, there was no way it could dominate them all. It was a wise creature and would definitely leave the scene after getting one of the fruits. Now it was up to fate for the one who would get the other one.

All this had nothing to do with Grey, he was currently humming a tune to himself as he roasted the leg of a Wild Boar. He was expertly adding the required ingredients to make sure the taste of the meat would be the best. Grey brought ingredients with him when he wanted to leave the Academy to ensure he was always prepared.

After some time, a sweet fragrance wafted in the air. The color of the meat had already turned into a golden brown, this was a result of Grey smearing honey on the meat before roasting it.

Grey took a piece of the meat and tasted it. He looked at the sky in pure bliss from the taste of the meat, it had a great taste.

"Ahh," He moaned with pleasure as he took another bite. Slowly but surely he finished the meat. He patted his stomach with joy before heading towards a

spring not too far from him. He accidentally found it when he was searching for a meal.

Grey removed his clothes before diving into the water. "What a great life" He sighed with pleasure. After he washed up, he walked over to a huge tree not too far from the spring and started cultivating.

He wasn't scared of being sneak attacked since now he had two sensory abilities. With the Earth element, he could sense any vibrations on the ground, and with the Wind element, he could feel any disturbance in the air caused by fast movements.

It was about to turn dark, so he decided to rest till the next day.

Later that night...

"BAM"

The sound of something crashing heavily into the ground reverberated in the mountain. Grey was startled by the sound and immediately stood up. He walked out of the hole in the tree and looked towards the south, "It came from that direction"

Grey had unknowingly drifted close to the southern part of the mountain. After waiting for some time and confirming it wasn't a fight, he headed in the direction cautiously.

When he got there, he was surprised to see a man lying in a pit motionless. Clearly, the pit was made when the man fell and hit the ground heavily. Grey looked around to confirm no one else was around, after confirming he got closer to inspect the man. magic

When he got closer, he noticed it was a middle-aged man and he had a hole in his chest. The hole was already starting to rot, this was obviously the work of being attacked with poison.

By the side of the man was a pouch. From its shape, Grey deduced a fruit was inside. He picked it up and opened it slowly. The moment a little part of it was opened, thick essence immediately spilled out of the small opening. Grey quickly closed it. "What pure and thick essence. This is definitely a treasure"

Grey was ecstatic, "This must be the reason this man was killed, I better leave now since his killers wouldn't be far" He immediately kept the pouch in his backpack and ran from the place. He used 'Lightning Steps' while also enhancing himself with the wind element to further increase his speed.

Not too long after Grey left, an old man walked out of the trees. "I felt the energy coming from this place" he looked around before seeing the corpse on the floor.

"I knew he wouldn't be able to get far. I spent over half of my savings to get my hands on that poison all for this" He laughed with elation as he walked towards the corpse.

After getting close to the corpse, he started searching the corpse for what he wanted.

"Where is it?" He exclaimed with disbelief. "It was clearly with him after we managed to escape"

He started looking around the area to see if he could find the pouch. He couldn't find it.

He continued searching like a mad man but still, he couldn't find it.

Grey who had already run far away from the location heard a loud roar, it was a roar that was filled with anger. He knew it must be from the person who killed the man or maybe an accomplice of the man, he didn't care who roared and didn't want to know either. He fastened his speed and bolted out of the inner regions of the forest towards the outer regions.

He wanted to find a secluded spot there before using the fruit. 'With this, I should be able to break through to the Late stages of the Arcane Plane' he said with elation in his heart.

Chapter 50:Teacher

Two days later, Grey could be seen swaggering out of the mountain with a pleasant smile on his face. He didn't think it would take him this long to completely absorb the essence in the fruit. With the amount of essence in the fruit, he should have at least broken through to the Eight stage or even the Ninth stage of the Arcane Plane.

But surprisingly, he was able to only breakthrough to the Sixth stage. From this, one could see just how terrifying the amount of essence he would need for future breakthroughs. Grey noticed after getting the Wind element, although his absorption speed increased, the amount of essence he needed also increased.

When Grey used spiritual energy to inspect himself, he saw his essence orb had three different colors. The additional color was from getting the Wind element. Lightning took the majority of the orb, while Earth followed, with the Wind element getting the minority.

Each Elementalist has an essence orb in their bodies where they store up their essences. Dual Elementalists orbs only contain two colors, which are the colors of both elements they wield. Single Elementalist orbs only have a single color.

Grey could tell he wasn't far from breaking through to the Seventh stage, "This has been a fruitful journey all-round" He smiled to himself as he headed towards Willow City.

Just like the previous time he came here, the city was as busy as always with people entering and exiting it. There were a lot of trade caravans that were being brought into the city. He didn't stay idle, he walked towards a restaurant to drink some tea before he returns.

He overheard the conversation of some people at the restaurant.

"The battle at the Misty Mountain was brutal, most of the Arcane Plane Elementalists who went to the valley where the treasure appeared, died" magic

"The ones who escaped were lucky. I heard the treasure was a fruit from a tree"

"Yeah, the tree only had two fruits in it. After the Stone Lion took one of them, it wisely left the last one so the rest of the people and beasts could struggle over it"

"It truly is cunning, it knew the others would think of the risk of engaging with it and decide to fight for the other fruit which was left behind"

Grey was surprised by their conversations, 'So the treasure was a fruit, I wonder if it has anything to do with the one I found' He thought to himself. As the conversation of the men went on, he found out that the second fruit was acquired by two people, an old man, and a middle-aged man. They teamed up and were able to escape successfully with the fruit.

When he heard all this, he knew the fruit he found was most likely the treasure. 'Since they successfully escaped, that means the man was attacked after their escape. There are only two possibilities for the man's death, either he was attacked by his partner, or they were attacked' deduced Grey.

From all the clues he was picking out, he was already over seventy percent sure the fruit he found was the treasure they all battled for. 'Hehehe, I didn't even do anything, yet the treasure came to me' He laughed in his heart.

If the people around found out someone acquired the treasure without even fighting for it, they would be dumbfounded. Grey paid for his tea before heading out to get a horse he'll use for his journey. Since he was rich now, there was no way he was going to walk back the same way he came. He bought a high-quality horse and also some food he'll eat on the way.

Morning of the second day...

A horse was galloping along the path that leads to the Lunar Academy. Grey sat on top of the horse with a calm and steady presence. It's surprising how just a few days could change a person.

"I'm finally back," Grey said as he looked at the majestic gate in front of him. He got off the horse and went into the Academy on foot. As he entered the Academy, he felt like he only went out yesterday.

He first headed towards the mission hall to submit his mission. When he got there, the student he saw was different from the one who handed out the mission to him. He submitted the mission and collected the reward before heading towards the students living quarters.

Grey decided to visit Klaus before heading to his house, but when he got there, Klaus wasn't at home.

"Maybe he went to the city" He assumed and walked towards his house. He planned on visiting Reynolds after he settled down. When he got home, it was

just like he had left it. Only it was dusty, he decided to clean it before heading over to Reynolds place.

After he was done, he went over to Reynolds place. Luckily, he found him at home, "Hey Rey" called out Grey as he walked into the house.

"Grey, you're back," Reynolds said as he walked towards his friend and gave him a hug.

"Yeah" answered Grey after managing to break free from the clutches of his friend.

"How was your mission?" Reynolds asked as he sat down.

"It was a piece of cake" Grey sat down beside his friend. Grey asked about what had happened since he went out of the Academy. He found out the fighting between the Starlight Academy students and the Lunar Academy students had intensified. The students of the Lunar Academy started retaliating when they found out about the attacks their students faced.

The Emperor summoned the Principal of both Academies to resolve the issue. Although both Academy's students had stopped attacking each other, they knew it was only for the time being.

Grey asked if Blake had returned to his office, thankfully he had returned. He decided to go see him after leaving Reynolds place. When he asked Reynolds about the whereabouts of Klaus, it was just as he had predicted, Klaus was at Lunar City.

Grey stayed there for some time before heading over to Blake's office, he still didn't know why Chris wanted to see him after he had broken through to the Arcane Plane.

When he got to the office, he knocked. After some time, he heard Blake's voice telling him to enter before he went inside.

Blake looked at him for some time. He could tell Grey was different from the last time he saw him.

"What can I help you with?" asked Blake.

"Senior Chris told me to come find you after I broke through to the Arcane Plane. He said I should tell you to take me to him" Grey stated his reason for coming.

"Oh, come with me" After hearing it had to do with Chris, he stood up quickly and walked out of the office.

Grey followed him, soon they were at the gate of the Academy. He was surprised when Blake took him outside the Academy. They headed towards the back of the Academy, just past where Grey usually does his training.

They soon got to a huge rock. Blake made some seals and struck a spot on the rock. A path opened and they walked inside. Grey had seen this rock before but didn't think it was something important. Who would investigate every rock he sees?.

In the valley ahead of them, Chris was sitting on a chair with his eyes closed. The Griffin which brought Grey here could be seen not too far from him. When they went closer, the Griffin raised its head and looked over. After seeing it was Blake and Grey, it dropped its head and continued its nap.

"You're finally here" Chris suddenly spoke up, "What took you so long?, from my deductions, you should have broken through two weeks ago" He added.

"I did break through two weeks ago Senior, it's just I couldn't find instructor Blake to bring me here" Grey explained.

Chris darted a glance at Blake waiting for an explanation.

Blake dropped his head embarrassed, "That was the time I went over to the Water Hall".

Chris didn't ask any further since he knew what happened. He suddenly raised his brow and looked at Grey, after careful observation, "How did you advance so fast?" he asked in a surprised voice.

Grey was surprised by how quickly Chris was able to notice his breakthrough even without him releasing his aura. He had to applaud Chris's sharp senses, even Blake didn't take note.

When Blake heard this, he looked at Grey with interest.

"I was lucky to obtain a natural treasure when I went on a mission at the Misty Mountain," Grey told them what happened in the mountain, omitting the part he used that unknown state.

"You're truly fortunate. You didn't even go to the treasure, it was brought to you" Blake said with envy. Grey's luck was amazing.

"The Misty Mountain you say?" Chris went into deep thoughts.

"Did you tell anyone else about this?" Chris asked.

"No" Grey answered.

"Good, keep it that way. If anyone asks just say it's a secret or tell a lie" Chris said offhandedly. "And you, don't tell this to anyone" He looked at Blake.

Blake nodded his head before leaving.

"Senior Chris" Grey called after seeing he hadn't said anything to him.

"Yes"

"Do you live here?"

"Yes"

"I thought you lived at the Academy?"

"It's too noisy"

Grey was left speechless by the answer, 'you call that place noisy?'. Due to the lack of students, the Academy is just too big for the students. Even Grey feels it's too quiet since one rarely sees students around the area.

"Release your spiritual energy" Chris suddenly said.

Grey raised his head and looked at him, surprised by his request. He didn't think too much and just did as he was told. A formless energy spread out with Grey at the middle.

Grey looked at him with confusion.

"Do you want to be my student?" Chris asked.

"Your student"

"Yes. Now answer, I don't have all day"

Grey was surprised by it and didn't know how to reply. He knew Chris wasn't simple and from the way Blake treated him, his status must be something else.

"Yes"

"Good"

"Now as your teacher, the first task I have for you is to make me lunch," Chris said as he pointed at a bunny by the side.