

Affinity 411

Chapter 411 - Seeing A Familiar Face

Five weeks later.

Grey could be seen walking on the pathway leading to a big city. Moon town was pretty close to Lapis City, and thanks to the map Klaus' father gave to him, his journey was quite comfortable.

He encountered some bandits, as well as some magical beasts on the way, but given his current strength, and since Overlord Plane Elementarists wouldn't just start popping up from the ground, he dealt with all of them safely.

The case of the bandits was quite different since he captured them and dropped them off at the town not too far from where he fought them. Apparently, these guys had been terrorizing the people of the town, as well as traveling merchants.

The bandits were immediately executed because they were very brutal when dealing with people. Whenever they would rob, they tend to rape the ladies, and also kill men as well.

Grey didn't stand by to get the thanks of the people, after tying the bandits up, he left them to their demise. So none of the people from the town knew he was the one who brought the bandits.

He would occasionally encounter some groups of travelers, while some would invite him to join them, especially one which was filled with young ladies, others would make sure to stay clear of him.

With Klaus having the communication device now, his days hadn't been as boring as they previously were. Klaus would always disturb him, leaving multiple messages when he doesn't reply to the first. And the moment he replies, Klaus would immediately start up a conversation, bringing the others into it as well.

Other than speaking with the others, he had also been improving his knowledge in arrays and forge mastering. He also started comprehending the elements once again.

For a while now, he hadn't really used the Chaos Space, other than checking the elemental grades of his elements, he didn't try to comprehend the elements.

He had also started training his physical body once again every morning.

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Looking at the huge gate in front of him, Grey calmed his raging heart and entered. If he could find something like the Resurgence Liquid or anything that does the same thing as it in this place, then he would be happy. The sooner he woke Void up, the better.

Void is a very important figure to him, not just because he was his companion, but in times of danger, he was among the few people he could truly rely on.

The City's gate was crowded with people trying to exit and enter the city. Just like some places Grey had been to, Lapis City didn't take entrance fees.

There are guards stationed at the gate, but they were only there to ensure peace. Naturally, wherever there are too many people, conflict is always bound to break out.

Grey heard shouts coming from the left side, turning to look at the source of the sound, he noticed people gathered around an area.

He went over there out of curiosity, this was his first time here after all, and he wanted to know what he could about the place.

Klaus' father didn't give him much information about this place, only about an auction held towards the end of each month.

According to the time he spent coming here, there were three weeks left before the said auction. The organization holding the auction was surprisingly the biggest trade organization in the entire continent, the Lenz Organization.

Walking closer to the crowd, he managed to push past the crowd, getting a better view of what they were looking at.

'It's him. To think I'd see him here,' He thought while looking at one of the figures in the middle of the crowd.

Presently, five people were in the middle of the crowd, one was standing on one side, facing off against the other four people.

The four had confident smirks on their faces, the single guy, not so confident.

The person facing off against these four people was surprisingly Jonas.

After leaving the trial land, Grey hadn't heard anything about this guy who came from the same city as himself. Jonas inherited the legacy of the expert, so on sensing he was already in the Ninth stage of the Origin Plane, he didn't find it too shocking.

Even though he was in the Ninth stage, the people surrounding him didn't seem to be pushovers. Of the four people, two were in the same stage as himself, while one was in the Eighth stage, with the last one being in the Seventh stage.

They looked to be in their mid thirties. Grey didn't think that was their real age though, but he didn't really care about it either.

"Hand it over and we'll settle this thing nicely," One of the men in the Ninth stage said coldly.

"Hmph! According to the deal we made, you guys can keep the main prize and I get to keep whatever that was left," Jonas snorted coldly, not intimidated by them.

"Heh! Boy, you still haven't grown enough to survive outside of your Academies. Here, deals can be broken if you're strong enough," The second man in the Ninth stage said.

Compared to the first man, this one was already radiating a malicious aura. Clearly, he didn't like the idea of them speaking too much, especially with the increasing crowd.

Who knows if someone stronger than them would show up and forcibly take the things they were trying to take from Jonas. Fights are not allowed in the City, this was why they made sure to stop Jonas before he entered the city.

"Not by the likes of you," Jonas said coldly.

He was clearly at a disadvantage, but he didn't care. He wasn't the type that would give up easily, since there was a chance that he might make it into the city, he wanted to take it.

"Jonas, just give it to them. It's not worth hurting yourself over it," A young lady who was in the crowd said to him.

"No, I almost lost my life getting it. I can't hand it to them," Jonas turned to the young lady and said.

From their small exchange, Grey guessed they were close. He didn't really know much about Jonas though, so he wasn't going to jump into any conclusions. He was still thinking if he should help him or not, after all, he did help them in the battle against the Darkness Elementalist and his group.

If Jonas was able to make it out, then he wouldn't need to make a move, but once he notices that he was in a difficult position, he would step in.

"Take it, if he refuses, kill him. We can't afford to delay any further," One of the men in the Ninth stage said.

The crowd quickly retreated a bit further, they naturally didn't want to get hit by the aftereffects of the battle.

The two men in the Ninth stage attacked, followed by the other two.

One was a Wind Elementalist, while another was an Earth Elementalist. The man in the Eighth stage was a Lightning Elementalist, while the last one was a Water Elementalist.

Jonas steadied himself while watching the people charge towards him. They all sent their attacks towards him, with the Wind and Lightning Elementalists' attacks being the first to get to him.

Boom!

Jonas made a fire wall in front of him. The wind and lightning attacks smashed into the fire wall, causing a huge explosion.

The explosion pushed him back due to the force of the attacks. Two more attacks came right after the explosion, going after Jonas once again.

Bam! Bang!

Jonas managed to divert one of the attacks, while dodging the other one.

The four people charged towards him once again, continuing their attacks. Jonas quickly fell on the defensive.

If he were to fight against these people one on one, it was obvious he would win, but against all of them at the same time, it was a little too difficult.

The chemistry between the four men was quite high, so they were able to give out rounds of well planned attacks that would put a well seasoned fighter in a difficult position.

Jonas had managed to continue dodging and averting some of the attacks. But he was still unable to stop all of them.

A few minutes later, Jonas could be seen panting heavily, his hands on his knees trying to catch his breath.

"Boy, I must admit, you're stronger than we thought. Seems like you didn't show your full strength in the expedition, but unfortunately, this is the end for you," One of the men in the Ninth stage said to Jonas.

He was very impressed with Jonas' performance. But unfortunately, he had to kill him.

Grey shook his head and took a step out, he was amazed by Jonas' show of strength and also the cooperation of the four men.

The young lady who previously spoke with Jonas ran out of the crowd, standing in front of Jonas.

Chapter 412 - I Can Handle It

"Move aside, you'll only make things worse," Jonas shoved the young lady aside while forcing himself to stand properly.

"Just hand it over to them, nothing is worth dying for," The young lady said with tears in her eyes.

"I know, but without this, he'll die," Jonas said, holding onto his shirt tightly, a sad look coming over his face.

"Even if you hand it over to us, you'll still die, boy. I can't let you live," The Earth Elementalist among the two Ninth stage Origin Plane Elementalists said coldly.

Jonas was someone who would be able to definitely break through to the Overlord Plane in the future, they on the other hand didn't have high hopes in doing so. The thought of a possible Overlord Plane expert holding a grudge against them wasn't something they could afford to allow.

"He already agreed to give it to you, why are you people going so far?" The young lady looked at the four men with an angry look.

"You'll die as well," The Earth Elementalist looked at the girl with an evil look.

"This has nothing to do with her," Jonas said, stepping in front of the young lady, "Leave now, I can stop them for a while,"

"No, I can't leave you behind," The young lady said.

"We're both going to die if we go with your plan, at least in my plan, one person survives," Jonas said, caressing the young lady's face gently.

"Are you people just going to watch them kill us?!" The young lady turned to the crowd, hoping that someone would step out to intervene.

Unfortunately, reality was cruel. In a world like this, it's much better not to get involved in things that don't have anything to do with you. Sometimes it might be beneficial, but in most cases, one tends to get in trouble because of their help.

The crowd just watched what was happening with folded arms, some were even pointing at Jonas and the young lady while speaking animatedly. Not showing any concerns with if they were about to be killed or not. To them, this was just a show.

"Stop it, no one would help," Jonas said to the young lady.

"You think they would help you? Heh! People like you should be killed. In your next life, don't depend on people," The Earth Elementalist said while walking towards them.

"It would be a shame to kill them, don't you think?"

A voice stopped the Earth Elementalist on his tracks, trying to find the source of the voice.

Jonas stopped dumbstruck, he found the voice familiar, but he couldn't recall where he had heard it before. He hurriedly turned to look in the direction of the sound, seeing the figure of someone covered in a robe, he couldn't help but get a slight sense of familiarity.

"Where have I seen this person before?" He muttered to himself.

"Huh? You know that person?" The young lady asked, hope shining in his eyes.

"I think so. I can't recall where I've heard the voice, but I'm sure I recognize it from somewhere," Jonas replied thoughtfully.

Grey is currently taller than the last time he saw him, so it wasn't surprising he didn't recognize him, and since they weren't close, there's no way he would know him from his build.

Klaus or Reynolds, and probably Alice would instantly recognize Grey even if he was in a distance.

"Who are you? Don't you know that you shouldn't involve yourself in things that are not related to you," The Wind Elementalist among the two in the Ninth stage of the Origin Plane said.

Grey didn't stop his movement, he continued walking, heading in Jonas' direction.

"I'm talking to you, stop there," The Wind Elementalist said.

The reason they hadn't attacked Grey was that they were wary of him. First of all, Grey was wearing a robe, so they couldn't see his face, not just that, but they also couldn't sense his stage, so they thought he was an expert in the Overlord Plane or something.

"It's been a while, didn't think I'd see you here," Grey said when he got to where Jonas was standing.

"Who are you?" Jonas asked, looking at Grey curiously.

"Oh, you wouldn't recognize me with this on, but given my current situation, I don't think it will be wise for me to do that." Grey said mysteriously, "But, I think you will recall my name, it's Grey,"

Jonas paused, trying to figure out where he had heard that name before. Within a couple of seconds, it struck him. How could he forget such a memorable name, it was a name that he could never forget.

This was the person who didn't have an affinity at the time of his test, then later had an affinity three years later.

"You... it's you?" Jonas asked, stunned.

It was almost like he was struck by lightning. How could he not be, this person has been missing for months now.

After he left the trial land, he tried to find out about Grey, after all, Grey did let him obtain the inheritance. To be honest, he didn't think he would actually be able to do the same.

After joining Grey fight against the Darkness Elementalist and his group, he left. But after coming out, he was curious about how Grey was doing, so he tried to find out about him.

He found out that the new Mayor and Principal of the Lunar Academy was searching for him, possibly with a bad motive given how he was searching for him.

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"Oh you remembered me, how nice," Grey said.

"Why wouldn't I?" Jonas asked.

"Jonas, who is this?" The young lady asked curiously.

She was one of the few people close to Jonas, so she knew all his friends, except for this mysterious one.

"He's from my hometown, but we aren't really close. We can't even be called acquaintances," Jonas replied.

He wasn't close to Grey, so he wouldn't lie that they were friends.

"Hello, I'm Grey," Grey waved to the young lady.

He didn't care if you were to tell the Emperor about him, nor did he care. He would be leaving soon anyway. Also, he didn't think Jonas would let her do that.

"Grey, Grey, Grey... wait, you're that Grey from the Lunar Academy?" The young lady exclaimed in shock.

"The one and only," Grey replied.

Most of the people from the Starlight Academy usually remember this name because of what happened during the competition. And since his name wasn't something popular, people tend to recall it even after a year.

"Hey! Who the hell are you and what do you want?" The Earth Elementalist asked angrily.

They watched Grey walk from the crowd and suddenly start speaking with the people they wanted to kill. If not for the fact that they didn't know who he was or how powerful he was, they would've attacked already.

"I'm a friend, do you mind letting them go?" Grey turned to the four men.

It wouldn't be nice if he just started fighting against them. Although they were strong, he was confident in being able to at least stop them from harming Jonas, and also escaping from them.

If he decides to use all his moves, then he would be able to kill them. The space element was an element none of the people knew about, after all, so once he starts disappearing and popping up from different locations, it would be difficult for them to deal with him.

"He should hand over the item," The Wind Elementalist stepped forward to speak.

They thought Grey was a powerful expert, so he wanted to let Jonas leave for now, then they would kill him once Grey was gone.

"Hmm," Grey rubbed his chin as if thinking, he turned to Jonas, "How important is that thing to you?"

"It's worth a friend's life," Jonas replied.

Grey looked at him for a while before sighing, looks like he would have to fight with these people.

'*Sigh* I really hate all these unnecessary hassles.' He thought to himself.

"Uhhh, can you let him keep the item as well? It's quite important to him," He asked the group.

Fortunately, his face was covered, so they couldn't see his embarrassed look. They had already agreed to allow him to leave, now he was asking them to let him have the item as well? Impossible!

"What?!" The Earth Elementalist exclaimed angrily, almost attacking.

The Wind Elementalist hastily stepped in front of him, "Sir, we can let him leave, but as for the item, we can't."

Grey shook his head wryly, "A shame,"

"I appreciate your gesture, but you shouldn't fight with them because you want to help me," Jonas tried to stop him.

He had fought with the group before, and knew how strong they were. He didn't think Grey would be able to defeat them on his own.

He inherited the legacy of an expert, so he grew faster than others. He didn't feel Grey is currently stronger than him, at most, they were on par.

"Don't worry, I can handle it," Grey waved it off.

"You don't understand, they are very powerful," Jonas said.

"It's just a breeze, I can handle it," Grey waved again.

Jonas looked at him, his heart shattering. Just when he thought he was finally stronger than Grey, he suddenly shows up and says the people he couldn't defeat were a breeze? How annoying was that?!

"Tell him to hand it over, or else..." The Wind Elementalist said.

Obviously, he was still trying to avoid a fight with someone they didn't know.

Chapter 413 - Take It As It Is

"Or else what?" Grey asked while taking some steps forward.

He was currently standing between the four men and Jonas, if they wanted to get to Jonas, then they had to go through him.

"I'll help," Jonas moved closer to Grey, standing on his left-hand side.

"No need for that, just head to the city while I hold them back. I'll be able to casually leave them whenever I want, so you don't need to worry about me," Grey said to him.

Jonas looked at him, after a few seconds, he nodded his head. He didn't like being indebted to people, but this item was something very important to him, so he couldn't stand to lose it because of his pride.

Sometimes, it's best to let go of one's pride in some situations.

He retreated to where the young lady was standing, holding her by her hand, and they prepared to walk away.

"Is it safe to leave him with them?" The young lady asked, concerned about Grey's well-being.

Even though they weren't friends, she felt since Grey stepped out to help them, she could at least consider him as a friend or an acquaintance.

"Yeah, these people wouldn't be able to harm him," Jonas said in a matter-of-fact tone.

"Since you say so, then I won't worry," The young lady said.

"Where do you think you're going?" The Earth Elementalist asked while moving forward to stop them.

Boom!

A blue flame exploded out, forcing the Earth Elementalist back. If not for the Wind Elementalist acting quickly, then he might've been hurt.

"You should focus on what's in front of you," Grey said calmly.

Everyone looked at Grey in surprise, the strength of his blue flames were insane.

"Wow, blue flames," The young lady said, clearly awed by it.

"Yeah, it's quite powerful compared to other flames. It truly is a special flame," Jonas commented.

'Hmm, if I recall correctly, he originally had only two elements when he was tested. I didn't think about it much when I saw him in the trial land because we were fighting then, but...' He thought, confused.

Anybody present when Grey did his test would naturally feel amazed and confused at the same time whenever they see him using the fire element. Especially given that it was a special flame, not like the normal one.

Jonas recalled Grey didn't use it in the competition, so it meant he most probably got it in the trial land. Just when he thought he got the greatest thing from the trial land which was the expert's inheritance, Grey suddenly shows up with blue flames.

'*Sigh* Comparing oneself with others only makes one feel depressed. I'll just take it as it is.' He said to himself.

People always tend to compare themselves to people they see as a rival, seeing your rival growing faster than you is could be said to be another form of heartbreak. The best thing to do is take things as they are and try to improve yourself without using others to compare yourself with, that makes you grow better, mentally and emotionally.

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The four men looked at Grey in surprise. Even though they felt Grey was powerful, they didn't think he would actually have such a special flame, this just made things more difficult.

"Although that attack is powerful, it's not on the level of an Overlord Plane expert," The Wind Elementalist deduced.

What they were all scared of was Grey being an Overlord Plane expert, but his first attack has inadvertently exposed his strength to them. Although he couldn't accurately pinpoint it, they knew it wasn't in the Overlord Plane.

"He's in the Origin Plane?" The Earth Elementalist asked, still a little shaky from the attack that almost caught him a few seconds ago.

"If my intuition is correct, then yes. But I can't say I'm a hundred percent sure since an Overlord Plane expert can control the power of their attacks," The Wind Elementalist replied.

One could clearly see that he was the brains of the group, thinking things more thoroughly before jumping into action.

"Try to get him to attack once again, if the attack power is still the same then we can confirm he's in the Origin Plane." He said to the Earth Elementalist.

The Earth Elementalist nodded, compared to the first time, this time he was going to be prepared for the attack.

He charged at Grey this time, making sure to keep a considerable distance while attacking with an earth spear that surrounded Grey from different angles.

With the spears coming towards Grey from all directions, it was difficult to block against it, for some people, not him.

He spread out both hands, and an earth wall rose from the ground, surrounding him. The thickness and strength of his earth wall was clearly more superior than the earth spears the Earth Elementalist sent towards them.

Bam! Bang! Bam!

They all slammed against the earth wall, but they were unable to even penetrate it, much less causing any harm to Grey who was inside.

"Attack, he's only in the Origin Plane," The Wind Elementalist said to the others.

Seeing how Grey blocked the attacks showed that he was still in the Origin Plane. There's a special ability Overlord Plane experts have that sets them high above Origin Plane experts.

It's not just the ability to fly, or the superior strength, instead, it was the special ability known as wrest elemental control. Just as the name implies, it's the ability to forcibly seize control over the objects or things an Elementalist in the lower Planes uses, then use it against them.

Take for example the previous situation, since Grey was also an Earth Elementalist, he wouldn't need to block that attack, rather, he would've forcibly taken control of that attack.

Although, this can't be definite since some people can actually fight against this ability of Overlord Plane experts. Someone like Grey can easily stop this from happening given his strength and what's in his body.

This ability also isn't that easy to use since it takes a high level of spiritual energy to use it. Some people can use it, but most prefer just easily smashing their weaker opponents to death with their superior strength, hence the lack of use in most cases.

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Swoosh! Bam! Boom! Bang!

With the Wind Elementalist giving the others the go-ahead, they instantly went on the attack, throwing attacks upon attack at Grey.

Being someone who is very proficient in one against multiple opponents battles, Grey relaxed, focusing mainly on defending.

Jonas and the young lady looked back when they heard the attacks sounding out, on seeing how calm and collected Grey was while defending and dodging the attacks, they felt less worried about him.

The young lady couldn't help but admit it, Grey was the most powerful person in her age range she had seen. Even Jonas, who she thought was very powerful, didn't seem to come close in terms of power.

They didn't stop moving, and within a minute, they had already gotten to the city. Since they would be safe once they entered the city, it was the best place to go.

Grey on the other hand was keeping tabs on them, when he noticed that they had gotten to the city, he relaxed even more.

'Time to at least hurt one of these guys then leave,' He thought to himself.

He had too many hidden cards that he could easily change the tide of any battle whenever he felt like it. For starters, he could easily explode out with his insane speed, catching his opponent off guard, easily hurting or even killing them. Then, there are his inscriptions, which could be said to be one of his best trump cards.

And then there's the space element, this element defies the knowledge of the people of the continent, so he could easily use it to kill an entire army as long as he didn't get exhausted since they couldn't trap him.

He was planning to use his explosive speed against the Wind or Lightning Elementalist since they were the ones who were closer and seemed to pose more of a threat, especially the Wind Elementalist. His attacks always put Grey in a difficult situation, making defending against the other attacks hard.

Now Grey understood why they were able to easily defeat Jonas even though he was stronger than them individually. He could even fight against two of them and still might be able to gain the advantage. But this Wind Elementalist was a calculative fellow, not giving him any chances to attack.

Boom! Bang! Bam!

The battle continued with Grey either using the earth or fire element to block their attacks or dodging their attacks by a narrow margin.

After dodging a few more attacks, the opportunity Grey was waiting for presented itself before Grey. The Wind Elementalist had gotten within the range where it would be impossible for him to evade the attack, no matter how fast he was.

'Now,' He said to himself before disappearing.

Chapter 414 - Wrong Direction

Swoosh! Bam!

Grey, who suddenly disappeared soon appeared in front of the Wind Elementalist, he struck out a blow that was covered with blue flames.

Crash! Bang!

The Wind Elementalist was unable to block the attack which struck him cleanly on his chest. He was sent flying, crashing into the ground, he bounced off once before hitting a boulder almost one hundred and fifty meters away from his previous location.

Grey was still in a punching position, with his right fist outstretched.

The battle ceased, neither the people fighting against Grey nor the people watching could figure out what just happened. One minute Grey was barely dodging attacks, the next minute he suddenly vanished and appeared close to the Wind Elementalist. The Wind Elementalist in turn was sent flying, for over a hundred meters!

How could that happen in the midst of such coordinated attacks from the group of four?

"Wha... what just happened?" The Earth Elementalist asked, stunned.

If Grey were to continue his attacks right now, then killing this group would be easy due to them presently losing focus.

The Lightning Elementalist charged to where the Wind Elementalist was lying, and on getting there, his expression changed drastically.

Blood could be seen gushing out of the mouth of the Wind Elementalist, and his chest seemed to have caved in. The injury on his chest wasn't bleeding as a result of suffering from burns.

Cough! Cough!

The Wind Elementalist coughed out heavily, spitting out a mouthful of blood. His eyes soon rolled to the back, fainting from the pain.

"Oh, he survived. Looks like he managed to protect his vitals, a shame," Grey shook his head when he noticed the Wind Elementalist was still alive.

Given the precision of his attack, he was almost certain that the Wind Elementalist would end up dead. But the Wind Elementalist seemed to have acted quickly, not trying to block the attack but instead, protecting his vitals to make sure he didn't suffer injuries that might kill him.

'I should take note of this in case I'm ever in a situation like this,' Grey thought to himself.

This showed how quickly the Wind Elementalist is able to assess a situation and come up with a good decision. Most people would try to block or evade the attack, but he didn't since he knew blocking or evading it was impossible from that range.

Jonas and the young lady who were watching from the city gate were dumbfounded by Grey's insane speed. He was literally the fastest person under the Overlord Plane that they had seen. They didn't even think there was anyone in the Origin Plane who could even catch up to him.

With such speed, would anyone at the same stage be able to do anything to him? The answer was no.

Jonas shook his head wryly, luckily he quickly killed the thought of comparing himself to Grey, or he might've had a breakdown with what just happened.

How could anyone compare themselves to such a monster? It was no different than saying they could defeat someone in the Overlord Plane while still being in the Origin Plane.

"Is he really in the Origin Plane?" The young lady couldn't help but ask.

She had seen geniuses in the Origin Plane, she was even standing next to one, but compared to Grey, Jonas was like a star in the presence of a moon. How could the difference between people be so huge?

What she found more frustrating was that in the presence of others in the Origin Plane, Jonas was above most of them.

"Yeah, I don't think he has broken through to the Overlord Plane yet," Jonas replied while nodding.

"He's fast," The young lady blurted out unconsciously.

"Yeah, very fast," Jonas concurred with her.

It wasn't something anyone could argue anyway.

They weren't the only ones speaking about Grey's speed and strength. Most of the people in the crowd were not only speaking about this, but they were also trying to guess his identity.

Numerous people come to Lapis City, and because of the auctions held here, some very famous people tend to come from all over the place.

Some people guessed he must be from the Royal Academy, while others thought he was a senior to Jonas, that was why he stepped in to help.

All in all, they were all talking about the same person, Grey.

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"You... I'll kill you!" The Earth Elementalist instantly lost it when he saw the Wind Elementalist lying on the ground, bloodied from Grey's attack.

He charged towards Grey while making multiple earth spears, sending them towards him.

Swoosh! Boom! Bam!

Grey easily dodged all the attacks while sending out attacks of his own.

The Earth Elementalist managed to block the first two, but the third flaming arrow broke through his defense, plunging into his shoulder.

"Ah!" He screamed out in pain, holding onto the arm that for some reason the fire arrow didn't die down, instead, he stayed on as if it was a real arrow.

The Earth Elementalist bore the pain and dragged the arrow out of his shoulder, dropping it to the ground.

The arrow died down the moment it hit the ground, to the frustration of the Earth Elementalist.

"Retreat!" The Lightning Elementalist was the one who gave the order this time.

After saying this, he didn't even stay behind to see if they were following the order, he picked up the Wind Elementalist and charged towards the city gate.

He was scared that Grey might target them since the Wind Elementalist was already hurt.

Unexpectedly, Grey didn't even make any attempts to attack them. He focused his attacks on the Earth Elementalist who stupidly tried attacking him even after he was hit by the fire arrow.

Boom! Bam! Bang!

Grey continued exchanging blows with him easily beating him up.

He exploded out with an attack that sent the Earth Elementalist flying.

The direction the Earth Elementalist faced was surprisingly the city gate.

"Damn it, wrong direction," Grey said before chasing after the Earth Elementalist who was still flying mid-air.

Just as the Earth Elementalist was about to get to the city gate, Jonas stepped out from the city and attacked with a huge sea of flames.

The flames soon got to where the Earth Elementalist was and just before it engulfed him, a silver light flashed and the Earth Elementalist disappeared, appearing inside the city alongside the Lightning Elementalist.

"What are you people doing? He just attacked while in the city!" The Lightning Elementalist turned to the guards at the gate and yelled.

"He's not in the city," The guard answered before turning to look in another direction, not bothering with the Lightning Elementalist anymore.

"How..."

"He's not in the city, look," The Water Elementalist pointed at where Jonas was standing, and it was just like the guard said, he wasn't in the city.

Jonas was just two steps outside the city gate, so there was no way he broke the rules of the city.

Grey quickly appeared before Jonas who had already withdrawn the sea of fire.

"*Sigh* I completely forgot about this direction," He said while shaking his head ruefully.

"It's okay, at least two of them are seriously wounded," Jonas replied.

"Yeah, that's a plus I guess," Grey said with a shrug.

He would normally want to kill these people, but since they had already entered the city, then he would find a way to do it later.

'I should've used the darkness element to corrode their insides.' Grey thought, still feeling bad that he was unable to kill the group.

Seeing how disappointed Grey seemed to be, Jonas didn't know how to feel. These were the same four people that were on the verge of killing him, against Grey, they had to run for their lives, yet he was disappointed he was unable to kill anyone of them.

"Let's head in," Jonas said, inviting Grey inside the city.

"Sure," Grey replied before following behind Jonas.

The people who were gathered outside the city gate soon started going in their respective directions, the ones who wanted to enter the city, faced the city gate while the ones who wanted to leave went in the other direction.

When Grey got to where the Earth Elementalist was lying, he looked at him for some time while shaking his head repeatedly and muttering the word, 'A Shame'.

The Earth Elementalist was still conscious, unlike the Wind Elementalist, so on seeing Grey mocking him in this manner, he lost his temper. But unfortunately, he was unable to stand up since when he was fighting with Grey, Grey used arrows to hit each of his limbs.

"I'll get you next time," He uttered with much difficulty.

"Heh! If not for your friends, you'd be dead already," Grey remarked before walking away with Jonas.

The Earth Elementalist clenched his fist tightly, but he couldn't do anything since there was no way he could stand, much less attack Grey.

The young lady looked at Grey in awe, his personality was completely different compared to others.

She chased after them to catch up with Jonas, holding onto his hand as they walked further into the city.

The city was busy, even more so than the Capital City. Grey guessed it had to do with the location of this place, and also the frequent auctions that take place.

Most people would be able to find what they're searching for if they come here.. Some were just like Grey, hoping to find what they were searching for.

Chapter 415 - Thanks For The Meal!

Lapis City.

In an Inn.

"So, what brings you to this city?" Jonas asked Grey after they sat down on their table.

"Nothing much, I was curious, so I came to play," Grey replied offhandedly.

Jonas drew closer to him, "You know that you're being hunted down, right?"

"Oh, how did you know about that?" Grey asked, surprised that Jonas would know of such vital information.

According to his understanding, the Emperor is trying to hide this news as much as possible, so the families in the empire wouldn't be aware of what Grey obtained from the trial land.

"I have my ways," Jonas replied.

"Well then, since you know about that, I presume others from your Academy do as well?" Grey asked.

"I'm not sure. I only got to find out due to a coincidence," Jonas shook his head, he didn't think others would know about this, but he wasn't sure, so he couldn't tell for sure.

"Okay. Anyway, I'm not bothered about that though, I'll leave as soon as I'm done here. And besides, you're the only one who knows about my appearance here," Grey said nonchalantly.

"Oh, and your friend too," He added.

"You can be rest assured, I won't betray you," Jonas said.

"I'm not scared about that, if I were, I wouldn't step out to help you. Even if I do decide to step out, I'll just conceal my identity," Grey said.

The young lady watched the duo as they were speaking. They weren't talking loudly, only audible enough for them to hear, so she didn't know what they were speaking about. She only saw Grey raise his head to look at her once.

"Hmm, okay then." Jonas nodded after they finished their conversation.

"So, what brings you to Lapis City?" Grey was the one who asked this time.

"Well, a friend of mine..." Jonas told Grey the reason for his coming to this city.

According to him, the Academy sent them on a mission. Since he was presently the strongest student in the Academy, he was sent alongside two of his friends to come and clear an area.

The young lady was one of the people sent with him, the other one was poisoned after walking into a chasm. Jonas took it upon himself to find a cure for him, and since where they were assigned wasn't far from Lapis City, he decided to come here and try his luck.

He was unable to get anything, so he decided to follow a team that was heading into the Magical Beasts' forest to search for a treasure that could cure him. The main reason he followed the group was because he heard them speaking of something like that.

After following them on the expedition, the group made a deal with him to collect the main items, while he took what was left. When they got to their destination, he helped with fighting against the beasts there and the group managed to acquire what they wanted.

He was also fortunate enough to get something that might cure his friend. On his way out of the cave, he sensed something and went deeper into the cave. Lying inside was a twenty-two meters long giant snake, beside it was one of the best plants used for making the highest tier of healing tonic.

He decided to risk his life to get the plant since the Giant snake was already in the Overlord Plane. During the first phase of his attempt, he was successful, but on trying to escape with the plant, the Snake woke up.

It naturally attacked, almost killing him in the process. The group of four who were outside saw him struggling against the snake, but did nothing to help. When they saw what he acquired, they were overcome by greed and wanted to obtain it.

Jonas luckily escaped from the snake, but was met with another problem, the people he came to the expedition with. He tried escaping, but was blocked.

The snake came out of the cave and started attacking them, Jonas used the opportunity to escape from the clutches of the group. Unfortunately, he was unable to get to the city before they caught up to him.

Apparently, the snake didn't kill the group. It was just like in his situation as well, the snake didn't kill him.

....

"You should know the story from there," Jonas said after getting to the part where the group held him outside the city.

"Yeah," Grey nodded.

He looked around, and noticing that the Inn wasn't filled with people anymore, he decided to take off the robe that was hiding his face.

"Ah... finally. I can eat in peace!" Grey exclaimed before digging into the food.

When Grey removed his robe, his face appeared in front of Jonas and the young lady for the first time.

They both froze, staring at that seemingly otherworldly face. Even Jonas who had seen him before was a little taken aback. Grey was more handsome than he previously was.

The young lady on the other hand couldn't believe that a guy could be this handsome.

'He's even more handsome than what they said,' She thought to herself, her mouth opened, forming a small 'o'.

But they snapped out of their stunned state when Grey dug into his food. He wasn't eating particularly fast, but he wasn't eating slow either.

Luckily, he wasn't talking while eating.

Some time passed and Grey finally finished eating.

What the young lady found astonishing wasn't the fact that Grey ate too much, it was the fact that Grey completely forgot about them while he was eating. He didn't even raise his head once to look at them. If not for his handsome face and his unimaginable strength, she would've thought that he was a beggar.

"Okay, thanks for treating me to a meal. I haven't had a good meal since leaving Frost City," Grey said after he was done eating.

He stood up immediately, preparing to leave. He wasn't close to Jonas, so there wasn't really any reason to stay behind.

"Oh okay. Thanks for your help today, I'll try my best to make it up to you," Jonas thanked him for his help.

"It's nothing. See you next time, I'll be leaving now," Grey waved at the duo and left the Inn with his robe covering his face once again.

He didn't want to stay in this Inn, it was too far from the city gate. He planned to explore the city, going to the Inn that was closest to the city gate.

After finding an Inn, he would think of what to do next.

It took him about thirty minutes or so before he found an Inn he was comfortable with. The Inn was around two hundred meters away from the city gate, and around fifty meters away from the city walls.

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Grey's room.

After getting into the room, the first thing Grey did was to take a bath. Although he usually takes baths in the forest, he still preferred this one more.

When he was done with his bath, he started thinking of his next move.

'There's still about three weeks left or so before the month ends. Staying idle wouldn't work for me, but if i were to go into the Magical Beasts' forest now, something might come up that would make me miss the auction,'

He thought of every possible action, and before long, he came up with a plan. Since the Lenz Organization were the ones holding the auction, he would try to get old man Gerald to ask if there would be something that has the same effects as the Resurgence Liquid.

If by chance they do, then he would use his influence to keep for himself. Of course, he would compensate the person who brought the item to the auction.

With a plan in mind, he quickly brought out the communication device that was given to him by old man Gerald and sent him a message.

The contents of the message was simple, he should help him find out if there were any items that had effects similar to the Resurgence Liquid. Although he knew it was still too early to ask, since some people might have already dropped the item they wanted to be auctioned off, he felt that there might be a chance.

Old man Gerald quickly asked the people at the auction house according to Grey's request, but unfortunately, there was nothing of such in the place.

'I've told them to notify me if anything like that shows up, so you don't need to worry. Just make yourself available when the time comes,' Old man Gerald's voice resounded in Grey's head.

'Okay, thanks for helping me once again.' Grey thanked him before keeping the device.

Now, he knew he could get the item as long as it appeared in the auction house.

'With that out of the way, I think I should at least explore the outer perimeters of the Magical Beasts' forest before then..' He thought to himself.

Chapter 416 - Venturing Into The Magical Beasts' Forest

The next day.

Three kilometers west of Lapis City.

Grey stood in front of the majestic Magical Beasts' forest, looking at the lush greenery and overly large trees compared to what was in other forests, he felt nothing but awe.

This was the second time he was seeing the Magical Beasts' forest, and the feeling was just like the first time he saw it.

Even when standing outside the forest, he could feel the intimidating aura of the magical beasts that reside in the forest. He could also hear the roars from the magical beasts in the forest.

Phew...

He took in a deep breath before breathing out, with that, he stepped into the forest.

Roar!

A cat-like beast which was around the size of a Maine Cat jumped out from the side of a tree as soon as Grey stepped into the forest.

"*Sigh* To think it's a cat," He said after catching the cat with his bare hands.

While standing outside, he had already sensed the beast, but he never thought it was a cat. From what he could sense, it was a Wind Elementalist, so it excelled in speed.

"I won't kill you since you're a cat like Void, although you're way bigger than he is," Grey said before throwing the cat in the other direction.

What he found more amusing was the fact that the cat was actually still in the early stages of the Fusion Plane or using Void's way of ranking, a Rank two magical beast, yet it dared to try to sneak attack him who was almost at the Peak of the Origin Plane.

Two hours later.

Grey had ventured almost two kilometers into the Magical Beasts' forest, and a magical beast would appear within every ten minutes or so. But all of the beasts are still in the Fusion Plane.

According to the reports he heard, once he gets past the two kilometers mark, then the strength of the beasts would increase. He had already started to notice it because the beasts he had been encountering are in the Late stages of the Fusion Plane.

'Hmm, I'll head in a little more.'

Grey doesn't want to spend too much time here, but his curiosity towards this place is pushing him to go further inside.

The space element made it difficult for the beasts to sense him, most of the ones which attacked him, only attacked when he got within their line of view. So far, he hadn't killed any of them. He would usually avoid the beasts whenever he could, the ones he couldn't avoid, he would just smack them away, but wouldn't kill them.

Three hours later.

Grey had gone over five kilometers into the forest, almost getting to the six kilometers mark. And surprisingly, people still called this place the outer perimeters of the Magical Beasts' forest.

From the map he got from Lapis City, only after going past the six kilometers mark will he leave the outer perimeters of the forest. Not just that, but that's also when he would start seeing beasts in the Origin Plane.

....

Some minutes later.

'If the map is correct, then going further would mean leaving the outer perimeters of the Magical Beasts' forest.'

Grey brought out the map from his storage ring, looking at the map.

'Forget it, there's still just over three weeks before the auction. I better go in and see if I can find the bamboo forest that guy spoke of,'

He continued walking further into the forest. In the time he had been here, he had surprisingly not encountered any person. Since this was the outer perimeters, he guessed this was the part he would see people frequently, but he didn't encounter anyone.

After walking for almost an hour, he still didn't encounter any beasts in the Origin Plane, but he encountered those at the Peak of the Arcane Plane.

He decided to rest under a tree since he had been walking nonstop for hours now. Just as he sat down.

"Ah!"

Roar!

He heard the scream of a lady, and a magical beasts' roar.

"Huh?" He turned to look in the direction with a raised brow.

After looking in the direction for some seconds, he turned away and closed his eyes to meditate. Although he was bored, he didn't have the habit of interfering with people that didn't have anything to do with him.

Anyone who entered this place should naturally be prepared for the dangers they would face. They don't expect that someone would help them whenever they are in danger.

Roar!

Bang!

"Huh? Why is the sound getting louder?" He asked himself while looking in the direction of the noise.

Of course he knew the answer to his question, but he just didn't expect that something like this would happen.

He wanted to stand up and go in the other direction, but his curiosity, as well as the boredom of not doing anything since he entered this place, made him stay. Besides, there's also the possibility of the battle not getting to where he is.

Two minutes later.

'Hmm, is it a coincidence, or do they know that someone is here?' He thought to himself.

The sound was already very close, and from his calculations, the person who was being attacked by a magical beast would appear before him within the next minute or so.

Just as he calculated, the person soon appeared before him. The person was surprisingly a young man.

'I could swear I heard a young lady's voice,' Grey thought to himself, stunned.

'Maybe the beast has killed her,' He thought again.

The young man who was running for help had despair written all over his face, when he looked ahead of him, he saw someone who was wearing a robe.

He didn't even stand to think if the person was good or not, he ran in the direction while screaming for help.

"Help! Help! Please!" He yelled at the top of his lungs while charging in Grey's direction.

"This is totally unexpected !" Grey exclaimed in shock.

Yes, he heard the young man, but he didn't even know if he could call him a young man or not.. The young man spoke, but for some reason, he was hearing the voice of a lady.

Chapter 417 - Bamboo Forest's Whereabouts

"Help, help!"

The young man continued screaming as he ran frantically in Grey's direction.

'Weird, but it's not really unacceptable though,' Grey thought while looking at the young man who had the voice of a lady.

What Grey found more amusing was that the young man clearly had a masculine look with beards and a slightly well-built body, but his voice was feminine which was in contrast with his appearance.

This was something that rarely happened, but it doesn't mean it doesn't. At first, he found it amusing since he hadn't really been in contact with someone like this, but after hearing it a few more times, he just shrugged it off. After all, everyone isn't supposed to be the same.

He stood up, took a single step forward, and vanished.

"Huh?!" The young man who was running in Grey's direction instantly freaked out when he saw him disappear.

He almost wanted to shed tears, but he had to save his energy for running. Crying while running would just make him expend more energy, well, so he thought.

Boom!

He suddenly heard a loud explosion behind him, but he didn't turn around immediately, instead, he advanced forward.

"Ehh? He continued running?" Grey couldn't help but comment with a surprised expression when he looked at the back of the running young man.

After running a few more meters and not hearing the sound of the magical beast behind him, the young man halted, turned around sharply to see what was happening.

To his surprise, the person who was wearing a robe was standing in the direction he was coming from, and the bear which was chasing after him was lying on the ground, motionless, around twenty meters away from him.

"You... you defeated it?" The young man asked anxiously.

"Well, do you see anyone else here?" Grey asked before walking back to the tree he was previously sitting under.

"Ah... sorry." The young man scratched his head awkwardly, "Thank you for lending me a hand,"

He bowed to Grey as a sign of gratitude.

"It's okay, the noise was disturbing my peace," Grey waved his hand nonchalantly before sitting down once again under the tree.

"Oh, I'm sorry for that." The young man apologized for disturbing him.

Grey didn't reply and closed his eyes once again to meditate. He didn't really like interacting with people much, especially with people he didn't know.

"Uhhmm, can I sit with you?" The young man asked.

Grey didn't reply, staying in the same position.

The young man looked at Grey and felt like he was an old expert who didn't like speaking much.

In fact, the more he interacted with Grey, the more he felt like he was an old expert who wasn't bothered with things of the outside world.

The beast which was chasing after him was in the Early stages of the Origin Plane, yet Grey defeated it with a single attack. Not just that, but Grey's speed was insane.

'This person is definitely an Overlord Plane expert!' The young man said in his heart.

After standing for a few minutes and not getting any reply, he sat down close to Grey.

Grey originally thought the young man would leave, but to his surprise, he sat close to him.

"What do you want?" He couldn't help but ask when the young man sat down.

"Hello, I'm Ellis. I traveled into the Magical Beasts' forest to train..." Ellis suddenly started telling Grey of the reason he came into the Magical Beasts' forest, not forgetting to speak of the ordeals he had gone through.

"Wait, wait, wait, what does that have to do with what I asked?" Grey hurriedly tried to stop him from speaking.

"Oh, I'm sorry about that." Ellis apologized.

"So, what are you doing here?" He asked immediately after apologizing.

Grey looked at Ellis, confused.

'Doesn't he get it that I don't want him here?' He thought while looking at him.

He didn't want to outright chase Ellis away, but from how he continued speaking, he felt it wouldn't really be bad to chase him away.

After seeing that Grey didn't answer his question, Ellis continued speaking again. Telling him of how he encountered this bear that was chasing him.

As much as the time Grey had on his hand right now, he didn't have the time to listen to the story of a complete stranger. Even if he wanted to waste it, this wasn't what he wanted to waste it on.

"The bamboo forest was quite large and..."

"You're disturbing me," Grey's annoyed voice interrupted him.

"I'm sorry senior," Ellis quickly apologized.

"Senior?" Grey asked, surprised.

'Hmm, looks like senior doesn't like it when someone calls him a senior,' Ellis thought to himself.

"No, no, what I meant was that I wanted to thank you for your help," Ellis said.

Ellis stood up after saying this, just as he was about to leave.

"Wait," Grey called out.

"Yes, senior?" Ellis turned around quickly, almost bumping into Grey who was still sitting.

His enthusiastic reaction stunned the hell out of Grey.

'Who's he calling senior? This guy is at least five years older than I am!' Grey thought in annoyance.

"First of all, I'm not a senior. Then, what is this bamboo forest you're speaking of?" Grey said to clear up the confusion.

The only reason he wasn't telling Ellis his name was because he was being hunted down by the Emperor, and from how Ellis interacted with him, he could tell he was someone who liked talking, a lot.

There's a high chance Ellis would speak of this experience to people he didn't even know.

'How could someone who speaks this much still be alive in a place like this where people betray each other?' Grey couldn't help but wonder.

"Oh, the bamboo forest, it's just a few kilometers away from here. I still remember the road there," Ellis replied enthusiastically.

"You don't need to go, just point out its location on the map for me," Grey said, before taking out the map he had of the Magical Beasts' forest.

Chapter 418 - Heading To The Bamboo Forest

"Oh, okay," Ellis replied a little downcast.

But in the end, he still pointed the spot out for him on the map. Since he could be of assistance to this senior who helped him, he would do it well.

'Hmm, is it the same place?' Grey thought to himself while looking at the map properly.

The Magical Beasts' forest was huge, so there was no way there would be only one bamboo forest. But hearing about a bamboo forest, he couldn't help but get his hopes up, even if not by much, but at least he had to check it out.

"Thank you. By chance, do you know of any other bamboo forests in the Magical Beasts' forest?" Grey asked.

Since Ellis speaks a lot, then he should be able to know some things about this place. Who knows, he might just know the location of another one.

"No senior, I only saw this one by chance. The area the bamboo is growing is not really large, around three to four hundred meters I think. But according to rumors, there tend to be treasures in places like that," Ellis replied.

"Okay, thank you for your information. I'll be going then," Grey said before turning around.

"Senior, can... can I come with you?" Ellis asked nervously.

"No," Grey replied decisively.

"But... but... there's something there I want," Ellis pleaded.

Grey stopped and looked at him, after thinking about it for a while, he decided to let him travel with him.

The reason for this was simple, he was clueless about the Magical Beasts' forest and Ellis seems to know a thing or two. Not just that, but he was also the one who showed him where the bamboo forest was located.

'As long as he isn't looking for what I need, then we're okay,' Grey thought as he gave Ellis a nod of approval.

"Thank you senior!" Ellis exclaimed happily.

"I'm not a senior, call me Zeke," Grey said.

This was the alias he had previously used, since he was in a place where he didn't want to use his real name, then he didn't mind using the same name once again. Frost City was hundreds of kilometers away from here, so the chances of people who knew Zeke Hoover appearing here were slim.

"Uh, okay senior Zeke," Ellis nodded with a little uncertainty.

"This is going to be a long journey," Grey muttered as the duo started the journey to where the bamboo forest was located.

As they were walking, Ellis would speak about the different places they pass through, he would also occasionally speak of his travels in the Magical Beasts' forest. To Grey's surprise, Ellis had been coming to this place since he was in the Fusion Plane.

The fact that Ellis was still alive still surprises him. From some of Ellis' stories, he spoke of times when he was betrayed by the people he was traveling with.

"Then why are you following me this freely?" Grey couldn't help but ask.

People who are betrayed more than once usually find it difficult to trust people close to them, much less a complete stranger.

"Maybe I'm just too naive, or maybe I'm stupid. But, for some reason, I've never given up on people," Ellis replied after a few seconds of silence.

"I'll take the first two, the third is crap," Grey replied with an apathetic voice.

He felt it was more preferable to believe that Ellis was naive and stupid than what he said about not giving up on people.

"It's okay, only a few people have agreed with me," Ellis said with a smile.

"Where are they?" Grey asked.

"Uhhh... why don't we forget about that?" Ellis asked after hesitating.

"They're dead, right?" Grey asked, looking straight at Ellis.

Ellis sighed softly before nodding.

"And you still believe in people? Looks like you're only alive because you're lucky," Grey scoffed and walked away.

"But, all the times I've been saved, the same people you say I shouldn't believe in are the ones who always come to my rescue whenever I'm in a life and death situation, especially in here," Ellis said while walking after Grey.

"Hmm, you do have a point there." Grey replied, before muttering under his breath, "I should've let him die,"

"What?" Ellis asked.

"Nothing," Grey said.

"I could swear I heard you say you should've let me die," Ellis said.

"You're wrong, I didn't," Grey replied with a straight face.

His voice didn't even waver, if one didn't know otherwise, they would think he wasn't lying.

"But... but..." Ellis didn't want to accept it, but Grey gave him deaf ears, so he was forced to stop speaking about it.

"Wait, all the people who save you, are they men?" Grey suddenly thought of something and asked.

"Yeah, why do you ask?" Ellis nodded before asking.

"Hmm, no wonder. Don't believe in people, that's all I can tell you. Other than close friends, don't trust anyone else easily," Grey replied.

'Looks like his voice is actually more of a blessing. Heh! Those stupid people who would think he is a lady and would always try to rescue the beauty in distress, unfortunately for them, they will always get the surprise of their lives,' Grey shook his head as he thought of why Ellis was always saved whenever he was in trouble.

When he first heard Ellis' screaming for help, he also thought he was a young lady. Of course, he wasn't like those stupid guys who ran towards him. Had Ellis not come in his direction, he wouldn't have helped him in any way.

The duo continued walking with Ellis speaking almost nonstop throughout the time. Grey almost had the urge to block his ears, how could someone talk this much?

'Damn it? This guy's almost as annoying as Klaus!'

This was the only thing in Grey's head throughout their journey.

Grey was forced to increase his speed so they could get to the bamboo forest, sooner rather than later.

Chapter 419 - Attack From Below

"We should be getting close, I remember this place!" Ellis said excitedly as they got close to a swamp.

"Yeah, according to the map, if we continue heading in this direction, we would get there in about thirty minutes or so," Grey replied after looking at the map.

He took a look at the swamp in front of them before shaking his head.

"Unfortunately, we'll be going around it," Grey added.

"Huh? Why? Going around would take at least another two hours," Ellis asked, confused.

"Did you go through here the last time?" Grey asked.

"Yes, senior Zeke," Ellis nodded.

"Hmm, it's because they didn't perceive you as a threat. Although I can't be sure they'll be able to sense me, I don't like taking unnecessary risks," Grey mumbled.

"Who's they?" Ellis asked nervously.

"Oh, there are two Overlord Plane beasts in this swamp. It's weird since they shouldn't be in this region," Grey replied nonchalantly.

"What?!" Ellis exclaimed, sweating furiously.

He passed through this place when he was exploring previously, even when he was running away from the bear, he passed this place as well. Now, Grey was telling him there was an Overlord Plane beast here, and it's not one but rather, two!

'I... I... I almost died!' He thought in horror.

"Let's move, there's unrest in the swamp," Grey retreated, before turning in the other direction.

"Yes, Senior!" Ellis yelled before rushing after Grey, fearing to stay even two meters away from him.

One has to remember that he was almost killed by a Bear in the Early stages of the Origin Plane, there's no contest once an Overlord Plane beast appears, it will kill him with a single smack.

Grey found the appearance of the Overlord Plane beasts quite strange, although it was impossible, it was quite rare that the beasts would come this far out. According to what he had heard about this place, the essence energy in the Magical Beasts' forest increases the deeper one goes in.

He could already confirm it since he had already noticed the difference in the essence here compared to the outer perimeters.

The Overlord Plane beasts always stay in the deeper parts of the forest or around there since the essence would make them improve faster.

One hour later.

"Huh? Is something going on?" Grey raised a brow as he stared ahead of them.

He could sense the aura of yet another Overlord Plane beast. Finding the first was already strange enough, yet he had sensed another one.

"What's it, senior?" Ellis asked, scared.

"I've told you to stop calling me senior, my name's Zeke," Grey said while rubbing his head, a little frustrated.

"Okay, senior," Ellis nodded.

"Fuck! You know what, suit yourself. There's an Overlord Plane beast ahead of us," Grey gave up on Ellis, he could call him whatever he liked, he didn't care anymore.

"A... A... Another one?" Ellis asked, visibly shaking.

Grey threw a glance in his direction, not expecting he was such an easily frightened person. Usually, all the people who come to the Magical Beasts' forest are mostly fearless. Ellis was the person with the weakest resolve he had ever seen.

"Yes, we'll have to take a detour again," Grey nodded.

'If there are more Overlord Plane beasts, then something is definitely going on around this place or in the deeper parts of the Magical Beasts' forest that made them come this far out. No matter what it is, getting involved with this strength of mine isn't a good idea.' He thought to himself.

It's just like when they went to the Chimera forest, the increase in beasts of the lightning element increased exponentially as they drew closer to the lightning tree. There might be a chance that there's something out here that drew the attention of these beasts.

The second possibility is that something major is happening in the deeper parts of the Magical Beasts' forest that scared these beasts away. Sage Plane beasts are rumored to be in the deepest parts of the Magical Beasts' forest, this is why it's still under the control of magical beasts even though there are tons of treasures here that are beneficial to humans.

....

The duo once again took a detour, and after four hours and taking two more detours, they finally got to their location.

Grey stood in front of the bamboo forest, looking at the bamboos.

'Hopefully, it's here. If not, I'll have to continue exploring the forest,' He thought to himself.

Just as he took a step inside, he hastily retreated and shoved Ellis to the side.

Bang!

The ground exploded, sending debris and bamboo shoots everywhere.

Grey waved his hand and an earth wall appeared in front of him, blocking the debris and bamboo shoots coming in his direction.

Ellis on the other hand had no idea what was going on, but on seeing the bamboo shoots coming towards him, he hastily set a water sphere around him that stopped the bamboo shoots and debris.

"What... what was that?" He asked while looking around nervously.

Grey looked around before furrowing his brows, he didn't sense anything, until the last moment when they were attacked. This meant whatever was hiding was very good at concealing itself.

There's also the possibility that it was a person, but he was more inclined to believe it was an attack from a beast.

'Hmm, whatever it is, it will surely attack again.' He squinted his eyes.

He had tried to feel the vibration of the earth since the attack looked like what came from underground, but he was unable to get anything.

Grey and Ellis increased their vigilance, awaiting the next time the beast attacked again.

Grey was looking around while closely monitoring the vibrations of the ground. He was able to sense the vibration the last time, this was what enabled him to dodge the attack.

Ellis scurried over to where Grey was standing, unlike him, he didn't even sense anything, so standing on his own was no different from inviting death.

Just as he was about to get close to Grey.

"Get back!" Grey yelled.

"Huh!" Ellis panicked and immediately tried retreating.

Unfortunately, he was a tad too slow and was caught in the attack.

Boom!

Chapter 420 - Attack From Below II

Boom!

"Ah!"

Ellis' feminine voice rang out in all directions.

Grey couldn't confirm if the attack was fatal on him or not, but since they were together, he hurried there to check if he was okay.

"I'm... I'm... going to die!"

On getting there, Grey was lost for words. Other than the small scratch on his leg, he was perfectly fine, yet he screamed like someone who was not only fatally injured, but it had been confirmed that he wouldn't make it.

"What the hell are you saying?" Grey couldn't help but ask, his hand massaging his temples.

"Wait... I'm still alive? I... I... thought I would die," Ellis said with tears in his eyes.

"If you continue lying there, I think you just might be," Grey said in an apathetic voice.

Ellis shivered on hearing what Grey said and hastily stood up.

On seeing how he stood up with such speed, Grey heaved a sigh. An injured companion is nothing more than dead weight in this place, especially given their current situation and the sudden increase of the Overlord Plane beasts in the area.

"Thank you for warning me in time," Ellis said after standing up, although he was still slightly shaking from the fear, he should be fine.

"It wouldn't be nice to see you die, so there's that." Grey said, he held his chin before continuing, "From the two attacks, we can ascertain that the attacks are coming from underground and that whatever is attacking us is an Earth Elementalist and an expert in concealing themselves,"

"Is there a way to defeat it?" Ellis asked.

"Of course!" Grey replied.

"Oh, that's good." Ellis sighed in relief before asking, "So, how do we defeat it?"

"I don't know," Grey replied with a casual shrug.

"What?" Ellis almost fainted.

"I don't know how to defeat it," Grey said with the same nonchalant tone.

"But... but... you said there's a way to defeat it?" Ellis stuttered.

"Yes, there's always a way to defeat any opponent. I just don't know how to defeat this one," Grey replied while placing his hand on the ground.

'It's no good, I still can't sense the vibration.' He thought to himself.

"Doesn't that mean we're dead?" Ellis asked with horror.

"No, I can probably escape easily from it. You on the other hand, not so sure," Grey replied in a straightforward manner.

"Ah... I don't want to die! You... you can defeat it senior!" Ellis went pale from fright.

He fell down and hugged Grey's legs, begging him with tears flowing from his eyes.

"I can defeat it, I think. But I don't have a way now," Grey said while pushing Ellis away from his legs.

Ellis held onto his legs with his life, to him, Grey's legs were currently the safest place to be.

"Damn it! Let go of me and jump to the other side," Grey said before leaping into the air.

Ellis looked at his left and right before jumping once again.

Unfortunately, he was a bit too slow, again.

"Ah!"

His scream echoed around once again, but when Grey looked at him, he couldn't help but be surprised.

'How is he able to always dodge it even when he's already caught in the attack?' He asked himself confused.

He was still mid-air, so he saw the scene of Ellis being caught in the attack but escaping only by a hair's breadth.

'Forget about that for now, attack!' He pushed the thought of how Ellis escaped to the back of his head.

Since he was above the attack of the beast, this was the perfect time to counterattack.

Swoosh!

His blue flames lit up the sky before a large fire snake came crashing into the place where the attack of the beast previously came from.

Bang!

A larger explosion rang out, scaring the hell out of Ellis.

"Ah! I'm going to die! I'm going to die!" Ellis screamed as he ran away from the range of the aftereffect of the attack.

Whoosh!

A strong wind current suddenly blew around the forest, quickly blowing away the flames from the ground.

Grey was still mid-air during this time, when he looked at the place of the explosion, he saw something furry burrowing into the ground.

"Huh? A tail?" He mumbled.

He saw what looked like the tail of a rat, but he wasn't too sure since he only saw it within a second.

'I shouldn't be wrong. We'll have to draw it out again,' He thought to himself before descending.

"Ah!"

Ellis was blown away by the unexpected wind current and he crashed almost twenty meters away.

"Senior, you... you... almost killed them," He complained as soon as Grey landed not too far from him.

"That was the only chance I had to attack. If I didn't wait a little further because of you, I would've had it," Grey replied.

He didn't attack quickly because there was no way Ellis would've been able to escape from the attack range given the short time.

"Are... are you sure?" Ellis asked suspiciously.

"Yes, now we just need you to act as bait to bring it out once again. I still can't track it, so the only way to get it is when it comes out to attack," Grey said, smiling mischievously. Unfortunately, Ellis is unable to see his devilish expression.

"Oh, that's easy." Ellis waved it off.

"That's unexpected," Grey's mumbled to himself, not expecting Ellis to accept immediately.

"Wait, what?!" Ellis suddenly screamed after a few seconds.

It was as if it was only after a while did he figure out what Grey said.

"You, bait, me, hide," Grey said while pointing at Ellis then at himself.

"What do you mean you bait me hide? You just want to kill me!" Ellis exclaimed, frightened.

"Can you attack it?" Grey asked with a nonchalant tone.

"Uhhh... no. But I still won't accept to be bait!" Ellis said with resolve.

"It doesn't change anything though, since we're already here, it wouldn't allow us to leave. Well, I can escape, you, not so sure," Grey said.

"You..." Ellis' eyes widened in fright.

"Don't worry, I won't let you die," Grey reassured.