

## Affinity 431

### Chapter 431 - Studying Arrays

Grey and Ellis stared at each other for a while, each curious about the other. Well, Grey was more curious given he likes to learn new things, and the prospect of finding out about another place that is far better than this place was thrilling.

"How did you get to become so good with the space element?" Ellis was the first to break the silence.

"Luck I guess. I found a strange, troublesome, cute teacher," Grey replied, thinking about Void when he spoke of this.

"Oh, there's another Space Elementalist here?" Ellis asked, surprised.

"Yeah, he's far better at it than I am," Grey nodded.

"That's surprising!" Ellis exclaimed.

"He was the one who introduced me to the space element," Grey said while rubbing his spatial ring.

Ellis noticed the sadness in his eyes and voice, as well as when he was rubbing the spatial ring.

"Wait, is that a spatial ring?" He asked, hopefully trying to get Grey's mind away from whatever sad thoughts he was having.

"Yeah, I got one by luck again," Grey replied with a soft smile.

If not for Void, there was no way he would've thought that seemingly useless ring would actually turn out to be a spatial ring.

"You sure are lucky. Although where I'm from is far bigger than this place, and has a lot of Space Elementalists, obtaining one of these is quite hard. You're either from a good family or very strong. And to get a good one costs a fortune!" Ellis said before pointing to the one on his finger.

"How come I didn't sense any space undulations from it?" Grey asked.

Well, he saw the ring on Ellis' finger during their journey, but he didn't sense anything strange from it.

"There's an array placed on it to make it look ordinary," Ellis replied.

"Such a sophisticated array, can I take a look?" Grey asked, a little excited.

One of the things he enjoyed learning about was arrays. Whenever he sees something new, he would study it properly, integrating it with his previous knowledge.

The reason he still hasn't left the cave was that he wanted to study how this trap array worked.

Ellis didn't think too much and removed the ring from his finger before tossing it towards him.

Grey caught it gently before studying it, his facial expressions changing multiple times.

"This is really good, if I can learn how it works, then it would be an amazing breakthrough," He mumbled while fumbling the ring in his hand.

On seeing Grey's expression while he was studying the ring, Ellis knew he must be someone who had a high interest in arrays.

After looking at it for a while, Grey reluctantly gave it back to Ellis.

Ellis took the ring before placing it back on his finger.

There are a lot of things Grey wanted to ask Ellis, but he didn't feel it was appropriate.

"Come with me, I'll be returning in two days time," Ellis suddenly said.

"Huh?" Grey looked at Ellis, confused.

"I've been searching for a way to leave this place, and I found an array formation that seems to be able to transport me back there. I don't know which people made it, but if my guess is correct, then they must be from where I'm from," Ellis explained.

"As much as I would like to go, I have a lot of things to take care of here," Grey shook his head sadly.

Even though Ellis haven't told him much about this place he was from, he could tell it would help him grow faster, compared to staying in the Azure continent.

"What might that be? I could help," Ellis asked.

He liked Grey, and making friends with such a genius would be a great thing for him. For Grey to grow this powerful while in a place like this, it was unimaginable what he would achieve if he were to accompany him back to his continent which had superior resources.

"I'm searching for a place, it's a bamboo forest like this one. This was why I spoke with you when I heard you say a bamboo forest," Grey said.

Since Ellis was powerful and wanted to help him, then why not. He has never been stupid, so when a good opportunity arises, of course, he was going to take it.

"Hmm, a bamboo forest. What are you looking for?" Ellis asked.

Grey went on to explain what he was searching for in the bamboo forest, after listening to him, Ellis fell deep in thoughts.

"A shame, I've used up the one that was with me. I don't know where this bamboo forest is, but for the next two days, I'll help you search for it. Hopefully, we can find it before then," Ellis added.

Grey nodded, before thanking him for his help. Although he couldn't say he trusted Ellis, he could tell that he wasn't a bad person, at least to him.

'Could it be that they are not from this continent?'

Grey suddenly thought of his parents. According to old man Gerald, there is no information about his parents in the Azure continent. He said they appeared all of a sudden and disappeared in the same manner. No one has been able to tell him where they were from.

The more he thought about it, the more he felt like this was the most probable explanation. If they didn't come from the Azure continent, then it made sense how they suddenly disappeared without a trace.

After calming his raging thoughts, he started studying the array in the passageway. There was no way he was going to pass up this chance to learn this array formation.

Ellis, who was waiting for him, was surprised when he saw him sitting on the ground close to the passageway.

'What is he doing?' He thought.

He soon got his answer when he saw a familiar gleam in Grey's eyes.. It was exactly the same as the one he saw when Grey was studying his ring.

Chapter 432 - Crystal Orb

Time flew by, and before long, the day turned to night.

Ellis was first stunned, then frustrated, and later on, impressed at Grey's obsession with trying to figure out how the array in the passageway worked.

He had seen people who wanted to learn, but few were at Grey's level of diligence. He had been studying Grey's expression over the past five hours, and he could tell that he made some improvements.

Well, it's not from his expression, but from the fact that he walked into the first part of the array and it didn't light up. It was only after almost a minute did it light up.

Presently, Grey was already midway through the entire passageway, and it hasn't lit up. When he passed it previously, he used his strength to forcibly suppress it, hence the reason he was able to casually walk through it. But Grey was carefully studying and finding the weak links in the array, this is why it wasn't lightning up even after so long.

'He must be a genius in array formations!' Ellis exclaimed inside.

'Wait, if I recall correctly, he mainly used three different elements when he was fighting against those guys, adding the space element to it, that makes it four. Wow! What sort of a monster is he? People with three elements aren't rare back at home, although there are some with four, for one to appear in such a place is truly remarkable.' He looked at Grey with eyes wide open.

If he were to find out that the four he knew of were just half of Grey's elements, it's unknown how he would react.

Ten more minutes passed and Grey walked out from the array.

"I'm done, we should head out," He said to the baffled-looking Ellis.

"Oh, okay," Ellis came back to his senses before looking at the array once again, waiting to see if it would light up.

"No need to check, it won't light up. Although, if you were to step on it, the outcome would be different," Grey said with a small smile.

Ellis looked at Grey before deciding to test out what he said. With a few steps, he appeared before the array, he placed his left leg on it, and even before his leg touched the array, it lit up, sending out an explosion that was far stronger than what it used to.

"I might've forgotten to add that I modified it while I was studying it," Grey said while scratching the back of his head.

Ellis, who was still in the explosion, came out coughing from the smoke. He was fine, except for his clothes which suffered from some burns.

He looked at Grey, and the more he thought about it, the more he felt like Grey was someone who could easily topple the genius in his continent. Well, not with his current strength though. But he believed it would be possible in a few years' time.

"Wouldn't this kill everyone who is coming in here?" Ellis asked.

"No," Grey shook his head before continuing, "Remember when I said I modified it?"

Ellis nodded to his question.

"Well you see, it needed to let out a powerful explosion, that way, it would stop functioning. It can easily be reactivated. But I set up a trap array to ensure no one activates it," Grey explained.

As if to test what Grey said, Ellis stepped on the passageway again, but this time, he set up a powerful defensive armor around his body. Even though he wasn't hurt by the previous explosion, it still rocked him.

Fortunately for him, the array didn't light up, nor did it explode.

"Oh, it's just like you said," He lowered his guard before turning around.

Boom!

An explosion rang out from the other side of the passageway, scaring the shit out of Ellis.

"Now, the array has been completely nullified." Grey nodded confidently before stepping out of the cave.

"You didn't kill that guy from before?" Ellis asked, shocked.

He knew he didn't sense any sign of life in the captain's body after Grey killed him.

"Well, I wanted to, but then I figured what was better, killing him, or keeping him trapped here. I decided to go with the latter since it might give him an opportunity to survive. He was unfortunate and woke up sooner than expected, since he was already up, I just thought it wasn't worth it letting someone like him live," Grey shrugged.

"What do you mean woke up sooner than expected, you literally stayed in here for over five hours," Ellis looked at Grey stunned.

'This guy's ruthless. If he were to come with me, hehehe, the peace of the continent would be turned upside down,' He thought happily.

"Five hours? I thought we were only there for a few minutes," Grey asked surprised, on looking up, he realized it was already dark, "Crap! You're right,"

"Of course I am, now, where do we begin our search?" Ellis asked while looking around.

"I have no idea, I forgot to ask the person where the bamboo forest was located, so..." Grey spread out his hands.

"Take this, I'll go out to search for it myself," Ellis threw a crystal orb towards Grey.

Grey caught it and looked at it with interest, "What does this do?"

The orb wasn't big, just slightly larger than Grey's palm.

"It's for communication, see, I have one with me," Ellis brought out another crystal orb, showing it to Grey.

Grey looked into the orb on his hand, and to his surprise, it showed the image of Ellis who was a few meters away from him.

"Wow! I've been hoping to make something like this, to think it has already been created," He exclaimed.

"Wait, what?" Ellis asked, surprised.

"I wanted to make something like this, but I haven't been able to figure out how the arrays would work," Grey replied sincerely.

'Are you sure you grew up here?' Ellis almost wanted to ask but refrained from doing so.

From the small time he has chatted with Grey, he could tell he didn't think like most of the people here. Although, there were always weird people everywhere,

#### Chapter 433 - Speaking With The Crew

Grey looked in the sky as Ellis flew off in search of the bamboo forest he wanted. Before Ellis left, he gave him an extra wooden plaque he made, this one was for tracking his movements. That way, he could head out to meet him if he finds the pond.

'Wow, my first day here has been full of surprises.' He thought while bringing out the communication device he made for himself and his friends.



After hanging out with Ellis for a bit, he started missing his friends, Klaus and Reynolds especially since Ellis had their somewhat playful personality. The difference was that, compared to the duo, Ellis still hadn't gotten to their level yet.

'What would happen if they were to hang out together? Well, I believe Klaus and Rey would forever use his voice to mock him, while Alice would just be excited she has a strong training partner. Not to mention Void, he would want him to follow him on a journey so he could steal all the shiny things, in all, it would be a disaster for others.' He thought while smiling.

On checking the communication device, he almost threw it away from Klaus' yelling voice. Despite the fact that he was only hearing the voice in his head, he was still stunned by it.

What was more annoying was that Klaus wasn't saying anything, all he did was scream his name all through.

'What?' He asked, exasperated.

'Oh, you're finally here. What's up?' Klaus' excited voice soon came back.

'Nothing, I've been studying something for the past few hours. Have you done anything that made people want to kill you lately? I feel like you have given how excited you are,' Grey replied.

'Of course not, I was only chased by an entire town while my dad was supporting them. He even tripped me twice so that I could be beaten by those people. Can you believe him!' Klaus said.

'What did you do?' Grey asked, almost facepalming.

He had always known that Klaus was a troublemaker, but he just keeps raising the bar each time they meet or talk after a long time.

'You see, there was this girl in the town. Just to be clear, she was the one who approached me, I didn't make any advances towards her. Who would've known that she was betrothed to one guy from a city not too far from there? The town was under the protection...'

Klaus went on to tell him about his recent tale. After meeting the girl, Klaus became friends with her, and her future husband saw them together. He rushed towards him and Klaus beat the hell out of him.

It caused a huge ruckus and the guy went back to call his family members. On seeing them, Klaus swept the ground with them since even the elders who were called over were still in the Early stages of the Origin Plane.

On seeing that they couldn't beat him, they decided to take it out on the town. Klaus, being respectful towards the elderly in the town, couldn't fight against them, so he did what he felt was best, he sealed them up in the town?and ran away.

He never expected his father to not only destroy the ice seal, he even found a way to get them to move faster while telling Blake to distract him. In the end, he was beaten up by a group of old men and women, before being forced to apologize to the young man who wanted to get married to the young lady.

The truth was, he didn't really have any feelings for the young lady, he just found her company to be entertaining. From the start, it was all a misunderstanding, he thought the young man wanted to force himself on the young lady, hence he beat him up.

After finding out the truth, it was already too late. He had already beaten up the elders of the young man's family.

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'I still find it surprising that all the people you've offended haven't tried to come together to fight you yet. I think you might be able to unite the entire continent just so that they could beat you up,' Grey shook his head.

Klaus will always be Klaus.

'So, have you gone into the Magical Beasts' forest?' Klaus asked.

'Yeah, I'm currently there,' Grey replied.

Before telling him of his experience here, he didn't forget to talk about his new acquaintance, he still hadn't started considering Ellis as a friend yet. He didn't know him, nor did he trust him. He didn't tell Klaus about the new continent he heard of.

Even though he was intrigued by this new continent, he wouldn't go with Ellis. Instead, he planned to ask him where the array was located, and then go on his own after he has confirmed that his parents aren't here.

He would go first before bringing his friends along. Since he knew nothing of this place, he would get Ellis to tell him all he knew before he left.

'Wait, you said he has a lady's voice?' Klaus asked.

Of everything he heard from Grey, Ellis having a lady's voice was the only thing he found interesting.

'Yeah, he was saved multiple times by people whenever he was in distress because they thought he was a damsel in distress,' Grey said.

'Hahaha, if I were in their position, I'd beat the crap out of him after saving him.' Klaus laughed out loudly.

Grey continued speaking with him until Reynolds joined in on the conversation, Grey was not surprised when he found out that he already knew of Klaus' incident.

Alice later joined in the conversation and before the group knew it, they spoke for over three hours, with Grey laughing almost all through because of Klaus and Reynolds.

Before they stopped speaking, they all asked about Grey's well-being and also if he had found what took him there.

'Not yet, but hopefully, soon,' He replied

'Okay, don't forget to take care of yourself. If you die, I'll come and kill you again,' Klaus said.

'Is that even possible?' Reynolds asked.

'Shut up, I'm threatening him,' Klaus scolded from the other side.

Grey chuckled before keeping the device, he knew Klaus and Reynolds would continue this for a while before they stop, so he decided to let them be.

Chapter 434 - Changes In The Magical Beasts' Forest

The next day.

Ellis was still out searching for the bamboo forest which had the liquid that Grey wanted. Unfortunately, even after searching the entire night, he still hasn't been able to locate it.

He had seen two bamboo forests during this time, but none of them had what Grey wanted.

Grey on the other hand decided it was best for him to continue exploring the Magical Beasts' forest on his own. He specifically chose the direction Ellis was heading, that way if Ellis were to find the place, he wouldn't have any problems with quickly getting to him.

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'I think it'll be best if I were to break through to the Ninth stage while I'm here. The essence here is slowly increasing the further I head in, albeit the change is very small.' Grey thought while raising his left hand in the air.

Since leaving the trial land, he couldn't really say that he had focused on cultivating. What he mainly did was either improving his knowledge in arrays or trying to comprehend a new element. His cultivation stage only increased after he comprehended a new element.

Then there was the time he acquired that small ball of red lightning. After he left the Chimera forest, he hasn't really tried to use the red lightning. He still found it odd that he could wield two different types of lightning.

Although both lightning generally has the same characteristics, there are some changes.

'Will I be able to wield a different color of flame later on?' He thought to himself.

This wouldn't be impossible since he could presently wield two types of lightning.

He threw the thought to the back of his mind, for now, he wanted to focus on how to get stronger.

Once he gets to the Ninth stage of the Origin Plane, he would have a difficult task ahead of him, getting to the Overlord Plane. If breaking through to the Origin Plane was difficult, then breaking through to the Overlord Plane was at least fifteen times harder.

An Elementalist would have to change their elemental beads into origin beads. This is what gives them unimaginable control over their elements. An Overlord Plane Lightning Elementalist could easily step into a thunderstorm, controlling part of it, as they grow stronger, their control increases.

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Grey was barely able to move freely in the direction he wanted because he noticed the further he headed into the Magical Beasts' forest, the higher the Overlord Plane magical beasts he encountered. Luckily, he had the space element, so evading their senses wasn't too difficult.

Although, he wasn't as confident in the space element as he previously did after his encounter with the captain of that group he fought. Since there are people who are sensitive to the space element, then there would also be beasts who would be sensitive to it.

On thinking about beasts, he recalled how all the bunnies from that garden were able to hide from Void's attacks even though he was using the space element.

It didn't take long for Grey's fear to materialize into reality when he was noticed by an Overlord Plane beast.

Boom! Bang!

"Crap! It'll be difficult to escape if it doesn't stop," Grey complained after barely dodging an attack.

He had refilled the essence needed for the blue vest to work, so it helped him block the aftereffect of the attacks that the beast sent towards him.

Roar!

The lizard-like beast pounced on Grey. Its speed was not something someone in the Origin Plane could deal with, even with Grey's incredible speed, it was still impossible for him to escape from it. The space element was the only thing that was keeping Grey alive.

Now he knew the difference between an Overlord Plane Elementalist who just broke through and one that has been in the Plane for a long time. This lizard was still in the early stages of the Overlord Plane, yet it wouldn't have any problems with killing that young man Grey fought against who just broke through to the Overlord Plane back at the Chimera forest.

Boom!

The lizard sent out a fire attack, while swinging its tail in Grey's direction.

Grey blinked and disappeared from the attack was going to hit, appearing almost ten meters away from where the lizard attacked.

"Huh? Damn it!"

Grey's pupils dilated when he saw the lizard appearing within a few meters away from him.

It swung its tail towards him, with no other option, he hastily set up three defensive walls, each made of three elements, the fire, water, and earth element. He also went on to create an earth armor around him just for a little more safety.

Bam! Bang!

The lizard's tail didn't meet any resistance with the first wall which was made of ice, then the one made from fire. It also didn't meet too much of a resistance with the earth wall as well.

Swoosh!

Grey was sent flying when the tail made contact with his body which was covered in earth armor, as well as the blue vest's protection.

Crash! Bang!

He crashed into the ground, sliding into the ground for almost twenty meters, before slamming into a six meters thick boulder.

Crack!

Cracks appeared from where Grey's body crashed with the boulder, before running to the other side of the boulder. It was soon divided into two separate parts.

Grey hastily stood up from the rumble, his earth armor cracked on almost every possible place, while the light the blue vest was giving off was starting to fade.

"What's happening, why are the beasts this far out?" He mumbled to himself.

Overlord Plane beasts weren't supposed to be in this area, yet, not only are they in the area but there are seemingly countless Overlord Plane beasts. Even while trying to evade them, he was still noticed by this giant lizard which had legs that were longer than how the legs of a lizard should be.

The lizard charged towards him once again, it clearly wanted to kill Grey for stepping into its territory.

Chapter 435 - Changes In The Magical Beasts' Forest II

Boom! Bam!

The lizard continued attacking Grey. It couldn't really be counted as a fight since it was a one-sided trouncing. The space element could do so much, and due to him not having a high mastery of the element, he isn't able to cover a large area.

Bang!

Grey crashed through a tree, breaking it in half.

His body was sore from the attacks of the lizard, and even after trying to escape, the lizard continued chasing after him relentlessly.

'I'll have to take it to the area occupied by another Overlord Plane beast or else I'm doomed.' Grey soon gave up on trying to escape since he knew it was futile.

What was worse was that he couldn't get into the Fusion State since he would need to be undisturbed for at least a minute or so.

'If only Void were here, then I wouldn't have to worry about who would distract this lizard.' He shook his head in anger as he followed the path he recalled there being an Overlord Plane beast.

He was running hastily while also using the space element to dodge some of the attacks of the lizard.



He had tried attacking it with inscriptions that he made during the start of the battle, but the lizard's scales were stronger than all his defenses combined. None of his attacks could even leave a scratch on it, well, except for the darkness element.

Due to the highly corrosive property of the darkness element, it can at least cause the lizard a little bit of damage. This has been the only thing that he had been able to use to at least delay the lizard for a few seconds so he could escape from some situations.

The lizard would always try to dodge all his darkness element attacks while tanking the rest of them.

He was starting to get exhausted from the constant use of the space element, and it was starting to take its toll on him. If things were to continue in this fashion, then he would be caught by the lizard.

'Ellis,'

The young man with a feminine voice suddenly came to mind when he realized how dire his situation was.

Taking out the wooden plaque, his expression turned sour when he saw the distance between them. If Ellis were to start flying towards him even at his maximum speed, it would still take him at the very least, three hours. There was no way he could survive that long.

'Damn it! Damn it! Damn it!' He complained before bolting towards where the last Overlord Plane beast he sensed was located.

He was currently betting everything on this beast while also taking a huge risk. If the second Overlord Plane beast were to join this lizard in attacking him, then he was done for. But since such co-operations were rare among beasts, he was hoping these two would fight it out as soon as they sensed each other.

While running there, Grey noticed something that almost made him change his mind. There were multiple corpses on the way, from the wounds on their body, it was evident that they were inflicted by a beast with sharp claws.

Boom! Crash!

Grey was caught by an attack from the beast once again, crashing forward. But he used the momentum to gain some more distance from the lizard.

Blood was already starting to drip from the side of his mouth which indicated that he had sustained some internal injuries from the multiple attacks of the lizard.

'It shouldn't be fa...'

Boom!

Grey's thoughts were disrupted by the explosion that sounded out in front of him.

The sound seemed to be coming from a few hundred meters away, but it was very clear to him.

Without even thinking, he charged towards where the sound came from.

If it were people who were fighting, then he would try to use them to distract the lizard while he escaped. If it's a magical beast, then it would be better.

He would feel a little guilty if he were to use people to escape from the lizard since he didn't know if the people were good or bad, nor did he know if they had families waiting for them outside the Magical Beasts' forest.

Boom! Bam!

The lizard behind him continued attacking wildly, luckily, he dodged this attack with the space element.

But with the continuous usage of the space element, he was getting more exhausted.

It didn't take up to a minute before he got to where the sound was coming from. In front of him were three people who were covered in blood, opposite them was a huge ash cat.

The cat stood at around three meters tall with a length of almost six meters.

'Wow! That's big!' He exclaimed on seeing the size of the cat.

Growl!

The cat turned its attention to him as soon as he appeared, to the relief of the trio who were almost on the verge of death.

It suddenly pounced towards Grey. At the same moment it pounced at him, the lizard appeared and attacked Grey as well.

Mustering the little bit of essence he had left of his space element, he vanished.

Boom! Bang!

The cat was sent flying by the attack of the lizard since it bore the brunt force of the attack.

"Run!"

Grey appeared almost twenty meters away, sparkling with red lightning, he bolted for safety.

Even though he told the trio to run, he didn't even glance at them while he was escaping. It was none of his business if they ran or not, what mattered to him was that the lizard might be stopped by the cat. He didn't even turn to look at the outcome of the collision between both beasts.

The trio didn't stand any further and took off in another direction.

The lizard which was about to continue chasing after Grey was stopped by the enraged cat.

Boom! Bam!

They soon started battling against each other, just as Grey hoped.

But, the fight didn't last as long as he thought.

Chapter 436 - Just Like Throwing A Stone

Thirty minutes later.

A few kilometers away from where Grey left the lizard.

Grey could be seen sitting on top of a rock that was close to a river. His eyes were closed as he tried his best to replenish his space essence which was almost completely depleted when he was escaping from the lizard.

'Why are the beasts this far out?' He thought while trying to stabilize himself.

Even when he was running here, he still sensed three beasts that were in the Overlord Plane. Luckily, he managed to escape before they attacked him.

He knew something huge must be going on in the deeper parts of the forest given how even the Overlord Plane beasts are coming to the outer parts of it. Although he hadn't encountered anyone that was at the very peak of the Early stages, or in the Mid stages of the Overlord Plane, he knew if he were to continue heading deeper, he would see them in no time.

From the device the last time he checked, if he followed Ellis, then he would be going deep into the forest.

'Just how powerful is he?' He asked himself.

Ellis seemed to be in his early twenties, yet he was already this powerful. For him to freely fly deep into the forest is a testament to his confidence in himself.

Grey couldn't help but think about how things were in the continent Ellis came from. Thinking about it, he thought of his parents again. If they were from that continent, then there's a chance that they were powerful. Even Ellis was this strong, then they too should be at least as strong as Ellis, right?

But on second thought, he couldn't be certain since even in a superior place like that continent, there must be people who couldn't really cultivate properly, hence stagnating. What if his parents were one of those people? It made sense since they came to this small place and didn't even tell him about that other continent since they were ashamed.

Multiple thoughts were running through Grey's head as he continued replenishing his space essence, as well as his wind and lightning essence. Physically, he was tired since he sprinted for minutes nonstop. Had it not been for his regular training in the trial land, then he wouldn't have been able to escape from that lizard.

Grey decided to focus on replenishing his essence. He also took out one of those vials which contained the healing tonic they extracted from the blooming viper and drank it.

Despite the fact that he could heal himself without it, it would take some time before he recovers fully. In a place like this, especially given the current circumstances, it wasn't wise to take such risks.

One hour later.

'Wow! The essence here is better than it is outside. Why is that?' Grey exclaimed internally.

If he were to be outside the Magical Beasts' forest, it would take longer for him to replenish the essence he lost during the escape. But here, it took around one hour or so.

While Grey was marveling at the mystery of the Magical Beasts' forest, something was staring at him from deep in the water, waiting for the right time to pounce on the unsuspecting Grey.

It slowly swam from the depths of the water, edging closer to Grey by the second.

Grey suddenly felt a pair of eyes glued to him, but he didn't know where the sensation was coming from. He looked at the forest curiously, but he couldn't find what was staring at him.

"Hmm, strange," He muttered.

He stood up and moved closer to the river, looking at the other side of it.

Splash!

The creature sprang out from the river at breakneck speed, spreading its gigantic jaws as it tried to bite the head of Grey.

Grey reacted by taking a step forward instead of backing away. He bent down as he took the step, making sure to dodge the jaws of the beast.

His simple movement placed him under the creature which had over half its body mid-air.

Grey looked at the stomach of the creature, his eyes trailing to the other half that was on its way from springing out of the water. It was surprisingly a crocodile. He didn't know which element it was attributed to since it hadn't attacked with an element yet.

After missing its target, the crocodile continued going forward, its body fully leaving the water.

Bam!

It landed heavily on the ground a few meters away before turning around hastily, facing Grey face to face.

'Huge.'

This was the first thing that rang in Grey's head.

The crocodile before him was over nine meters long, and the size of its head was insane. Even Grey felt a little chill from it. If he were bitten by that head, he would be cut in half, no doubt about that. Luckily, the crocodile was at the Peak of the Origin Plane, and it had not yet broken through to the Overlord Plane.

"Get back into the water, no need to die unnecessarily," Grey said before moving to the side.

He didn't have the time to fight with this crocodile. He was planning on leaving this place since there's a chance that the disturbance might attract other beasts. An Overlord Plane beast is something he didn't wish to encounter presently.

The crocodile opened its mouth and sprayed out a stream of water towards him. Grey shook his head before disappearing from sight.

He soon appeared behind the crocodile, holding onto the tail, he began spinning, taking the crocodile with him.

The nine meters long crocodile was lifted off the ground by Grey easily while it was still spraying out water. After going three full circles, Grey let go of the crocodile.

It went in the direction of the river, due to the force of the throw, it skipped on the surface of the water six times, before crashing on the other side of the river.

The river was around twenty-six to thirty meters wide, yet Grey threw the crocodile to the other side, well, with the help of the water.

#### Chapter 437 - Another Cave Abode

Grey hastily left the area, heading in the direction Ellis was located. Since Ellis has the advantage of flight, then it was preferable to leave the search of the bamboo forest to him.

He would explore the forest while heading deeper into it. His present plan was to try to get to the Ninth stage of the Origin Plane, and the best way to do that was through battles or obtaining treasures. If not for the irregularities in the forest recently, then he would've been searching for beasts at the Peak of the Origin Plane to fight against.

'Looks like searching for a treasure is my best bet,' He decided.

He started slowly moving through the forest, dodging all the Overlord Plane beasts he sensed on the way while searching for treasures. Whenever he encounters any Origin Plane beasts in areas where he doesn't sense any Overlord Plane beast, who would go all out in fighting against it.

Later that day.

The sun had already set and Grey searched for a place to cultivate through the night.

He hasn't seen anything of interest since coming into the Magical Beasts' forest, and only fought against three beasts during the day since he couldn't stay for long.

He took out the crystal orb Ellis gave to him while sitting in the cave.

The orb soon gave off a dim light and Ellis' face appeared in it.

"Can I help you with anything?" Ellis asked.

"No, I wanted to see how your search is going," Grey asked.



"Well, not so good. I've seen three bamboo forests so far, but none has that liquid you're searching for," Ellis replied hastily.

Grey noticed Ellis was occasionally looking behind him while he was talking to him.

"Is anything wrong?" He couldn't help but ask.

"Not really, this is a bad time... Shit!" Ellis exclaimed at the end of his statement before freaking out and glowing with blue light.

Roar! Boom!

"I'll talk to you later!" Ellis said before the light in the orb died down.

The orb went dark and the image of Ellis disappeared from it. Grey couldn't help but wonder what would make Ellis look that freaked out. But given how Ellis managed to speak with him even before going off, it was safe to say that he wouldn't die, hopefully.

Grey took out the wooden plaque, it was the best way to find out if Ellis died or not. As long as his light dot doesn't move, then it could mean that he was dead, but if it continues moving, then it means that he's alive.

On looking at the plaque, Grey was stunned at the speed at which Ellis' light dot was moving.

"Okay, he's alive. Guess I should focus on cultivating then. I'll check on him later," He mumbled before shutting his eyes.

He had already set up arrays around him, and even went as far as setting an array to notify him if anything were to move within five hundred meters of where he was located.

That night ended with nothing happening. Grey cultivated all through the night, he would occasionally check the plaque to see where Ellis was located if he was alive or dead.

There was a time when Ellis' light dot didn't move for over two hours. Just when Grey was thinking of contacting him, he noticed he had started moving again.

The next morning.

Grey started moving forward once again. He couldn't stay in one place, and according to Ellis, he would be leaving the next day. If Ellis doesn't find the bamboo forest before then, he would be forced to continue the search on his own.

For some reasons though, he didn't feel too confident in being able to locate the bamboo forest. The reason he felt this way was because the forest was just too big. Even if he decided to dedicate his time to searching everywhere, it would take him countless years before he could travel around it.

'\*Sigh\* Void, it would be great if nothing happened to you.' He thought while walking away from where he passed the night.

After walking for a few hours, he encountered people. There was at least a group of six or so, and each group contained a minimum of seven people and a maximum of fifteen people. In front of them was a cave, just like the one he entered with Ellis and that group.

The people noticed him and looked in his direction. Luckily, he had his robe on so none of them knew what he looked like. If they knew he was a youngster, some of them might want to attack him or pressure him to leave the place, but now, they let him be.

He stared at the cave, although he couldn't really sense anything inside, he decided to wait here with the others. After all, all these people wouldn't stay here if there wasn't the chance of there being a treasure here. This cave was also relatively bigger than the one he entered previously.

What he noticed was that of the multiple people here, only two were in the Eighth stage of the Origin Plane, the rest were either in the Ninth stage or at the Peak of the Origin Plane.

'They must be the top people who explore this place, well, below the Overlord Plane.' He thought.

There are also groups in the Overlord Plane who come into the Magical Beasts' forest, but since Overlord Plane Elementalists aren't as many as those in the Origin Plane, it's difficult to encounter them.

Even with the beasts coming this far out, those groups would still venture deeper inside the forest.

After almost an hour, the first group walked into the cave.

The others stood up and followed behind them. Grey also didn't stay behind, walking at the back of the groups.

From their cautious looks, Grey knew none of them had entered the cave before, so they didn't know what to expect inside it.

#### Chapter 438 - Move Or Die

Grey stepped into the cave while keeping his guard up, he didn't know what to expect here, and there's also the possibility of the people who had gone in attacking him.

On getting inside, he saw the groups all standing cautiously, staring at the path that led deep into the cave. He tried to sense it with his earth element.

'Hmm, it's not like that one, but just don't think it's any less dangerous.' He thought inside.

Unlike the previous one that connected to a valley, this one had a series of underground tunnels that led deeper into the cave.

Grey wasn't the only one who had noticed this, the others have as well. Now, it was all a matter of who went first, not just that, but which tunnel they would choose later on.

The first group, which was led by an old man with white beard and hair snorted before taking the first step, followed closely behind by his companions.

The first path in the cave led to three more paths that separated once again. The paths kept increasing, while there's also empty spaces in some paths.

Grey guessed if there was anything in the paths, they would be located in these spaces.

After the first group took the lead, the others followed right behind them.

Grey didn't go in hurriedly, rather, he waited till all the groups had gone in before sitting down. He closed his eyes, and then spread out his spiritual senses. He wanted to see which of the tunnels was less crowded before picking which one to take.

After almost a minute, he realized the one which was chosen by the first group was the one that was less crowded. The reason for that was very simple, the others who weren't strong enough didn't want to offend them.

Grey smiled and went into the tunnel, on getting to the path where it was separated, he instantly picked the one in the middle. Before long, he had gotten to the end of that path which had five paths. Just like what he did before, he picked the same path the first group did.

Some of the groups which followed the first group had started to pick a different path since there wasn't any use in following the first group when there were opportunities in the other paths as well.

Grey didn't change paths yet, he continued following the first group. He felt compared to the others, the first group seemed to have a clear cut goal in front of them. They didn't take time when choosing a path, as soon as they got to a path, they would immediately take one of them.

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After almost twenty minutes, Grey was the only one left who was following the same path as the first group. The others have all taken other paths.

"Sir, that guy in a robe is still following us," One of the ladies in the first group walked closer to the old man and whispered.

"Let him come, he'll die even if he doesn't follow us," The old man said nonchalantly.

"Okay, sir," The lady bowed before retreating.

The expressions of the others in the group changed when they heard what the old man said. His statement meant that whatever path the others took, they would die in the end.

"Sir, what are in the other paths?" One man asked.

"Heh! Death," The old man smirked as he replied.

"What about this path?" Someone asked curiously.

"Without me? Death. With me? Treasures," The old man said confidently.

The others looked at each other nervously, but after clenching their fists, they decided to follow him. It wasn't like they had an option anyway.

After walking for ten more minutes, the group stopped, not taking a step further.

Grey who was behind them knew what they wanted to do but didn't think about it too much. He couldn't stop since that might induce the group to attack him.

'Heh! Since they want to play, then we will play.' He thought inside.

On the way here, he had noticed some things in this place, and what he guessed was that this place was nothing more than a deathtrap. Luckily, this group was ahead of him making the journey easy.

It didn't take long before he appeared in front of the group.

"Hello," He waved at the group.

"Can I ask why you're following us?" The old man asked.

"Following you?" Grey feigned ignorance.

"Hmph! Stop playing dumb, you wouldn't have a second chance," One of the men in the group snorted.

"I'm not following you people, there are paths to choose from, and I'm picking the one I feel is safer," Grey said casually.

"If that's the case, then why don't you go ahead?" The old man showed Grey the way while opening a path for him.

"Okay, I see no reason why you're being fussy about it," Grey nodded and moved forward nonchalantly.

The old man and the group behind him were slightly taken aback given how quickly he agreed to it. They almost wanted to believe that he truly wasn't following them, well, almost.

Grey went forward, a smirk on his face. But his expression soon changed when he walked almost six meters away from where the group were standing.

He vanished, appearing two meters backward.

Boom!

The place where he stood blew up, lava sprouting out of the ground.

The group behind him burst out laughing when they saw this.

Grey looked at the lava, unperturbed by it. He walked forward and quickly walked past the side where the lava was coming out from.

After getting past it, he soon disappeared from their view.

"Come on, let's go. He'll help us clear some of the obstacles, but don't be in a hurry in case he accidentally evades some," The old man ordered.

The others nodded and followed behind Grey. They were the ones doing the dirty work all these while, now, they wanted Grey to do it.

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'Just as I guessed, this place is a death trap. These people definitely know how to go through it, if I lead the way, I might get hurt,' Grey thought after dodging another round of attacks.

After thinking about it was better for him to find a way and get to the back of this group again. Staying at the front wouldn't do him any good. What made things worse was that there doesn't seem to be another path that divided.

He continued walking a little further before getting to the place that was spacious. This is usually the place he believed there might be treasures, because he had been following the group from behind, he hadn't really been able to see anything in the spaces whenever he got there.

'Okay, I'll take a look first before going to their back.' He thought.

His curiosity towards what he might get here got the better of him. He quickly started searching before the group would get to where he was located. If there's a treasure here, then the group would try to take it as soon as they came in.

The place was around fifty meters wide, given Grey's speed, it didn't take long before he completely swept the area. There were multiple herbs in the area, as well as some rocks. He didn't really look at them and kept them all in his storage ring.

After sweeping the place, he started to wait for the group.

A minute later, the group arrived.

The expression on their faces was one of surprise as well as shock when they didn't find anything there. They had gotten some rewards from the previous ones, so they felt expectant as to what would be here.

"You, where are the treasures?" One of the men pointed at Grey.

"Treasures? Which treasures?" Grey asked.

"What do you mean what treasures?! There are supposed to be treasures in here!" The man said.

"Well, do you see anything in here?" Grey asked with hands spread out wide.

"You... you... you must have them," The man pointed at him.

"Where would I put them?" Grey asked, while staring at the man as if he was an idiot.

"Stop speaking," The old man said.

The man kept quiet before retreating.

"What are you waiting for then?" The old man asked.



"I'm resting, I've almost died countless times," Grey replied, before asking, "Also, why are you people following me?"

The old man was stunned by Grey's question. This was the same question they asked Grey, now, he was asking them the question.

"This is the only path, why would you think we are following you?" The old man tried to defend his group.

"You're following me, I don't like it, it's either you go through, or you take another path," Grey gave them an ultimatum.

"You seem to be very confident, move or ydie," A man from the group said.

They were tired of the old man's calm way of doing things.

#### Chapter 439 - Floating Red Bead

The area turned tense for a few seconds with both parties staring at each other, well, the group was winning the staring contest since they had more people, and they were all glaring furiously at Grey.

If looks could kill someone, then Grey would've died a couple of times over already.

"Enough, I'll advise you to keep moving," The old man stepped between the group and Grey before saying.

"That's impossible, either we move together or you guys go on ahead," Grey said.

The old man thought about it for a while before nodding his head, "Fine, we don't have all day,"

"Sir!"

The others in the group called out to the old man, giving him a questioning look.

"Don't worry, he has his use. Either him, or one of you?" The old man whispered to the others.

On hearing his question, they could tell whatever uses Grey had wasn't something that would benefit him. What they found more alarming was when the old man asked either Grey or one of them. This meant that had Grey not come into the picture, then one of them would've been used as a sacrificial lamb.

They all looked at Grey with gleaming eyes, it was as if they were staring at their savior.

On seeing their gazes, Grey couldn't help but shudder at the thought of why they were looking at him like that.

He didn't think the old man would agree to his request that easily, this made him feel he probably had something planned for him. If not for the fact that fighting against this group would be a little stressful, and that he needed them to guide him to whatever they were targeting, he would've killed them already.

With the space element, it's impossible for any of these people in the Azure continent to fight against him. Even Ellis who was familiar with the space element said it was difficult to fight against Space Elementalists.

His switch skill made him even more overpowered, compared to other Space Elementalists.

'Whoever made that technique must be a true genius. Luckily, I managed to acquire it.' He thought.

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Grey and the group soon started walking forward, he moved so nonchalantly that the group couldn't help but wonder if he was alright upstairs.

A normal person wouldn't try to pick a fight against a group of nine, nor would they travel with the same group he wanted to fight with. They all had the same thoughts when looking at Grey, either he was very confident in his abilities, or he was a complete psycho who didn't give a damn about his own life.

On the way, they soon got to a new divided path.

Grey watched the old man, and he saw him taking out something from his clothes. Within a few seconds, he walked towards one of the paths.

'Who the hell even made this place?' He asked, a little tired of the long walk.

He didn't understand why people would set these death traps if they actually wanted people to obtain what they left in the cave. But he found the first cave he entered to be better since it didn't take this long to get to where the treasure was located.

The old man also easily deactivated all the traps in front of them. He couldn't help but think if the old man had come here before, or if he got information about this place from whoever made it.

Thinking up to this part, Grey couldn't help but look forward to what might happen.

'It's definitely a trap!' He concluded.

Given the intricacy of this place, it was impossible to move through it without the help of the person who made it.

After almost one hour of moving, they soon got to the end of the cave. A hair-raising chill went through the body of everyone who walked into the final part of the cave.

Lava was flowing through the ground, at the center of the open space was what looked to be a temple, chains and skeletons could be seen all around. There was also a red orb suspended in the middle of the temple, giving off an eerie but hot feeling.

"We're here!" The old man said to the others.

"What's that?" One of the ladies in the group stepped forward to ask.

"It's something very special, come on, let's keep going," The old man said before jumping over the lava, onto the temple.

Grey looked at the orb and couldn't help but find it very familiar.

The people in the group exchanged glances before jumping onto the temple as well. Since they've already gotten here, what's the use of hesitating.

Just as Grey was about to follow them, he caught sight of something. A thin red line that ran from the walls of the cave, moving into the temple. Looking at it properly, he caught a scent of something he was familiar with, blood.

'A blood sacrifice?' He asked.

He looked at the temple and realized the thin line ended under the floating red orb.

'That's it, it's an origin bead!' He almost lost his footing when he realized what the orb was.

Only an Overlord Plane expert can create an origin bead. What's worth mentioning is that although some experts decide to leave their origin beads when they die, most would prefer it dies with them since they didn't want others to benefit from their years of cultivation.

If an Arcane Plane Elementalists were to absorb this origin bead, then he would most certainly break through to the Overlord Plane in no longer than a year. Some people would break through to the Overlord Plane in three months even.

This bead could be said to be a priceless treasure, yet, one is right in front of him. But Grey didn't get greedy in trying to steal, rather, he sat down crossed legs with eyes glued to the temple.

After the others stepped into the temple, they all walked towards the origin bead, after all, other than the skeletons, it was the only thing there.

#### Chapter 440 - Tricked By An Old Man

"Old man, what is this?" One of the men in the group stepped forward.

The man had short brown hair, his eyes filled with bloodlust.

The way he addressed the man has changed completely. He used to address him with utmost respect, but since he had brought them to where they wanted, he wasn't needed anymore.

"Hehe, do you all know about origin beads?" The old man chuckled as he asked.

"What?! Origin beads?!" The man who stepped forward exclaimed in shock.

He didn't think that what the old man was leading them to was an origin bead. If he were to absorb it, then he would be able to instantly break through to the Overlord Plane. That would place him at the top of the world.

He wasn't the only one who felt excited about the thought of the origin bead.

"Haha, to think there's such a treasure here. Since I'm a Fire Elementalist, it's only acceptable that I take it," A fiery looking man stepped forward laughing.

"Hmph! You're not the only Fire Elementalist in this group," Another man stepped forward.

The third person who walked out was the lady who was closer to the old man amongst the group during the journey.

"You two don't have any manners, Sir still haven't spoken," She chided the duo.

"What the hell is wrong with you? Sir? Who are you calling Sir, this old man?" The fiery looking man asked with a mocking voice.

"Just like what we agreed from the start, I have a share in the treasure," The old man said calmly.

"What? You want a share in this? You're already at death's door, why don't I help you?" The fiery looking man asked while licking his lips.

The others in the group burst out laughing when they heard this. If not for the old man's use, they would've killed him right from the start. But on hearing there was a great treasure in the cave from the man, they decided to team up with him.

They never expected he would actually believe them when they agreed that he would get a share from the treasure.

"An origin bead can be absorbed by anyone, irrespective of their base element. Although, it would be better suited for those who have the same element as that of the bead." The old man said.

"We all know that," The first man who spoke out said while walking towards the old man with a smirk.

"You see, this bead needs a little more blood and it will finally get to the level it needs in order to advance," The old man said calmly.

"Blood? What are you saying old man?" The man paused.

"Yes, remember when I said that guy was needed for something?" The old man asked.

The man nodded.

"This is what it's for. All we need to do is sacrifice him, and the bead will get to its peak!" The old man said fervently.

The others looked at the bead, then at the old man, before staring at the entrance to the cave.

"Huh? Where did he go?" Someone asked when they didn't see Grey there, nor in the temple.

"He must have run away, it doesn't matter, he will die eventually," The old man said coldly.

"Since he's gone, what now?" The man asked.

"The sacrifice must go on. Also, just in case you're thinking of sacrificing me, I'm needed to organize the sacrifice," The old man said with a smile.

He made sure he would be of use right to the end, there was no way these people could get rid of him.

The man paused, and couldn't help but look at the others. All eight individuals suddenly retreated from each other since they didn't know who would attack them from behind.

"No need for you guys to be this worked up, we already have the perfect sacrifice," The man said before turning to the lady who was close to the old man.

The lady took a step back in fear, just as she took a step back, her pupils shrunk. She looked down and an old looking hand could be seen holding onto a heart that was still beating. The hand passed through her chest, which was bloodied.

Blood slowly started to flow from her wound, as well as her mouth.

The old man who was standing behind her withdrew his hand and the lady's body fell to the ground with a 'thud'. Her blood moving towards the bead.

The group looked at the old man with a strange expression, not expecting him to betray the lady that quickly.

The bead suddenly started spinning at a faster rate as it greedily absorbed the lady's blood. Within a few seconds, the corpse of the lady dried up completely.

The others stared at the bead, a little horrified by it.

"Is an origin bead supposed to absorb blood?" The fiery looking man couldn't help but ask.

"Hehe, of course not. But you see, I found this technique that would help me advance. All I need to do is feed my origin bead as much blood as I can, hehehe," The old man laughed out as he spoke, a different look appearing on his face.

His current expression was that of a predator that was staring at its helpless prey.

"Your origin bead?" The man with brown hair asked.

"Yes. You see, this was all an elaborate plot to get you all here. Although the blood could be acquired from the tunnels, it would be more beneficial when the people were closer to the bead. The reason I picked your group amongst the others was because you people were stronger," The old man answered.

His previous demeanor was slowly changing to that of an intimidating person. None of the people here could attribute the present old man to the one who led them here.

"I still don't understand," The fiery man said. He could feel a pressure from the old man that petrified him.

"Don't worry, you will soon," The old man cackled.

Boom!

The fiery looking man attacked immediately.