

Affinity 451

Chapter 451 - Do You Regret It Now?

Grey created a small hole on the ground, promptly hiding Void so the group wouldn't see him.

"What's the meaning of this?" He asked with a cold voice while releasing an icy aura.

"You're that guy from the Lunar Academy, aren't you?" The young man who was Jonas' friend pointed at him.

"What does that have to do with you people disturbing my peace?" Grey asked.

Even when speaking with the trio, his current focus was on the condition of Void. He was checking to see if there were any reactions from him, but there has been none.

"You're the reason my brother is dead," The young man said angrily.

"Who is your brother?" Grey asked, confused.

He didn't recall killing anyone from the Starlight Academy.

Seeing Grey's reaction, the young man was more annoyed. Without even speaking any further, he attacked immediately.

Whoosh!

Multiple wind blades shot towards Grey's location.

With a simple flick of his hand, an earth wall rose in front of him, blocking all the wind blades.

Boom!

"I still don't understand why you people are attacking me, are you dumb or something?" Grey asked after successfully blocking the attack.

He still couldn't understand why people would chase after someone just because he was from the Lunar Academy. At least he could somewhat understand why the young man who attacked him wanted to kill him since he seems to be driven by revenge, but the other two hated him right from the get-go.

"Going to the Lunar Academy is the dumbest decision you've ever made," One of the other two young men replied.

Grey shook his head on hearing the reasoning of the young man. Just because he went to the Lunar Academy automatically made him their enemy? What sort of reasoning was that?

"Stop speaking to him, kill him now that he hasn't completely recovered. According to Jonas, he's weaker than this guy. You should be aware of how powerful Jonas is," Jonas' friend turned to the other and said.

The other two looked at Grey, they never thought he would grow this powerful after not seeing him for such a short time. But Jonas was an example of how quickly the special training made those who participated in it grow.

Thinking about it, they felt jealous of him. Since Jonas returned from the special training, his status in the Academy soared, quickly rising above theirs.

They both exploded out with attacks of their own, attacking Grey with the young man.

Grey scoffed before setting up an earth wall to block their attacks.

Of the three of them, the duo who disliked Grey from the start were still in the Sixth stage of the Origin Plane, while the young man who was friends with Jonas was in the Seventh stage.

Grey could easily kill all of them even when he was at the weakest, much less when he was already almost perfectly fine.

Boom!

All the attacks were easily stopped by the earth wall.

The trio who attacked him were shocked at how nonchalantly he was able to block their attacks.

"Regret attacking me now?" Grey asked with a sneer.

The trio looked at each other, unconsciously nodding to Grey's question. Of course they regret it now! Given the strength Grey just showed, it meant that he could kill them without any problems.

They all started taking a step back.

"As much as I'd like not to kill you people, you guys will cause troubles for me in the future," Grey said casually.

He was currently fuming, but not because of them though. His attention was still placed on Void, and he realized that the liquid had already stopped radiating its soothing aura, and there still weren't any reactions from Void. This meant that it didn't work.

This trio were unlucky to provoke him at such an unfortunate time.

"You... you... don't want to kill us, if you do, Jonas will be in trouble," One of the two young men said while retreating.

"I don't see where that's my problem," Grey shrugged as he walked towards them.

The trio were thinking of ways to escape as they retreated. The young man who spoke previously thought the relationship between Grey and Jonas was close, hence he tried using Jonas to threaten him.

The young man who was Jonas' friend was the first to try to escape, charging straight through the entrance of the cave. He was the fastest among the group since he was a Wind Elementalist. The other two were a Water and Earth Elementalist respectively.

Grey smirked, "You think you can leave after trying to kill me?"

He spread out his hand, closing it, two earth walls popped out from the side of the entrance to the cave, shutting the trio inside with him.

The Wind Elementalist was just about to get to the entrance when the wall appeared. He was forced to stop moving, despair appearing on his face.

"Since you miss your brother so much and want to take revenge for him, why don't you join him?" Grey's voice echoed on the side of the Wind Elementalist's ear.

The Wind Elementalist stood in the same position, terror-stricken. It didn't even take up to a second before Grey noiselessly appeared behind him.

"Please... don't... don't kill me, I don't want to die yet," The Wind Elementalist started begging.

"Whoever wants to kill should also be prepared to be killed," Grey said casually.

He tapped the Wind Elementalist on his shoulder, and ice started to spread across his entire body at an unimaginable speed. Before he could even react, he was frozen solid.

The two young men who were behind them were petrified when they witnessed this scene. Grey didn't even show any effort, and the Wind Elementalist who was not only the strongest but was also the fastest was dead.

Grey turned around, looking at the duo. He clenched his fists, and it was followed by a bang.

Bang!

The ice statue behind him exploded, breaking into multiple small pieces.

"Compared to him, your death will be a little bit more painful," Grey said as he walked towards them with a wicked smile.

His handsome face was the only contrast with the murderous aura he was releasing.

Chapter 452 - The Auction

Grey walked to the small hole he created where Void was still lying down. He couldn't help but feel sad when he still saw him asleep.

Even after venting on the trio, he still didn't feel good.

'Damn it! I guess I'll have to head back and wait till the auction. I'll ask old man Gerald to help me with my parents' whereabouts while waiting. If he doesn't find them before then, then I guess I'll be leaving this continent,' Grey immediately came to a decision.

The more Void stayed in this condition, the more he was annoyed with himself. If Void were to be alright, then he would've already left this continent by now. Even he knew the chances of his parents being in the Azure continent was slim. He just wanted to use the time he was waiting for the auction to see if there would be any hope in finding them here.

After coming to a decision, he quickly picked Void up, leaving the cave. His current destination was Lapis City, he wanted to cultivate there while waiting. His interest in the Magical Beasts' forest was dead. If he were to continue staying here, he was sure he would use the array sooner than he expected.

The cave returned to its previous calm before Grey came in, other than some ashes, as well as bits of ice on the ground, one wouldn't know a battle occurred here not too long ago.

Some minutes after Grey left.

Two silhouettes appeared at the entrance of the cave. It was none other than Jonas and the young lady who was with him.

"We were too late," The young lady said with hands covering her mouth.

"*Sigh* I knew this would be the outcome," Jonas shook his head.

He didn't feel sad for his friend's death or angry at Grey for killing him. The short time he spent with Grey in the trial land showed him a little bit of Grey's personality, so he knew as long as these people tried to kill him, he definitely won't hold back.

"Come on, I think it's time to leave this place," He turned around.

Since the people he was supposed to train in the forest were dead, there was no use in him staying here any further. Besides, he had heard of the current unrest in the Magical Beasts' forest.

He didn't know what was the cause, neither did he care.

The young lady looked at the bits of ice and ashes with a sad look on her face, but she followed after Jonas. The journey to the Magical Beasts' forest hasn't been particularly good for her, so she wanted nothing more than to leave right now.

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Two weeks later.

Lapis City.

Grey was still cooked up in his room in a tavern. There was little over three days before the auction, and he still hadn't heard of there being any treasures like what he wanted being submitted for the auction.

He was sitting on the floor cultivating when he suddenly felt some sort of vibration coming from his storage ring.

He opened his eyes, staring at the ring. He brought out the wooden plaque old man Gerald gave to him.

Sending his spiritual senses inside, he heard the voice of old man Gerald.

'Grey my boy, how are you doing?' Old man Gerald asked.

'I'm fine thanks, how are you?' Grey replied before asking.

'I'm good. So, about the search for your parents, they're nowhere to be found. There haven't even been as much as a sighting of them in any other place in the continent other than when they came to Red City. Since they left Red City, they disappeared into thin air. No one even saw them leaving,' Old man Gerald reported their findings to Grey.

'Oh, thank you for your help. I think they'll come when they feel it's time to see me again,' Grey said.

Old man Gerald has been so helpful, even Grey didn't think he would help him this freely. If only he knew old man Gerald was doing all these to make sure he stayed wherever he was and not accidentally venture to Frost City while searching for his parents.

'It's okay. Also, there has been no word of anyone submitting what you want for the auction. We will have to wait till the day of the auction to confirm. Anyway, I'll advise you to go to the auction,' Old man Gerald said.

'I plan on going as well,' Grey said.

They spoke a little longer before Grey went back to cultivating. With his parents not being found anywhere, he decided it was best to leave the continent and head out to search for them. But what was bothering him was where he was going to start his search. He doesn't know where his parents were from, nor where they would be.

Then, there's also the possibility that his parents were hiding somewhere in the Azure continent. There are a lot of families like that who will hide in remote places and unless they want to be found, no one would be able to find them. Well, except accidentally stumbling into where the family hid.

Although he didn't want to admit it, the real reason he was leaving the continent was so that he could find a way to quickly heal Void, and also his curiosity towards the continent Ellis spoke of.

If the youths were just as powerful as Ellis, then he had a lot of catching up to do. If he were there, he would see more motivation to try to improve faster. Here, he was already close to the very peak, hence cultivating wasn't as interesting as it used to be when he was still in the Arcane Plane.

He had already left most of the people in his generation behind in terms of strength. He needed a new challenge.

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Three days later.

The day he had been waiting for finally came, it was the day of the auction. Old man Gerald still hasn't told him of there being any item like what he wanted, so he wasn't hopeful in finding it here.

Chapter 453 - The Auction II

The auction was going to be held in the evening, and old man Gerald had sent someone to give Grey a special vip invitation, which would entitle him to a special area in the auction.

These areas are usually left for those powerhouses and people from big families who come to attend the auction.

Later that night.

Grey wore light blue long sleeves and trousers, while also putting on a mask that covered half of his face, before stepping out of the tavern.

A carriage was already waiting for him outside, the insignia of the Lenz organization was drawn boldly on the side of the carriage.

Grey couldn't help but praise old man Gerald for his resourcefulness. Although he wasn't sure he would acquire anything from the auction, he would still like to see what would be on display. There might be something that might pique his interest.

The Lenz organization building.

This was the largest building in the whole of Lapis City. It had a large marketplace inside it, while there was a huge hall where the auction would take place.

By the time Grey's carriage got to the building, it was already filled with people who were standing outside in an orderly manner, waiting to go in.

When Grey's carriage got close to the building, the people by the side all turned to look at who it was that was being brought by a carriage. There were a lot of carriages outside, but the individuals all came down from the carriage and walked towards the building's gate.

Grey wasn't an exception. He stepped down from the carriage when they got close to the building, heading towards the gate with soft steps.

The guards at the gate were already waiting for him, even without seeing his invitation, they knew he was very special since he was brought here by the organization's carriage.

"Right this way sir," The guards made way for him to go inside, before closing off the gate once again.

Grey didn't bother to look around, he walked straight into the building through the door the guards showed him. As soon as he walked inside, a beautiful young lady walked up to him.

"Hello sir, may I see your invitation?" The young lady asked gently.

Grey brought out the invitation given to him by old man Gerald.

After taking the letter, the young lady gasped when she saw Grey's viewing room in the hall was one of the best ones around. From the small part of Grey's face that was visible, she could tell that he was very young.

'He must be from one of the big families,' She thought.

She didn't brood over it for long as she returned the letter to Grey before saying, "Right this way sir,"

Grey nodded and followed behind her.

After a few minutes of walking, Grey got to the room he was assigned. At the top of the room's door, six was boldly written on it.

The young lady opened the door for Grey, who stepped in immediately.

"If you need anything, tug on that blue rope and I'll come over. If you want to make a bid for any item, tug on the red rope," The young lady said.

"Okay," Grey said before walking towards the window which was covered by a thick glass.

He looked through the window and realized there were rooms just like this one around the hall. Each room was protected by an array that would keep the spiritual senses of others out. He tried looking past the other windows, but he realized there was no way to see what was in the room.

'It's good this way,' He thought to himself.

He walked back to the chair close to the window, before taking a seat.

"Huh?" He raised his head curiously.

Looking behind him, he realized the young lady still hadn't closed the door.

"Anything?" He asked.

"Ah... no, I'll leave now sir," The young lady said flustered before closing the door hurriedly.

"Uh! Odd," Grey muttered.

Grey sat down quietly while patiently waiting for the auction to start. People were still flocking into the hall. He guessed it would be completely filled up within the next half hour or so.

Given the number of people he saw outside, he was confident that not all of them would be able to get into the hall.

One hour later.

"Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to this month's auction. Since there are a few new faces here, we'll state the rules once again." A deep voice said, attracting the attention of Grey who had his eyes closed.

He looked at the platform in the hall, and a sturdy man who was around six foot three inches was standing there, giving a speech.

The rules of the auction were very simple, first of all, whoever is making a bid should ensure they have the items they're offering, secondly, one shouldn't use their status to intimidate others into not bidding for an item. There were still a few more rules, but Grey didn't really take them into account.

"Now that you all is said, I'll introduce our host for the day." The burly man said after speaking out the rules.

"The beautiful, miss Verla," The burly man said while showing the guests to his left.

Grey followed the man's hand, and a beautiful young lady who wore a silver fitted gown walked onto the platform.

He heard from Klaus that the ladies who are always in charge of handling auctions are always beautiful, even though this was his first time attending one, he couldn't refute Klaus' words.

"Hello everyone, it's my honor to be your host for today. Hopefully, we all get what we want by the end of the event," The young lady's soft and clear voice resonated in the entire hall.

Given the size of the hall, Grey found it surprising that her soft voice could travel so far, effortlessly.

'Hmm,' Grey squinted his eyes, looking at the young lady.

There was something he found odd about her voice, he just couldn't figure it out now.

"There are a variety of items up for sale today, from how the auction was previously held, after ten regular items, we will bring out one of the few good items we have today," The young lady said.

The entire hall was quiet, waiting for her to continue. Seeing their attentiveness, the young lady nodded calmly before she continued.

"The first item on the list today is an old technique found in a cave deep in the Magical Beasts' forest, it's a fire element technique and the starting price for it will be three hundred and fifty mid-grade essence stones. For every bid made, the price must see an increase of twenty mid-grade essence stones," The young lady took out a shabby-looking scroll that had dust all over it.

Grey didn't show any interest in it, looking away right after it was introduced. He wasn't interested in learning any techniques for now.

"Three hundred and seventy essence stones!" A voice rang out right after the young lady finished speaking.

"Four hundred!"

"Four hundred and twenty!"

The price of the technique quickly shot up to five hundred essence stones before it started slowing down.

In the end, it was sold off for six hundred and forty mid-grade essence stones.

After the first item was sold, the young lady brought out the next item which was an elemental weapon. The elemental weapon sold for one thousand two hundred mid-grade essence stones.

The auction continued, but nothing had been able to draw Grey's interest. He couldn't help but feel bored. Throughout the time all these items were being brought out, none of the people in the special rooms had made an offer for any item.

Grey guessed they were waiting for the ones which the young lady said were better than these ones.

After over thirty minutes, the young lady was done selling off the first ten items on the list, now it was time to bring out one of the good items she spoke about.

"Alright, just like I said from the start, after the first ten items, we will bring out one of the good items we have. The item we will be taking out now is something few people have seen, a Griffin's egg," The young lady said the last sentence slowly, making sure everyone heard it perfectly.

"What? A Griffin's egg? If the first item on their list is this valuable, it's unimaginable what the last item would be."

"Wow! The auction this time is truly amazing!"

Different people were voicing their thoughts about the item that was placed for the auction.

Grey couldn't help but sit upright when he heard of the item. He had seen a Griffin before and knew just how majestic they were. He couldn't believe someone would actually find something like that and be willing to sell it.

'*Sigh* I already have Void, he'll oppress any other beast I decide to add to our group,' He shook his head, rejecting the thought of bidding for the egg.

Chapter 454 - The Auction III

"The starting price for the egg is fifty thousand mid-grade essence stones, for every bid made, the price must see an increase of two thousand mid-grade essence stones." Verla said before staring at the special rooms at the top, "Begin,"

"Sixty thousand,"

Just like from the previous items, an offer was made immediately after Verla finished speaking.

"Sixty-five thousand,"

"Eighty thousand,"

"Ninety thousand,"

"Ninety-five thousand,"

"One hundred thousand,"

The price of the egg continued increasing, and what was shocking was that none of the people in the special rooms had made any offers yet.

Verla was all smiles on seeing how quickly the price of the egg was shooting up.

Grey stared at the people who were sitting on the regular seats weirdly. They clearly know that items like these will be obtained by those in the special rooms, yet, why were they bidding?

"One hundred and..."

"Two hundred and fifty thousand,"

A deep distorted voice interrupted the man who was about to make a bid. It was from one of the special rooms.

'Huh? Even their voices are hidden?' Grey thought surprised.

This was his first time coming to an auction, so he found a lot of things going on to be strange.

'Hmm, maybe they don't want anyone to be attacked after they purchase an item. I don't think all the people in these special rooms are from big families. Some might even be like me who were just opportune,' He concluded after a while.

This was the only reason he could think of why the identities of the people were hidden.

After the person from the special room made an offer, the hall went silent. Given the large amount by which the price of the egg increased, none of the people in the normal area could make another offer.

On seeing that no one else was making any offers, Verla smiled before taking a step forward, "Our guest from room two offered two hundred and fifty thousand mid-grade essence stones, is anyone else going to make an offer?"

The room remained still for a while, and just as Verla was about to give the item to the guest in room two, a deep voice spoke out once again. This time, Grey saw a small light coming up from the room from which the voice came. The number eight was written on it.

"Three hundred thousand,"

Verla smiled when she saw this, as long as another room had made a bid for the item, then the price of the item would continue increasing.

"Three hundred and fifty thousand,"

The number twelve was written on the room which made this offer.

"Four hundred thousand," The person from room two made another offer.

"Heh! Four hundred and fifty thousand," The person from room twelve scoffed before saying.

"This is Owen from the Cedric family, I'll be in your debt if you allow me to take this egg," The person from room two said, this time though, his voice wasn't distorted.

"I don't care who you are or where you're from, I'll be the one to obtain this egg," The person from room twelve snorted coldly before replying.

"Hmph! We'll see about that," Cedric said coldly.

"Five hundred and fifty thousand,"

He increased the offer by one hundred thousand, unlike the previous time he made an offer.

"Six hundred thousand," The person from room twelve made an offer again.

"Seven hundred thousand," Cedric said calmly.

"Seven hundred and fifty thousand," The person from room twelve said.

"Eight hundred and fifty thousand," Cedric increased the offer by one hundred thousand once again.

"Heh! Nine hundred thousand," The person from room number twelve said.

Even though his voice was distorted, Grey and the others in the hall could still clearly sense the mockery in his tone.

"Hmm, you know what, you can have it," Cedric's calm voice resounded in the hall.

Grey found the exchange between the duo a little confusing, at first, he thought the person from room twelve was the one who was tricking Cedric into buying the egg for an exorbitant amount, who would've thought it was the other way round.

"Uh! Giving up so easily," The person from room twelve let out a surprised exclamation. He didn't think Cedric would give up so easily.

Cedric didn't reply.

"The guest from room twelve made an offer of nine hundred thousand mid-grade essence stones, is anyone making any other offer?" Verla asked, looking at the crowd.

After a few seconds of silence, she opened her mouth again.

"And the item is sold to the guest in room twelve! One of our workers will bring the item over to your room, you can make your deposit after clarifying the authenticity of the item," Verla nodded at one of the ladies by the side of the platform who walked over to take the item.

"I don't need to clarify the authenticity, I'm fully confident in what the Lenz organization offers," The guest from room twelve said coolly.

"Alright, thank you," Verla bowed towards the room, before turning to the crowd again, "We will continue with the regular items once again, after ten items, one of our main items will be placed on sale just like before,"

After that, she brought out a regular-looking rock. According to her, it was a special rock used for making elemental weapons.

Grey watched on as the auction continued further. Other than the Griffin's egg, nothing else had piqued his interest. Not just that, but he wasn't sure he would be able to afford any of the things here. The final amount which the egg was sold for was unbelievable.

He didn't even have up to one-tenth of that number of essence stones in his storage ring, much less even daring to make a bid.

'The people who come for all these auctions are insanely rich, given my poor status, there's no way I'll be able to cough up five thousand essence stones, even with the ones I took from Alice's place,' Grey thought.

"Looks like I need to find a way to make money," He muttered to himself.

The auction continued with Verla presenting the next few items.

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"Now, to present the second of our main items," Verla said after she finished selling the tenth item from the regular items.

She turned to look at her right, a young lady walked out with an item that was covered by a brown cloth.

"This is a rare herb found only in the depths of the Magical Beasts' forest. You all know how important it is to gain a good understanding of your element before breaking through to the Overlord Plane. This is exactly what this herb has to offer. Unfortunately, this particular species of the herb only helps with the comprehension of two elements, the water, and earth element,"

"The starting price of this herb is three hundred mid-grade essence stones, for every bid made, the price must see an increase of fifty thousand essence stones," Verla said before removing the piece of cloth that was used to cover up the herb.

Strong water and earth essence immediately spread out in the hall, covering the entire hall.

Even in the special rooms which were sealed by an array, Grey could still clearly feel the intensity of the water and earth essence in the herb.

"Wow, I should note down the appearance of this herb, I don't know if I might see it again when he heads back into the forest," Grey mumbled to himself.

He didn't have any plans of making a bid for the herb. To be honest, from the number of stones he had with him, he didn't even have any plans of bidding for anything. Well, unless something like what he was searching for appeared, then he would use every possible method he knew of to get it.

"Four hundred essence stones,"

An offer was made immediately after the herb was placed on sale.

Every individual here knew how difficult it was to gain a good understanding of their elements. Without this, there is no way an Origin Plane Elementalists could break through to the Overlord Plane.

Compared to these people, Grey had a huge advantage since he had been comprehending the elements from when he started cultivating. Although, he didn't really know what the requirements would be for him to break through, given the high number of elements he had.

"Five hundred thousand,"

"Five hundred and fifty thousand essence stones,"

"Six hundred thousand,"

"Seven hundred thousand,"

Within a little over a minute, the price of the herb had shot over one million mid-grade essence stones, and it was still increasing at a rapid pace.

"One million two hundred thousand,"

"One million five hundred thousand,"

The sudden increase in the price drew the attention of everyone in the hall.

The window covering room one opened up, and a handsome-looking young man stepped forward.

When everyone saw his appearance, they stood up hurriedly.

Grey found the behavior of the people in the crowd to be surprising.

Verla looked in that direction, on seeing the young man, she bowed, "It's an honor to be graced by your presence, Your Highness,"

Chapter 455 - Array Book

"It's nice seeing you again, miss Verla," The young man said with a soft smile.

"The pleasure is mine, Your Highness," Verla bowed once again to the young man.

Grey looked at the young man once again, he didn't know the identity of the young man, but from how he was being addressed by Verla, he guessed he must be royalty.

'Is he the Crown Prince?' He thought curiously.

He had heard of the Crown Prince, but he never got the chance to see him. The only time he got close to seeing him was when he allowed the Smith family to detain him.

While Grey was trying to guess the identity of the young man, someone from one of the special rooms spoke up.

"I never thought the Second Prince would attend such a mediocre auction," A voice said.

There was a little hint of mockery in the voice.

"I enjoy coming to these places, you may never know what you'll see here. Even a less popular auction tends to always have something special," The Second Prince said, still wearing a soft smile on his face.

"Since your highness wants this herb, it's only natural we leave it to you," Someone else from another room said.

"Hmph!" A cold snort came from the previous room.

"Since no one else is bidding for the item, the herb goes to His Highness the Second Prince," Verla immediately concluded the auction.

Although she would want to see the herb's value continue increasing, she knew since the Second Prince has shown his face, no one else would dare to bid. Even though his status isn't as high as that of the Crown Prince, he was still the Second Prince, someone who had the chance of becoming the next Emperor of the Qilin empire.

The Crown Prince is the one most of the people in the palace, big families, as well as the Emperor of the empire. The Second Prince has a few people behind him, however, that meager support isn't enough to get him the throne.

Grey looked at the expression of the Second Prince, and he couldn't help but commend his bearings. Even the Twelfth Prince he encountered previously also had a unique bearing.

'Looks like it runs in the family. I wonder what the Crown Prince looks like,' He thought.

After Verla sent the item to the Second Prince, she began auctioning off the regular items once again.

Just as she got to the seventh item, she brought out an item that roused Grey's interest.

"This book contains an ancient array formation. Usually, this array would be part of the main items in the list, but unfortunately, it's incomplete as there is only one-third of the methods needed to complete the array written in this book. Furthermore, the specifics of the array isn't known," Verla said while bringing out a worn-out book that seemed to have some side ripped off.

"You mean you do not know what the array is used for, yet you're going to sell it off?" Someone from the crowd asked.

"That's correct." Verla nodded, "We've given the book to our appraisal to verify it, and it is confirmed that it was from ancient times. However, not even the best array masters in the organization can decipher or bring out the use of the array since they don't know which step to take after the first steps shown in the book,"

"This book is something from ancient times, and the only reason it is being sold for higher is because we don't really know what it can do. The starting price for this book will be five thousand mid-grade essence stones, for every bid, the price must see an increase of five hundred essence stones," Verla said.

Even she wasn't too sure the item would sell, after all, she just said they couldn't find out what it was used for, nor was it complete. It would be a loss if anyone bought something they can't really use.

She stood at the platform nervously, waiting for someone to make a bid. Just as she was about to give up on the item, she heard a calm voice.

"Five thousand five hundred essence stones,"

Looking in the direction of the voice, she found out it was from the room with the number six on it. She never expected that it would be someone from the special rooms that would make the first offer.

Not just that, but before taking up the role as the host, she was informed by old man Gerald that the person in room six was a very important figure and he should be given whatever he wanted.

The people in the crowd stared at Grey's room as if they were looking at a fool. Who would want to obtain such an item? If even the best array masters from the Lenz organization couldn't decipher or use it, what was the use of buying it?

One has to know that the Lenz organization had the best array and forge masters in the entire continent.

After Grey made his offer, he sat down quietly, hoping that no one else made a higher offer.

The stones he had with him were just slightly above six thousand mid-grade essence stones. This is if he adds the low and high-grade stones he had.

If he buys this item, there is no way he would be able to activate the teleportation array.

"Is anyone willing to make a higher offer? If not, the book will be given to the guest from room six," Verla asked.

She naturally knew no one else would make an offer for the book, the fact that someone even made a bid for it was surprising.

After waiting for a few seconds, she immediately declared the item sold, telling the young lady by the side to bring it to Grey.

'Looks like there are no array fanatics here, else, they would be infinitely intrigued by something like this. If any of them were to be able to decipher it, it would be a huge honor. Hehe, how lucky,' Grey chuckled to himself while waiting for the book to be brought to him.

If not for the fact that he was a little curious about what the last item would be, he would've left immediately he collected the book, so he could start studying it.

Knock! Knock!

"You can come in," Grey said coolly.

The door to the room opened, and the young lady who attended to him when he came to the auction walked in holding a small animal skin bag in which the book was kept.

Grey had brought out all the stones he had with him, on seeing the stones beside him, the young lady gasped in surprise.

"How is that possible?" She muttered to herself.

When Grey came to the auction, she didn't recall seeing him with anything, so where did all these stones come from?

"What?" Grey raised a brow in confusion.

"It's nothing. Here's the book," The young lady handed the bag to Grey.

Grey collected the book before showing the young lady the pile of stones by the side.

"It should be accurate if you change them, there are..."

"You don't need to pay for the items you purchase," The young lady cut him short.

"Huh?" Grey looked at her in confusion.

"The lord informed us of your arrival and said whatever you bid for should be given to you, he'll take care of the bills," The young lady explained.

"Oh!" Grey exclaimed, making an 'o' with his mouth.

The young lady looked at Grey, dazed by his appearance. Even though half of his face was covered, it still couldn't hide his handsome face.

"Hello," Grey waved his hand across the face of the young lady.

"Are you alright?" He asked.

"Uh! Who, what... Ah! I'm fine thank you," The young lady first looked around in confusion before realizing where she was.

She exclaimed softly in embarrassment before hurriedly leaving the room.

Grey stared at her, confused by her strange behavior.

"Hmm, strange," He shook his head before deciding to check out the book.

He stretched out his hand and all the stones were kept back in his storage ring.

'I never thought old man Gerald would be so generous. *Sigh* If only I was as shameless as Klaus, then I'd buy something really expensive which I would naturally want to use,' He thought.

From what the young lady said, he could buy whatever he wanted from the auction. But the truth was, given his personality, he couldn't really bid for something he knew he couldn't afford.

He opened the book, focusing his entire attention on it.

Before he knew it, one hour had gone by, he was still very much engrossed in the book.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the moment you all have been waiting for has arrived, the last item to be auctioned for today's event is, the bones of a true dragon," Verla said.

The word dragon dragged Grey out of his engrossed state.

"A Dragon?"

Chapter 456 - Just Like Your Teacher

'Hmm, although it's shocking that they have the bones of a Dragon, I'd rather buy the egg of the Griffin since it's alive,' Grey thought to himself.

From his point of view, since the beast isn't alive, it wasn't all that important. Yes, everyone knows that Dragons stand at the top of the mountain. When compared to humans and other magical beasts, they are vastly far superior in strength and elemental abilities.

The bones here can only be used when creating elemental weapons. It will be superior when compared to other items used in creating elemental weapons due to the high elemental concentration on the bones.

According to rumors, the cores of Dragons are so great that one could refine them without purifying them. The intensity of the essence in the core is said to be on another level.

Unfortunately, just like Griffins, Dragons are rare. They are even rarer than Griffins, it's said the birth rate of Dragons is very low, hence they're very protective of their kind.

....

The crowd all spoke animatedly about the bones of the Dragon. Most of the people here had never seen a Dragon, so even if it's just the bones, they're very curious about it.

"From the elemental particles around it, we were able to confirm that this Dragon was a Dual Elementalist, wielding both the darkness and earth element. The bones also radiate the oppressive aura of a Dragon, bringing fear to those who are weaker than it. It can also be used to make other magical beasts timid," Verla explained.

Grey spread out his spiritual senses towards the bones, and he couldn't deny the part about the pressure the bones were radiating.

'Huh? How come I didn't feel this from that Ice Dragon?' He suddenly thought about the Ice Dragon he encountered in the trial land.

Aetonth didn't give off any of its oppressive Dragon aura. At that time, since it was chasing after him, he didn't really think about it, but on sensing this bone, he suddenly realized that Aetonth didn't try to use it against him.

'Is there a chance that not all Dragons can use it?' He contemplated.

"The starting price for the Dragon's bones is five hundred thousand mid-grade essence stones, for every bid made, the price must see an increase of fifty thousand essence stones," Verla said to the crowd.

"Six hundred thousand,"

"Seven hundred thousand,"

The price of the bones shot past one million mid-grade essence stones within a few seconds, and it was still increasing, not showing any signs of stopping.

After almost two minutes, the price had gotten to two million essence stones.

Grey watched on as the price had gotten to a mouth-watering two million essence stones.

"Where do these people get all these stones?" He mumbled while gulping down.

This was a huge amount of essence, enough to train at least two hundred people to the Peak of the Origin Plane, some might even be able to get to the Overlord Plane if they were talented enough.

"Two million five hundred thousand essence stones,"

"Two million five hundred and fifty thousand,"

"This is the Maverick family leader, if you can do us the honor of leaving this bone to us, I promise to make a high-grade elemental weapon for you, while also assimilating part of the bones in the weapon,"
A middle-aged man walked forward from room three.

He was the one who just made the last offer, he was hoping to plead with the other individual who was making a bid for the bones.

Most of the other contestants have given up after the price shot past two million, leaving only two.

"Oh, so it's you, Axel," An old voice came from the opposing room.

An old man walked close to the window from room seven, his hair and beard had all turned Grey.

"It's been a while, Senior," Axel bowed when he saw the old man.

"Wow! It's senior Grimwald. I never thought he would be the other person vying for the Dragon bones," An excited voice came from the crowd below the special rooms.

Axel and Grimwald didn't spare the people below them a glance.

"Axel, I would like to use this bone in making a weapon for his highness the Crown Prince. The Crown Prince will find you in good light if you leave this to me," Grimwald said slowly.

On hearing the Crown Prince being brought into the issue, a look of apprehension appeared on Axel's face. If Grimwald was the one who wanted it, then he wouldn't mind struggling with him since they were rivals in forge mastering.

The Maverick family is one of the few families who were behind the Second Prince.

Axel turned to the first room, waiting for the decision made by the Second Prince.

"It's fine, you can let brother have it," The Second Prince said with the same soft smile he wore from the start.

"Two million six hundred thousand essence stones," Grimwald said while looking in the direction of the Second Prince.

The Second Prince smiled in response to his subtle provocation.

Verla waited for a few seconds, after seeing that Axel had already gone back to his seat, not making any plans of bidding, she concluded the auction, handing the Dragon bones over to Grimwald.

Grey was watching everything happen from his room. He could guess from the conversation of Axel and Grimwald that they were forge masters, but each was supporting a different candidate for the throne.

He didn't stay in the auction a moment longer, after Verla concluded the auction, he immediately left his room, heading out of the building.

He saw the young lady who attended to him standing outside the room.

"Are you leaving now?" The young lady asked hastily.

"Yes, is anything the matter?" Grey turned to look at her.

"The Lord said I should take you to a room before you leave, he said he prepared something for you there," The young lady replied.

"Oh, he didn't speak of any of that," Grey said with a confused expression.

The young lady tried explaining, but she didn't know what to say since she was only following orders.

"Fine, take me there, I'm in a hurry," Grey agreed to go with her after giving it some thought.

The young lady heaved a sigh of relief before leading the way.

After walking into the deeper parts of the building, the young lady stopped in front of a room.

"In here," The young lady said.

Grey stared at the door for a while, he could sense someone inside the room. The person inside didn't try to conceal their presence.

'Oh, he didn't say he would come,' He thought before opening the door.

"Hello, Grey," Old man Gerald smiled while looking at Grey.

"I didn't think you would come all this way just to see me," Grey said while taking a seat.

"Actually, I didn't want to come, but when I found out the Second Prince was coming, I had to come as well," Old man Gerald replied with a smile.

"Oh, is he also searching for me?" Grey asked curiously.

"Yes, but for a different reason actually," Old man Gerald said.

"He came to me in search of you. As you can tell, the Crown Prince and the Second Prince are both the two who are more favored when speaking about those who will be able to obtain the throne. Unfortunately for the Second Prince, a few years ago the Crown Prince obtained something which made the Emperor give him his full support,"

"As things stand, the people behind the Second Prince are few. Although my relationship with him is very good, I can't support him since the organization I represent is seen as a threat," Old man Gerald explained.

"Okay, but what does all this have to do with me?" Grey asked.

He had no interest in being involved with the royal family, all he wanted was peace. If not for Void being injured and not knowing his parent's whereabouts, he would just find a simple cave and focus on research.

"I would like to introduce you to the Second Prince, your Teacher had a somewhat good relationship with him," Old man Gerald said.

"Oh!" Grey raised his head, not expecting old man Gerald to involve his Teacher.

Just as old man Gerald was about to continue speaking, Grey spoke up.

"I mean no disrespect, but I really have no interest in aligning myself with any of the Princes. If I knew him earlier, I wouldn't mind befriending him, but now, I have too much I have to worry about, I can't afford to add the royal family's struggle to it," Grey said.

"I understand, you're just like your Teacher, only a little nicer when rejecting someone," Old man Gerald shook his head.

"Is there anything else? If not, I have something to attend to," Grey said.

Old man Gerald shook his head to his question.

Grey stood up after seeing his reply, walking out of the room.

Chapter 457 - So Unlucky!

Old man Gerald shook his head as he watched Grey leave the room.

A few minutes after Grey left, the Second Prince walked into the room.

"How did it go?" The Second Prince asked while taking a seat.

"Since he's not here, you can guess not too well," Old man Gerald replied.

"*Sigh* I would've loved to see the person who is able to make father so worked up," The Second Prince said.

"He's just like his Teacher, only more cool-headed. If Chris was the one the Emperor was searching for, he would've caused a major uproar in the empire," Old man Gerald said.

"Teacher and student, both prodigies from their own generations. A shame I can't befriend them," The Second Prince shook his head, a little remorseful.

....

Grey didn't use the carriage when going back to the tavern, he had been cooked up in his room since leaving the forest. Now, he wanted to take a stroll around to cool his head before he starts reading the book on array.

The streets of Lapis City were filled with people, bustling with activity.

Grey calmly walked around. It was a long and uneventful walk back to the tavern.

The next day.

Grey walked out of his room, prepared for his new adventure. He was busy throughout the night, trying to decipher the array in the book, but he hasn't been able to.

On getting to the city gate, he noticed someone staring at him with hateful eyes. Looking in the direction, he saw a middle-aged man glaring at him.

The middle-aged man wasn't alone, he had three people who were with him.

'Who are they?' He asked himself.

He didn't recall seeing these people before, so it was strange that they were looking at him so hatefully.

After not being able to remember where he saw the men, he threw the thought to the back of his mind, heading out of the city.

As soon as he left the city, the men stood up from where they were sitting, heading out of the city.

They paused when they walked past the city gate, the reason for this was because Grey was nowhere to be seen.

"Damn it! That guy escaped," One of the men said.

"Hmph! He's lucky, after messing with us some weeks back, he hid. Now that he has reappeared, he ran away again," The first man Grey saw said.

The group stood outside for a few more minutes, looking around. After not seeing Grey, they walked back into the city.

The Magical Beasts' forest.

Grey could be seen dashing through the forest at a fast pace. He realized that the group he saw wanted to make trouble with him, although he could kill them easily, he wasn't interested in delaying for such unimportant people.

It didn't take long before he got to the six kilometers mark. Looking around, he noticed the stages of the beasts around had dropped, compared to the time he first came here.

"Looks like the forest has returned to normal," He mumbled softly.

He looked around for a second before bolting straight into the forest.

....

Two hours later.

Boom!

Grey appeared mid-air, staring at the large Boar that was on the ground. He floated down to a nearby tree.

Roar!

The Boar struggled to stand up, but still confronted Grey.

"Hmph! These things never know when to escape," Grey snorted coldly.

This Boar was still in the Late stages of the Origin Plane. It couldn't block a single attack from Grey, yet it was still trying to attack him.

Grey had tried leaving it behind, but the beast not only chased after him, but it also caused a commotion that drew the attention of other beasts.

Grey stretched out his right hand, pointing at the beast. With a flick of his wrist, the ground beneath the Boar pushed upwards, forcing the Boar into the air.

Once the Boar was thrown into the air, an ice spear stabbed towards it from the side.

The Boar moved its front leg, slamming its hoof into it.

Crack! Bang!

The spear cracked as soon as it was hit by the hoof, breaking right after.

Grey squinted his eyes, he didn't want to go all out since he wanted to reserve his strength.

'Guess I'll have to rest after killing this Boar, it will also make a nice breakfast,' Grey thought to himself.

He disappeared from his spot, appearing by the side of the Boar. He enforced his fist with the fire element, punching the stomach of the Boar.

The Boar which was still trying to find where Grey disappeared to was sent flying.

Crash! Bang!

The Boar slammed into the ground.

Just as it landed, Grey appeared in front of it again, punching into its head.

The force behind his blow was so powerful that the head of the Boar exploded with a 'bang'.

Grey opened his hand, staring at the small core in his hand. He used the water element to wash the blood and gore off the core before tossing it into his mouth.

'Hmm, it has been a while since I did this,' He thought while crushing the core in his mouth.

The core broke apart, turning into a pure form of earth essence, heading towards his earth elemental bead.

He quickly set up a grill, after properly gutting the boar, he added the needed ingredients before placing the meat in the grill.

Before long, the pleasing aroma of well-garnished meat wafted around the area Grey was cooking. He made sure to release an aggressive aura, to ward off any beast that would be attracted here because of the food.

Some minutes later, the meat was completely cooked.

Grey quickly took it down, before biting down on it. When he was cooking, he couldn't help but think of his Teacher. Since leaving his Teacher, he doesn't cook as often as he did.

The flesh of the boar was also filled with essence, so it helped him recover what he had lost.

When he was done eating, he realized he didn't need to rest anymore since his essence energy had completely recovered.

"Wow, why didn't I do this earlier?" He exclaimed.

The last time he was here, he was short on essence energy because he was running from beasts almost throughout the time he spent here. If he knew of this then, he wouldn't have been in a difficult situation.

He quickly started his journey once again, since there was no need to rest, he wanted to get there as soon as he could.

....

Four hours later.

"It should be around here," Grey brought out the map he had with him, staring at it.

He was holding onto a small piece of meat with his right hand, occasionally taking a bite from it as he studied the map.

Just when he wanted to continue walking forward, his expression changed.

"Oh crap," He said softly as he looked in front of him.

A large black Jaguar could be seen lying casually on the ground. The aura it was releasing was that of an Overlord Plane expert.

Grey slowly retreated, hoping the Jaguar wouldn't be disturbed by his steps.

After taking only eight steps, the eyes of the Jaguar snapped open.

"Why the hell am I so unlucky?" He asked with a sad expression.

This Jaguar was at the peak of the Early stages of the Overlord Plane, just a little bit away from the Mid stages. There was no way Grey could fight against it.

Growl...

The Jaguar stood up, still looking at Grey with its black eyes.

Grey continued retreating, he didn't have any plans of being food for a beast here.

Roar!

The Jaguar pounced towards him.

He hastily retreated before vanishing, switching places with the Jaguar. As soon as they switched positions, the Jaguar continued moving forward due to the unexpected switch, it missed its target, crashing into a tree.

Grey on the other hand immediately bolted towards where the building was located.

The Jaguar didn't delay, as soon as it crashed into the tree, it turned around, running towards Grey.

It opened its mouth, spitting out a ball of black mass towards Grey.

When Grey saw the black mass coming towards him quickly, he almost fainted from fright.

"Of all the elements, it just had to be the darkness element," He complained out loud while running.

The aura the orb was releasing was frightening, luckily, the darkness element wasn't the fastest.

Just as Grey was about to celebrate, he saw something that almost made his eyes pop out.

Black lightning was dancing all around the body of the Jaguar, it opened its mouth again and spat out another black orb. But unlike the first one, this one had black lightning dancing around it.

The black lightning orb merged with the darkness orb, increasing the speed of the orb to another level.

"Shit! Shit! Shit!" Grey yelled as he ran for his dear life.

Chapter 458 - I Tried My Best

Boom! Bang!

Grey's figure shot through the forest, crashing into a tree. The force was so powerful that the tree broke in half.

'Damn it! There's no way I can get to the building on time,' He thought as he struggled to stand up.

He couldn't use the Fusion State since he needed some time to activate it. Unfortunately, the Jaguar didn't have any plans in giving him.

As soon as stood up, the Jaguar appeared before him once again.

Roar! Boom!

It attacked ferociously once again.

On seeing the attack, Grey hastily set up a three defense wall in front of him, hoping to at least block the attack.

Bam! Bang! Boom!

The walls which were set up by three different elements were easily taken down by the attack. The claw attack continued moving towards Grey, slamming into his chest as it got to him.

A blue light glowed around his body, trying to stop the attack from reaching his main body.

Shring! Crack!

A ringing sound reverberated around Grey, followed by the sound of something cracking.

Grey was once again sent flying after only a few seconds.

Bang!

He crashed into the ground, bouncing off a couple of times before finally stopping almost fifty meters away.

Although he was in pains, he hastily stood up. Staying on the ground would mean instant death once the Jaguar caught up with him. At least while standing he could block or even dodge some of its attacks.

Blood could be seen slowly dripping from the side of his mouth, a large injury which was caused by the claws of the Jaguar from its previous attack was on his chest. His robe was already almost completely destroyed.

The benefits of having a strong body was starting to show itself. Had Grey not had a strong physical body, then there was no way he would be able to stand up so quickly even after being injured strongly by the Jaguar.

'The blue vest is broken,' Grey thought when he recalled the ringing sound he heard previously.

If not for the blue vest, then he would have been more seriously injured, compared to his current state.

The Jaguar once again appeared before him, not giving him any time to think before it attacked him once again.

Grey hastily dodged to the left, but he was met by the Jaguar which had already appeared in that direction before he was even able to get to the spot he hoped to land.

He hastily changed his direction, blinking a few meters to the right, managing to dodge a surprise attack by the Jaguar.

The Jaguar didn't give up, chasing after him once again. Given the speed it had, it was child's play for it to catch up to Grey.

Boom!

It attacked again, but Grey was able to narrowly escape the attack this time.

He continued running towards where the building was, hoping he would be able to get there before the Jaguar could finish him off.

Bam!

He felt a stinging pain from his back, before being sent forward with a claw attack from the Jaguar once again.

Unlike the first time, there was no blue vest to block the attack for him, so felt the full brunt of the attack.

He spat out blood while still in the air.

Crash! Boom!

His figure slammed heavily into a rock, creating an almost eight meters deep crevice inside it.

He tried to get back on his feet like he previously did, but just as he managed to crawl out of the crevice, a black mass orb exploded in front of him, sending him flying once again.

Luckily, he reacted quickly, creating an earth armor to protect himself. He made sure to make the armor sturdier on the spots where his vitals were so that they wouldn't be damaged from the attack.

This was the third time he was setting up an earth armor in the fight. And just like the previous times...

Crack... Bang!

The armor cracked after managing to block only a small portion of the attack.

Grey's figure shot past the rock, coming out of the other end of the almost twenty meters wide rock.

Bam!

His figure slammed into the ground heavily, bloodied and battered.

Grey spat out a mouthful of blood after managing to only get back to his knees. Pain was wracking every single inch of his body.

He was certain that a few of his ribs had been broken, and if things continued in this manner, he wasn't sure how long his body would be able to hold. To get honest, he didn't think he could withstand another one of the Jaguar's attacks.

'Damn it! How come this one is this far out. I thought the forest had returned to normal. How unlucky do I have to be to encounter this beast while it was sleeping?' He questioned himself.

He couldn't help it, he was starting to lose hope. This was a dire situation he rarely found himself in. In most of the times he was in such a situation, he would have a plan to be able to escape, but in this case, he could actually see the light fading.

'Damn it, am I going to die here, not even being able to heal Void?' He questioned himself, hating his weakness.

He hated feeling this way, hopeless.

While his thoughts were running rampantly, the Jaguar appeared in front of him again, slowly walking towards its fallen prey.

It didn't immediately attack since it knew Grey wouldn't be able to escape even if he wanted to.

Grey raised his head defiantly, to stare at the eyes of the Jaguar which wanted to kill him.

"Screw it! You must be joking if you think this is enough to kill me," He muttered before jumping off the ground.

Contrary to his previous actions, he went for the Jaguar this time. Since escaping was impossible, then he would fight. He would fight to the very end.

There was no way he would accept defeat so easily. Even if the Jaguar kills him, he wanted to make sure it remembers this day for the rest of its life.

Boom!

Not expecting its fallen prey to attack, the Jaguar didn't react on time.

Grey punched it solidly on its head, pushing it back by a few meters.

"Ah..."

With a burst of powerful fighting spirit, Grey started to rain down punches on the head of the Jaguar.

This time, he threw all caution to the wind. Attacking like a mad man. All his punches were enforced with five different elements. The water, earth, fire, lightning, and darkness.

Since he didn't know any attacks from the space element, he didn't use it, nor did he use the wind element since he felt it was too weak.

His bloodshot eyes would send terror into the eyes of anyone who sees them. Unfortunately, this state wouldn't last for long. Grey, as well as the Jaguar, knew this very well.

The Jaguar tried attacking Grey, and although it was able to send him flying, it suffered a deadly attack to its neck.

With Grey not bothering to try to defend himself apart from his vitals, he could be regarded as a mad beast. Attacking freely without a care in the world.

When the Jaguar attacked him, it stopped defending, which gave Grey the opportunity to rain a few punches at it before he was sent flying.

As soon as he landed on the ground, he shot towards the Jaguar once again, chasing after it.

The adrenaline rush he was currently going through made him not feel a single pain from the attack of the Jaguar.

Seeing the oncoming Grey, the Jaguar decided it was best to play it safe by dodging the attacks.

It only dodged and blocked, not daring to attack Grey again after the outcome of the last time he tried it.

Grey started slowing down after only a minute of constant attack, pain spread out across his body, wrecking havoc.

Splat!

He spat out a mouthful of blood when he tried throwing a punch at the Jaguar.

His vision was starting to blur, and he was already feeling weak on his knees. It was like his body had given up on him.

He was still very much willing to fight mentally, but physically, he was done. He couldn't even raise his legs anymore, much less throw a punch.

Bam!

He collapsed to his knees, not able to move forward anymore.

'Is this the end?' He thought to himself.

'I thought it would be better than this, that I would be better than this,' He couldn't even shake his head when he tried to.

'I'm sorry mom, dad, Void, Klaus, Rey, Alice, I really tried,' He said to himself.

To be able to fight against a beast in the Overlord Plane without even using the Fusion State, this was him going far above his league.

He wanted to try to slowly merge his elemental beads so that he could heal himself after entering the Fusion State.. But unfortunately, he couldn't.

Chapter 459 - Spatial Distortion

The Jaguar walked slowly towards Grey who could barely stand. Unlike the last time, it knew Grey has completely exhausted himself.

It didn't delay this time and attacked instantly. Just as the attack was about to land on Grey, it disappeared.

"Huh?"

Grey who was expecting an attack to land on him was surprised when nothing hit him.

He wanted to stand up to see what it happened, but he couldn't. He tried looking around as well, but he was exhausted.

The Jaguar was stunned when its attack didn't reach Grey, roaring angrily, it attacked once again. This time, it attacked with the lightning element, hoping to catch Grey unaware since it thought Grey was the one who deflected the attack.

The attack got close to Grey before disappearing once again.

Grey was once again dumbstruck by this outcome, he didn't know what was happening, but he could tell that the attacks were being transported.

Boom!

Two attacks suddenly appeared behind the Jaguar, striking it on its back.

The Jaguar roared in pain, after being hit by the same attack that it sent towards Grey.

"I go to sleep for a few days and this is what I wake up to?" A small voice asked.

Grey who was exhausted perked his ears when he heard this voice. He had a sense of familiarity from the voice, but the strange thing was that he was certain he had never heard this voice before.

"Look at you, tsk tsk, a shame. If only Klaus was here, he would laugh you till the end of time," The voice said again, mockingly.

On seeing how familiar the voice was with him and his friends, Grey forced himself to open his eyes, trying to see who it was that was speaking.

On opening his eyes, a family figure appeared in front of his eyes. Even though his vision was blurry, he was a hundred percent certain of the figure.

"Void... is that you?" Grey said weakly.

"Who else did you think?" Void said sarcastically.

Grey paused, it was as if he was struck by lightning.

'Void, how come you can speak out now?' He transmitted his voice over to Void.

He was too weak to speak out now, but he still felt shocked that Void is able to speak out like humans now.

"I just woke up and this is the first question you ask?" Void asked angrily.

'Sorry, how are you?' Grey apologized before asking.

At first, he couldn't process things properly, so he was more concerned with how Void could speak instead of the fact that he was awake.

"I'm doing fine, I really enjoyed my sleep," Void replied, a sense of estacy could be detected from his tone.

'Sleep? What sleep? Your consciousness was injured, that was what everyone told me,' Grey asked, confused, before telling him what happened.

"Pfft, as if? I was only sleeping, although, I was a little bit injured from holding on too long. But after taking the drop of liquid you gave him, I was okay. I just need some rest and I'm good as new, even better," Void said, laughing.

'What?!' Grey exclaimed in shock.

He couldn't believe Void was only sleeping all this time, and he had been worried sick because of him, even going as far as coming to the dangerous Magical Beasts' forest to try and find that liquid. He was even almost killed!

"I'm fine, I was only sleeping. Stop acting like you don't sleep as well," Void said.

His voice was almost like that of a five year old child, strange, yet soothing to the ears. Other than his arrogant and sarcastic tone, he could totally pass off as a child.

Grey wanted to reprimand him, but he couldn't find the best word to use. He decided it was best to let that matter rest for now, what was important now was that they should escape from this place.

'Void, quick, take us out of here, this Jaguar is in the Overlord Plane,' He quickly recalled their situation.

"Hmph! It's just a small cat, I can take care of it with my eyes closed. I don't even need to make a move to suppress it. Unfortunately for it though, I just acquired a new skill I'm dying to use," Void scoffed, not putting the Jaguar in his eyes.

It was like the Jaguar wasn't even in front of him.

Grey wanted to speak, but on realizing who Void was, he knew he wouldn't speak like this if he wasn't confident in himself.

He quickly let go of everything and focused on healing himself, it would be a shame if Void continued mocking him because of this.

"Now, you little cat, pay your homage to daddy or suffer," Void said arrogantly while pointing his small paws at the Jaguar.

The Jaguar which was still wondering how it was attacked with its own attack looked at the small black cat that was speaking in the human tongue in front of it in confusion. A look of disgust appeared in its eyes, it was as if it didn't take Void to be anything important.

Void was enraged when he saw how the Jaguar was staring at him. Given the contrast in size between the duo, one could confuse him to be the child of the Jaguar since it's still black in color.

"I guess you have chosen to suffer, don't say I didn't warn you after you're dead," Void said coldly.

He stood on his hind legs, spreading out both hands. A terrifying aura started radiating from his small body, and for the first time, fear appeared on the face of the Jaguar.

The aura Void was radiating was both aggressive and oppressive. He was giving off a special aura that was forcing the Jaguar to stay put. It wanted to run away, but it couldn't.

"You low leveled creature, daring to act wildly in front of your daddy. I'll teach you some manners," Void said arrogantly.

Grey who was by the side was left amused and surprised by how Void was acting, and the aura he could sense from him. If he didn't know that it was Void, he would've thought that there was another beast in the area that was giving off this aura.

Suddenly, a deadly aura started to spread across the forest. On sensing it, Grey couldn't help but tense up. He had sensed this aura before, space turbulence. But he couldn't see it properly, so he didn't know the extent of the strength.

This was the new attack Void acquired after waking up, spatial distortion. It was just like what happened when Grey was trying to comprehend the space element back at Frost City. The spatial distortions that appeared and wanted to cause havoc in the room.

After seeing them, Void was able to get a slight knowledge of how it worked. When he went to sleep, he woke up knowing the skill. It was like it was an innate skill.

This was the first space element attack Void was using, and the strength of the attack wasn't to be joked with.

The Jaguar started shaking from fear when it saw the spatial distortions coming it's way. It tried to move, but it couldn't move due to the suppressive aura Void was releasing.

Void smirked when he saw this.

"No need to try, only a Dragon can escape from me, and that's if I want it to go," He said proudly, puffing out his little chest arrogantly.

The Jaguar watched in horror as the spatial distortions came closer, engulfing it.

A few seconds later, nothing was left of the Jaguar.

Void stood on all fours before nodding in contentment.

"It's just as I expected," He said while walking towards Grey.

When he got to where Grey was sitting, he disappeared, appearing a few seconds later with a small vial in his hand.

"Open up," He said while floating to where Grey was.

Grey opened his mouth, and a drop of liquid was placed in his mouth. It was none other than the healing tonic they got from the Blooming Viper.

After swallowing, he focused fully on trying to use it to heal himself.

Void flew to the tree by the side, not bothering to disturb him. He just woke up from a long sleep, he had to see what had changed in his body.

One hour later.

Grey opened his eyes, looking around. Even after so long, he could still sense the undulations of the spatial distortions. He didn't know what it was, but he was sure it had to do with Void.

He quickly located Void, walking towards him.

"Hey, what was that attack you used?" He couldn't help but ask.

Void opened his eyes to look at him, after a few seconds he replied, "Spatial distortions, I woke up already familiar with it,"

"Huh? Spatial distortions? It's like those turbulences in a spatial tunnel, right?" Grey asked.

"Yeah, I gained a little understanding of it when you were comprehending the space element," Void said.

Chapter 460 - Little Thieving Cat!

"Hey, what was that thing you gave to me when I was sleeping?" Void suddenly asked.

"That liquid? If I recall correctly, old man Gerald called it a Resurgence Liquid," Grey replied after a while.

"Good, I want that," Void said.

Grey tripped when he heard this, not expecting Void to demand for the liquid he had been searching for all this while.

"I don't have any, besides, I gave you some not too long ago," Grey replied.

"It's not enough, don't you want me to recover completely?" Void asked while staring at Grey with his big black eyes.

"I'm not falling for that," Grey said emotionlessly, looking at Void straight in the eyes.

"You're heartless, who can say no to me? I'm such a cute little guy," Void snorted coldly.

"I almost died, venturing into the Magical Beasts' forest to search for that liquid, and I still couldn't find it. I was only fortunate to see it when I was leaving the forest," Grey said with both hands folded in front of him.

"The Magical Beasts' forest? You went there without me?" Void asked.

"You were sleeping, and besides, technically, I did take you along since you were in my ring all this while," Grey replied.

Void's expression suddenly changed when Grey spoke of his storage ring, but he quickly hid it. Unfortunately, Grey sensed that something was wrong when he noticed the slight change in his expression.

"Void, what did you do?" Grey asked slowly.

"Nothing, so... where are we?" Void quickly changed the topic.

Grey's expression fell when he saw this, without even waiting for anything, he quickly sent his spiritual senses into his storage ring. His eyes widened when he saw the state of the ring.

"You thieving cat! Where are they?" Grey asked while pointing at Void.

"I have no idea what you're speaking about," Void said while looking around, clearly avoiding Grey's eyes.

"All the herbs and essence stones are gone. You're the only one who can enter this place, spit them out!" Grey said.

All the herbs he gathered while he was in the Magical Beasts' forest was nowhere to be seen. Even what was left of the essence stones in his storage ring was gone. Void was obviously the only culprit.

"I just woke up, I needed a lot of energy. If I didn't absorb them then you would've been dead," Void hurriedly explained.

Grey stared at Void's small protruding stomach, he suddenly remembered the first time he saw Void. Almost all the fruits he acquired were eaten by the small guy. Now once again, Void had done it again, this time, eating even more than the first time.

"You... *Sigh* forget it. Come let's go back," Grey shook his head.

He couldn't scold Void since he knew he needed the energy, but he only felt upset at how Void didn't even ask for his permission.

"Go back to where? I can sense a treasure here," Void said with glittering eyes before looking around in confusion, "Wait, where are we?"

"The Magical Beasts' forest," Grey replied.

"This is the Magical Beasts' forest? No wonder I can sense treasures around," Void exclaimed.

"Wait, how powerful are you now?" Grey asked.

He recalled the Jaguar Void killed was at the peak of the Early stages of the Overlord Plane. Since Void could kill it easily, it meant he was at least in the Early stages of the Overlord Plane.

"I'm a Rank Five magical beast now. Wait, how come you're still so weak?" Void declared proudly, before staring at Grey in confusion.

Grey threw a glance at Void, not even bothering to answer him. He had been so focused on getting a cure for Void that he completely left cultivation by the side. If not for the red lightning orb he absorbed, then he would've still been in the Seventh stage of the Origin Plane.

"The Early stages or the Mid stages?" He asked.

"I just broke through, so I'm still in the Early stages," Void answered.

"How come that Jaguar couldn't fight back?" Grey asked.

Although he didn't see the fight, he knew Void was the only one who attacked. And he clearly heard Void bragging while he was attacking.

"It's a low leveled beast, of course it would freeze in awe when in the presence of his daddy," Void said proudly, puffing out his chest.

Grey rolled his eyes when he saw how Void was acting, even after being asleep for so long, he was still the same.

"Wait, you still haven't answered why you are able to talk," He said.

"High leveled magical beasts gain the ability to speak once they get to Rank Five, this is common knowledge, how come you don't know about it?" Void replied, not forgetting to mock Grey at the end of his statement.

Grey almost wanted to punch Void, but he knew he wouldn't be able to catch him. He had problems catching Void while he was still more powerful than he was, much less now that he was weaker. It's already a good thing that Void didn't decide to find problems with him.

"Come on, let's go for the treasure," Void said excitedly.

"No, there's no telling what we will encounter in the deeper parts of the forest. There was a disturbance in the forest a few weeks back, it's still starting to go back to normal, but we can't be too sure what the current situation is like," Grey rejected the idea immediately.

Since Void was fine now, he wanted to head back to Lapis City. The reason he's going back is not because he didn't want to go to the other continent, but because he couldn't without the essence stones.

The only way he can acquire a large amount of essence stones is either he stole it, sold some things, or borrowed from old man Gerald.

Old man Gerald was still in the city, he was sure of that.

"Come on, stop being a scaredy cat. Let's go get that treasure! I can sense it, it's shiny..." Void tried convincing Grey fervently.

On hearing that it was shiny, Grey was more certain that they weren't going to go search for whatever the treasure was. Something must definitely be guarding it, something powerful.

The only thing that likes shiny things as much as Void are Dragons. Although the chances of seeing Dragons this far out in the Magical Beasts' forest wasn't high, it wasn't zero. Grey couldn't even start to imagine what the situation would be like if they were surrounded by a pair of Dragons.

"Stop being a wussy," Void said.

Grey immediately turned around, not bothering to answer him. Now that Void could speak out, there was no end to the troubles he would cause.

"Hey, stop there," Void called out.

Grey continued walking away.

Void turned to look in the direction of where he could sense the treasure, and the direction that Grey was headed.

Just as he was about to complain, he sensed something from another direction. Two things, in particular.

One was a powerful aura he didn't want to see, the other was a strong spatial undulations.

"Hey, there's a spatial undulation coming from that side," Void suddenly appeared on Grey's shoulder, using his small paws to show Grey the direction the spatial undulation was coming from.

"Yeah, I'm aware of that. Actually, that was where I was headed, but you've unfortunately used up the essence stones," Grey explained.

"Oh, where does it lead?" Void asked, curiously.

"You wouldn't believe it," Grey said, refusing to tell Void where it led.

"I would, come on, tell me," Void started pestering.

"If you behave properly, I might just tell you before we get back to the city," Grey said with a smile.

"But... I'm always well behaved. When have I ever behaved improperly?" Void asked.

"That time you stole that shiny thing from that Dragon, when you..." Grey started to count the problems Void had caused since they knew each other.

"Those can't even be counted as me causing any problems. Did you die?" Void asked.

"No, but I nearly died," Grey replied.

"So did I, so we're even," Void said.

"You can't use just one event to write off all the things you've done before," Grey said.

"Of course I can, I just did. Since I'm the latest victim, I have the upper hand," Void said.

"You're crazy. We'll be going to a city filled with treasures people suffered to get from the Magical Beasts' forest, please, try to leave them in peace," Grey warned beforehand.

If Void were to head to the city, the chances of him stealing from the entire city is very high. Given his current strength, no one would be able to even sense when he stole their treasure, much less being able to apprehend him.

"Come on, I wouldn't take a thing," Void said.

Eight hours later.

The duo appeared in Lapis City after casually strolling through the Magical Beasts' forest.. With Void's current strength, Grey didn't need to fear anything as they walked back.