

## Affinity: Chaos #Chapter 51 - Teacher II - Read Affinity: Chaos Chapter 51 - Teacher II

### *Chapter 51:Teacher II*

Chris was happily eating the bunny he asked Grey to prepare for him. 'Having a student who knows how to make good meals really has its perks' Chris regretted not having a student sooner. If he had known, he would have just accepted Grey as a student the moment he came to the Academy.

Although he was interested in Grey, it was just from the fact that he felt it was quite amazing to experience both of Grey's tests. He started having thoughts of taking Grey as a student after he tasted Grey's cooking. This was the only way he could think of to get Grey to cook for him frequently.

After he was done eating, "Do you know about arrays?" asked Chris.

When Grey heard him mention arrays, he was suddenly reminded of the books he had read regarding arrays. Although there wasn't much information about them, this was not the first he heard about it.

"A little" replied Grey.

Chris stood up and went into the cabin behind him. After some time, he came back out with a bunch of scrolls. He tossed them at Grey, "This contains the basics of arrays. After reading this, you should have a good idea about it".

Grey caught the scrolls before sitting down not too far from Chris and started reading the scrolls. After reading the introductions, Grey understood why Chris asked him to release his spiritual energy. Without strong spiritual energy, it was almost impossible to make arrays. The stronger your spiritual energy, the easier it is for you to make them.

Grey didn't expect Chris was an array master, talk less of taking him as a student. He felt he was extremely lucky for Chris to choose him. If only he knew what made Chris take him as a student, he might probably faint from exasperation.

While Grey was still reading the scrolls, Chris suddenly asked.

"Have you heard of Inscribers?"

Grey thought for a while before shaking his head, "No".

Chris didn't seem surprised with Grey's reply, he only asked just to confirm. Although a lot of people knew about arrays, only a few knew about inscribers.

"Let me show you something," said Chris.

He suddenly stretched out his hand and some fire arrows suddenly formed and struck the lake close to them.

After that attack died down, a symbol suddenly appeared in the sky about two meters in diameter. Fire arrows suddenly rained down from the symbol.

"What is the difference between both attacks?" Chris asked while looking at Grey.

Grey thought for a while before responding, "The second attack is faster and stronger than the first".

Chris nodded, "What I just did was air inscription. Although it's not very effective in a one-on-one fight since it takes time to inscribe the symbol, it's terrifying when it comes to attacking groups. You can make the range of the attack wider, and it also has a longer range" Chris explained.

"This is like a branch of arrays. Without in-depth knowledge of arrays, you won't be able to inscribe" Chris continued.

"I'll tell you more about it tomorrow, take these scrolls home and study them. Come tomorrow at the same time" Chris made a shooing gesture indicating for Grey to leave.

Grey didn't stay any further and bid his farewell to his teacher before turning to head out. When he was about to walk past the passageway, he suddenly remembered something and turned back inside.

"What else?" Chris asked on seeing Grey coming back.

"I don't know how to get past the rock if I want to come back tomorrow," Grey said.

"Oh that!, it's easy, just hit the spot which has a spiral shape on the lower left of the rock," Chris said.

"But I saw Instructor Blake making weird hand seals" Grey voiced his confusion. He remembered how Instructor Blake made complicated-looking hand seals before striking the rock.

"Haha, that's just to confuse people who try to sneak in here. Although anyone who is successful regrets it, hehehe" Chris laughed. From the looks of it, someone might have been successful in entering the place but met misfortune afterwards. magic

"Okay, you can leave now. Don't disturb me" Chris chased Grey out after telling him how to get through the rock.

Grey left the valley, after heading out, he searched for the spiral symbol on the lower left of the rock. Where it was located wasn't too low, it was located around the height of his chest. He carefully examined the rock and found there were different symbols on it.

After examining the rock, he left intrigued by how this rock was the doorway to a valley. The rock was stuck in a mountain. Grey walked to the other side of the mountain but was unable to find the valley, it was fascinating to him. When he was in the valley, he could clearly see the sky.

After contemplating for a while without being able to deduce a convincing method, he decided to let it be and head back to the Academy.

He headed towards Klaus' place after entering the Academy since he knew Klaus would be back by now.

When Klaus heard someone barging into his house without knocking, he was about to fly off the handle. But when he heard the voice, his anger suddenly turned to joy as he hadn't seen his friend for two weeks now.

"Haha, I was just thinking of when you'd return" Klaus laughed happily as he got up to welcome his friend. They fist-bumped before Grey went to take a sit.

"I came to your place after I returned, but you weren't at home, I guessed you must have gone to the city," said Grey.

"You know me too well," Klaus said with a laugh.

Grey noticed his friend was in a happier mood than usual, "Did something good happen?" He couldn't help but ask.

"Haha, yes of course" Klaus laughed again. Grey chuckled when he saw his friend laughing.

"Do you remember Leanne?" Klaus asked with a smile.

"That girl we met at the city gate?" Grey asked to confirm if it was who Klaus was talking about.

"Yes" replied Klaus.

"What's up with her?" Grey asked since he didn't know why his friend brought up her name.

"She's now my girlfriend" Klaus proudly declared.

Grey stared wide-eyed at his friend, "What about Danielle?"

"Dani" Klaus sighed, "We just weren't meant to be" He added.

"But you said you felt something special from her?" Grey said. Clearly confused about this whole relationship thing.

"I thought I did. But I suddenly felt she wasn't the one" Klaus said sadly. "I was lost in the darkness of my little world, and then Leanne came in, she lit up my entire world" Klaus's sad face immediately turned into a smiling one.

"This was exactly what you said after breaking up with Trista and hooking up with Danielle," said Grey in exasperation.

"I know, but the feeling I get from Leanne penetrates deep into my very core," Klaus said still grinning.

"The last time you said the feeling you got from Danielle penetrates deep into your skin. Now, the one you get from Leanne goes deep into your core" Grey felt a headache when he looked at his buddy who was grinning like an idiot.

In one year, Klaus had already broken up with nine different girls. Grey didn't know how their relationships even worked in the first place. He decided to just let it be, since talking more about wouldn't make a difference.

After they fooled around for some time.

"Hey Grey" Klaus suddenly said.

"Hrm" Grey raised his head to look at his friend.

"Do you know about the competition held among the Academies every five years?" asked Klaus.

"No, I haven't heard about that" Grey shook his head.

Klaus went on to tell Grey about the competition. The competition was held at Capital City, the city where the Emperor resides. It would be a contest among the students of each Academy, the winners always receive some amazing rewards from the Emperor.

People say the Emperor did this competition, so he would be able to know all the young talents in the empire and build a solid relationship with them. No one truly knows the reason, but the competition is something that was always anticipated by the citizens since it was the only time the gates of the Capital City would be opened to all.

"There's still three months before the competition, I should be able to break through before then," Grey said confidently.

#### *Chapter 52: Underground Fight Club*

The next morning, Grey got up early like always and went over for his physical training. After two hours of hard training, he went home for a bath before heading to the Lightning Hall.

After leaving the Lightning Hall, he headed over to the library since he needed to practice new techniques. His current schedule was insane since now he barely even has time for any other thing apart from training.

He headed over to meet with Chris for his array training. When he entered, he noticed the Griffin was not in the valley. Chris came out of the cabin shortly after his arrival.

"Did you study the scrolls?" asked Chris.

"Not all of them" answered Grey. After leaving Klaus' place, he went over to Alice's place since she would probably attack him if she finds out he had returned and didn't visit her. He only started reading after his visits, but he was able to read most of the scrolls.

"Okay, you'll continue studying them," said Chris. "But first and foremost, before you start studying, make me lunch" Chris added shamelessly. He got some chickens and pigs now, so there would be a variety of meats for Grey to choose from when making lunch.

Grey was startled by his request again but didn't think too much, he quickly made lunch for him before starting his study.

Two weeks passed in this manner, Grey would almost always do the same things. The only changes were when he would go to the Earth Hall or the Wind Hall. Although he was only a student of the Earth and Lightning Hall, he was free to head over to the Wind Hall any time. magic

The only problem was getting wind elemental techniques from the library since he was only entitled to collecting only earth and lightning elemental techniques. Before taking techniques out of the library, the student will have to register it with their school ID. So there is no way for him to take an elemental technique that wasn't in his ID.

He had gotten some benefits from going to the Wind Hall, but it didn't amount to much.

Another two weeks went by without any change.

Grey was already making good progress in his training with Chris, although it's small, it was a good start. He had to read different scrolls for over two weeks before Chris felt he was ready to try out making small-scale arrays.

He hasn't been able to hang out with his friends during this month. Klaus came over several times, but they didn't do anything fun since they only talked about a few things. What shocked Grey was the fact that Klaus was still with his girlfriend, he thought they would have already broken up since Klaus rarely stays up to the one-month mark.

He had sparring sessions with Alice, Reynolds, and Klaus. They were all surprised by how fast he had advanced. Now, only Alice was ahead of him in cultivation. She was already in the Eight stage of the Arcane Plane, Reynolds was in the same plane as he was. Klaus was lower by a single stage.

The competition was a grand event for the students since they would get a chance to show their abilities to everyone in the empire.

Grey who was about to head out suddenly saw Alice, Reynolds, and Klaus walking towards his house.

"Good thing we came early, any later than this, and we would've missed him," Reynolds said.

"We're heading to the city, are you coming along?" asked Klaus.

Before Grey could reply, Alice spoke up.

"Why are you even bothering to ask him, of course, he's coming with us," said Alice.

Grey felt a headache, he was about to head over to the valley for his array training. "Sorry guys, I really can't go this time, I have to go train".

"You said the same thing last time"

The group all felt Grey trained too much. He rarely has time to go out and have fun.

"You train too much, you should go out with us today," Alice said walking towards Grey.

"I really can't guys, sorry" Grey stood by his first answer.

"Are you sure nothing can change your mind?" Alice asked with a grin.

"Absolutely not" affirmed Grey.

Thirty minutes later, Grey and his friends could be seen passing through the gate of Lunar City.

On the way, Klaus was still stunned by the scene that played out when Alice tried to 'persuade' Grey.

It seems Alice's definition of 'persuasion' was to beat up the person until they agree to her demands. At first, Grey managed to keep up with her, but after she got serious, Grey gave in.

Reynolds and Klaus had already decided they would never allow Alice to persuade them for anything in this world. They gloated at Grey's misfortune.

"Grey, so what changed your mind?" Reynolds asked for the tenth time while they were walking.

When Klaus heard the question, he started laughing. Grey glared at them but refused to answer. He still felt pain in some parts of his body, he never expected Alice would use such methods.

"Alice I sincerely approve of your persuasion methods. If I ever want to get Grey out of his place, you're the one I'll take with me" Klaus gave Alice a thumbs up.

"Anytime" Alice replied with a giggle.

Grey looked at her with fearful eyes, she was a terrifying opponent. But he didn't really take it seriously. If it were to be a real battle, even though he knew he couldn't defeat Alice, he would definitely be able to escape given his speed. But he knew he also needed some time off from his daily training. He had been too focused on his training lately.

They all joked and laughed as they walked into the city. Klaus suggested taking them to a place he newly discovered in the city. After walking for some time, they reached an old-looking building in a secluded part of the city. Klaus knocked on the door with a strange rhythm.

The door was suddenly opened from the inside. Klaus told them to follow him as he walked inside.

"What is this place?" Alice looked around with curious eyes.

"You'll know once we get to our destination," Klaus said mysteriously.

They walked deeper into the building, after passing a series of doors, they started hearing noises. After passing through the last door, the newcomers stood rooted on the spot.

They were in what seems to be a huge arena, with five battle platforms at the center of the arena. People were cheering for the fighters on the platforms. They looked around and estimated there were over three thousand people present here.



"How did they even build this place," Reynolds asked dumbstruck. If he wasn't taken here, there was no way he would believe there was a place like this in the city.

"I asked the same question you did the first time I came here. This is an underground fight club, a friend of mine brought me here about a year ago when I came to the city" Klaus said.

They searched for a place to sit and watched the battles going on. Grey was surprised to see a student he had seen in the Wind Hall on the battle platforms. Grey pointed out his discovery to his friends.

"Students from the Academy come here to battle frequently since this is different from sparring with fellow students. Although deaths are a rare sight here, injuries are seen frequently" Klaus said.

They all nodded. Grey hadn't had a real battle since leaving the Misty Mountain, discovering this place was great for him. He could try out just how strong he had grown. After his previous breakthrough, he hadn't fought a satisfying battle since.

While they were still discussing, one of the battles ended with the student from the Wind Hall suffering a defeat by a small margin.

"How do they choose fighters?" asked Alice enthusiastically.

"You can either register to have a battle or take up a challenge if a fighter puts up a challenge" Klaus explained.

Alice listened intently, Grey also focused on the conversation since he also wanted to ask the same question.

Before long, a fighter stood on stage and challenged anyone from the crowd on the same stage as him. He was at the Eight stage of the Arcane Plane.

'This will be a good way to test myself' thought Grey and charged towards the platform.

"Whoosh"

A silhouette suddenly appeared on the platform.

*Chapter 53: Underground Fight Club II*

Grey who was about to charge into the platform stopped in his tracks, he looked at the silhouette who appeared on the platform and shook his head.

Alice was faster in making a move. She stood on the platform with an excited look. The crowd was surprised when they saw a little girl get on stage, but they couldn't deny the fact that she was pretty fast.

"Little girl, this isn't a place for you" The man who made the challenge said towards Alice.

Alice looked at him without bothering to reply, she turned towards the man in charge of the platform. The man didn't know if to allow the fight at first since it would be dangerous for the little girl if her strength didn't reach the required level. He looked back to get a confirmation from the organizers, only after they nodded their heads did he approve of the fight.

The man looked at Alice again, "Seems like you're not so simple. For the organizers to agree to you battling me, but I should warn you before we start, I don't hold back even when my opponent is a little girl"

Only after seeing that the battle would go on, did the crowd know the little girl should be able to protect herself. But they weren't too optimistic about her chances of winning.

"Begin" The man in charge called for the start of the battle.

The man attacked with a huge water snake immediately after the battle started.

Lightning crackled on Alice's hand before she sent a huge sword made out of lightning towards the water snake, the sword cut through the snake before heading towards the man.

Seeing this, the man made a wall of ice which successfully blocked the lightning sword. They continued exchanging moves back and forth.

The crowd was awed by the strength Alice was displaying, even the man didn't expect the little girl to be this strong. A glint flashed through his eyes as he started attacking more aggressively.

"I pity him," said Grey suddenly towards his friends. Reynolds nodded also since he felt the same way.

"Why did you say that?" Klaus asked.

"If he had continued attacking with his previous style, although he would still lose given Alice's strength, she wouldn't beat him up too much" Reynolds was the one who spoke up this time.

From the man's attack, you could tell his grade is only Orange. This has given Alice the first advantage since her attack power is stronger. If the man was battling some other students on the same plane, he has an eighth out of ten chance of being victorious due to his experience.

But Alice is totally different, she's a battle maniac who enjoys fighting. She already has a great amount of experience from the multiple life and death battles she has engaged in when on a mission. Alice could barely find an opponent in the same stage as her. magic

Grey and Reynolds had spent the most time with her, so they knew her well. The only reason the battle was still ongoing was just her seeking to enjoy a prolonged battle.

Alice's attacks suddenly started getting stronger, 'She wasn't using her full strength previously' The man was shocked in his heart and couldn't help but start sweating.

He had already used all his strength, but Alice was able to destroy his attacks. At first, he thought she was already at her end and was planning on how she would make a mistake he could capitalize on.

The crowd was excited when they saw how spectacular the battle was turning out to be. They all felt lucky being able to watch such an intense battle, they prayed the battle would go on for longer. Only the experienced one's knew the battle would come to an end soon since one of the fighters is already on his last leg.

"That girl is strong," A shocked man said towards his partners.

They nodded in response.

Alice suddenly made a move that scared the hell out of her opponent, a huge wall made of fire suddenly sprang up around her opponent. They had been battling for some time now and Alice had only used the lightning element for her attacks.

The sudden appearance of the fire wall scared and stunned him. He literally thought someone was interfering with the fight, but he knew no one would do that since they all knew the rules of the place.

'She's a Dual Elementalist' He felt more fear. Whenever he thought Alice had showed her true power, she would surprise him with something stronger.

The walls limited the area he could move. This wasn't the scariest part of it all. What truly scared him was the make-shift roof the fire walls had. When he looked up, all he could see was a sea of lightning which perfectly fit on top of the fire walls.

The people outside suddenly saw a hut made of red and silver color appeared with the man stuck inside.

"Dual Elementalist" They all said simultaneously. It was rare for a Dual Elementalist to appear here, especially someone so talented.

"Checkmate" Alice said with a smile.

The man who was about to attack and break through the fire walls suddenly felt a chill run down his spine. He raised his head and saw what looked like lightning spears coming out of the roof. When he looked at the walls, he saw the same thing happening only this time it was fire spears.

His leg suddenly went soft, and he dropped to the ground.

"I give up" He yelled at the top of his lungs to make sure the man in charge heard him clearly.

The crowd was surprised by the terrified shout they heard.

Alice pouted when she heard the man say this, "You're no fun, you didn't even try to block the attack" She complained while first extinguishing the walls and the roof.

The crowd suddenly felt their eyes nearly jumped out of their heads. Even Grey and his friends were stupefied by the sight.

"Did she plan on killing him?" Klaus couldn't help but ask in a fearful voice.

The man was shaking on the floor with lightning and fire spears surrounding him from all angles. They floated on the same spot for some time before just like the walls, they extinguished.

"Had he been a little slower in admitting defeat, he would have definitely died from that attack"

The crowd looked at the little girl in horror, they all knew there was no way the man could have been able to block that attack. Even some people at the Ninth stage of the Arcane Plane among the crowd were not confident they could block it.

The man stood up with shaky legs, "Thank you" He said towards Alice before he pulled himself together and managed to walk away from the platform. He wasn't stupid, if it were to be a life and death battle, Alice would have attacked sooner and not do everything slowly.

He knew she was giving him a chance by taking her time to create the attack. If he was confident in blocking it, then he would take the attack head-on, but if he wasn't, he could always admit defeat.

Alice stood at the platform even after the man had left. She clearly wanted to challenge others as well. After the man in charge of the platform issued the challenge, no one stepped up. Even after five minutes, no one dared to step up.

The man had to tell Alice to return since no one wanted to battle her and more battles were still supposed to take place. Alice left the platform dejectedly and walked towards her friends, she was clearly disappointed by the lack of opponents.

Grey suddenly smacked his head, "Hey buddy, do they make bets here?" He asked Klaus.

"Of course, before each battle starts, a betting pool would be opened for the two fighters" Klaus explained to Grey.

"Damn," Grey said when he heard this. If only he had remembered this sooner, he would have bet his entire savings on Alice. He could have made a fortune. 'What a waste' He complained.

Alice sat down close to them still in a sad mood.

"That attack of yours is not easy to pull off," Klaus said towards her.

"Not really, but it's still quite taxing to use it since you have to manipulate two elements at the same time. It's getting easier for me now compared to when I first learned it" replied Alice.

Grey confirmed what she said since he had also tried using two elements simultaneously, he had even tried using three. Although it's taxing, once you get the hang of it, it becomes easier.

It's like multitasking yourself, once you get used to it, it becomes simple.

After some time Grey later went on to battle, just like Alice he calmly defeated his opponent. But unlike Alice, he was able to have another battle.

Since both Grey and Alice had participated in the battling, Klaus and Reynolds felt left out, so they also participated. Klaus won his first battle but lost the second one to an Elementalist who was two stages higher than him.

After leaving the place, they walked into the city and did different fun things before heading back to the Academy after sunset.

*Chapter 54: You Call This An Array*

On their way back to the Academy, Klaus opted to stay behind. He wanted to see his girlfriend. The group left the city without him and headed back to the Academy, they all knew they had to train harder since the competition will be taking place within the next two months.

Grey started cultivating immediately after getting home, he could feel his break through was just around the corner. After breaking through to the Late stages of the Arcane Plane, his strength would increase once again.

The next day...

Grey's usual routine started, waking up early for his physical training before choosing to head to the Earth Hall today. After that, he went over for his array training.

Immediately after he got into the valley, the first thing he did was head straight towards the farm. Chris surprisingly made a small place where the chickens, pigs, and bunnies were kept. Since Chris always asks him to prepare lunch before his training starts, he decided to prepare the meal immediately after entering to save Chris the stress of asking.

When he was done with the meal, he started his training.

"Why didn't you come yesterday?" Chris asked while he was still eating.

"I was about to come but Klaus, Reynolds, and Alice asked me to go with them to the city. Since I have been too busy with my training recently, I decided to take a break and go with them" Grey explained.

"You shouldn't train too hard, create some time for yourself," Chris said. He knew all about Grey's tight schedule with his training.

"Do you plan on participating in the competition?" Chris suddenly asked.

"Yes," Grey nodded. This was the first competition he would take part in. He wanted to know how he would fare when placed among the younger generations.

"Good" Chris nodded in approval. He knew Grey would definitely want to participate in it.

"Your stage is still too low, you shouldn't have a problem breaking into the Seventh stage before the competition. But you should be prepared because those who would participate in this competition are the best in their Academy, some are even more terrifying than that little lass you hang out with" Chris advised.

Grey knew what he said was correct. Although he could fight across stages, he wasn't the only one. Alice could do the same without any problem.

But this also made him more determined on participating in the competition, battling with young geniuses would tell him just how far behind he was. This would be a new boost for him to grow quicker and better.

"Set up the defensive array you have been practicing," said Chris. He wanted to see the progress Grey had made so far.

Grey nodded and got to work. He carefully used his spiritual energy to guide the lightning element in the air and started making patterns on the ground. After two hours, he was done with the defensive array.

The array only covered a diameter of three meters, this was the largest he could make currently. He activated it, and the array lit up. A translucent thin light came out from the array, it had strange lines on it with lightning flickering around it. This array also had attacking properties, if it was touched by anyone the lightning would immediately attack.

It was a special property the lightning element gave it. The lightning element is mainly focused on attack, so even when made into a defensive array, it still had the unique attacking property.

Chris nodded, he could tell Grey was improving at a very fast rate. This attributed to how focused Grey was in his training, Grey's speed of learning wasn't the best among all the people he knew, but the amount of time Grey puts into his training was insane.

This was the edge he had over others, his learning speed wasn't bad, it was just above average. Coupled with his hardworking nature, it wasn't surprising he was advancing at this speed.

"Brown" Chris called out to the Griffin.

Brown raised her head to look at Chris.

"Break the array" Chris pointed at the array.

Brown got up with and steadily walked towards the array. After getting to the front of the array, she raised one of her talons and poked at it.

Just like a shattered dream, the array came crumbling down. Grey stood stunned in the array, he didn't expect something he put so much time into preparing was destroyed just like that.

Brown looked at Grey in disdain, her eyes clearly asking 'you call this an array?'.  
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"That came out wrong. You were supposed to try out the strength of the array". Chris said with a light embarrassed laugh.

Grey just stood still, he still couldn't believe what happened. Chris looked at him and laughed.

"Don't be discouraged, she only struck the weak link of the array that was why it broke so easily" Chris comforted him.

Brown is knowledgeable about arrays, so breaking an array with the weak link was normal for her. She wouldn't be able to break the array a master set so easily since it would be hard to find its weak link.

After hearing what Chris said, Grey was able to figure out the rest. Without proficient knowledge of arrays, there was no way she would know where the weak link was located. It seems she is even more knowledgeable about arrays than he was.

Grey took a short break since making arrays was taxing on his spiritual energy, only after getting sufficient rest did he make the array once again. This time, Chris made sure to remind Brown to test out the strength of the array.

Brown did as ordered and attacked the array. Her first attack wasn't too strong, when it hit the array, the lights dimmed a little but shone after some time. She increased the strength before attacking it again. magic

When the second attack hit it, cracks appeared on the array. The cracks increased before the array fell apart.

"Not bad, the current strength of it could withstand the attack of a Third stage Arcane Plane Elementalist" Chris acknowledged the strength of the array.

Grey felt the same way when he made the array, so the confirmation from Chris proves his senses were right. The strength of the array would increase as he improves in the act.

After staying in the valley for another hour, he went back home and started practicing the new techniques he took from the library. When he was done with his practice, he started cultivating. He only entered the chaos space after cultivating.

Grey's schedule was exactly the same every day, he rarely had time to visit his friends. Klaus was the first among them to make a breakthrough, he was able to break through to the Sixth stage of the Arcane Plane one week later. Grey and Alice made a breakthrough after another two weeks.

The time of the competition was getting closer by the day.

When it was one month left before the competition, the empire announced the quotas for each Academy. The students were all surprised by the number of students participating from each Academy. Even the citizens were also shocked.

Normally, the number of spots each Academy had has always been fifteen. But for this competition, it was suddenly increased by ten. They all figured something must be going on for the sudden increase in numbers.

With an increased number of spots, the competition would be fierce. Each student would want to grab a spot from their Academy, so they could participate. Most of the students rejoiced since they would get an opportunity to grab a spot.

After the quota was announced, the Lunar Academy also announced how the spots were to be given. Fourteen spots had already been taken by the students in the Ninth stage of the Arcane Plane, a tournament would be held to determine the remaining eleven spots.

The tournament was to be held in two weeks. The entire Academy was immediately filled with activity, each student wanted to progress before the tournament, so they could participate in the competition. Fighting in the competition platform was a dream for most of the students since only the best students get the chance to fight there.

The days moved faster, and soon it was time for the tournament. The Academy advised only those at the Late stages of the Arcane Plane should participate in the tournament, but if any student felt they were strong enough, they could also take part in it.

Reynolds was able to break through to the Seventh stage of the Arcane Plane just before the day of the tournament, giving him increased confidence in his chances of obtaining a spot for the competition.

Finally, the day the students were all waiting arrived, it was the day of the tournament...

*Chapter 55: Lucky Bastard*

The arena of the Lunar Academy was filled with the little students they had. This tournament would decide the remaining eleven spots for the competition.

Grey hadn't battled with anyone from the Academy except for Alice, Reynolds, and Klaus. He was quite expectant towards the students of the Academy, he knew almost all the students of the Academy were talented due to the strict rules of the Academy.

The rules for other Academies were less rigid, but it didn't change the fact that the other Academies also had talented individuals. The Starlight isn't the publicly acclaimed number one for nothing, they had won the previous two competitions comfortably.

But this time, the Lunar Academy seems to have more geniuses compared to the previous times. During the last competition, the Starlight Academy had three people in the top ten. That was the highest number of students a single Academy had in the top ten in the history of the competition.

The Lunar Academy grabbed two spots in the previous competition with both students being in the top seven, one was placed second while the other was seventh. The Academy aims for the top spot, but the Starlight Academy wouldn't be that easy to defeat.

Grey and his friends came to the arena, Alice also came to watch to support her friends who were participating. She would love it if they all could participate in the competition, so she came to cheer them up.

When Grey and his friends went to register, they were each given plaques with numbers on them. Since they registered at the same time, their numbers were close. Grey's plaque had the number fifty-five, while Klaus had fifty-four, Reynolds had fifty-six.

The number of students registering was still increasing. Soon an instructor came to the platform, all the students ceased their conversations on seeing the instructor on stage.

"The registration has ended, now each student who registered for the tournament should come towards the platform," The instructor said in a clear and resonant voice.

All the participating students got up from their seats and walked towards the platform.

"One hundred and seven students are participating. The tournament would last for ten days, with twenty battles taking place each day" The instructor said.

"One student will be exempted from this first round since we can only have fifty-three battles in the first round. The student who has plaque number one will battle the student with plaque number one hundred and seven, number two would battle number one hundred and six and so on" The instructor continued.

"The student with the plaque number fifty-four would advance automatically into the next round. After this round is finished, those who advanced will get new plaque numbers"

The students all knew their numbers, some of them started searching for who their potential opponents were. When Klaus heard the student with the plaque number fifty-four advanced automatically, he was over the moon with joy. Reynolds looked at him with envy, even Grey couldn't help but click his tongue at his luck.

Grey was supposed to be the first one to register, but Klaus jumped in front of him and therefore collected the lucky number as it seems.

The instructor ordered them all to step down from the platform, there were four platforms in the arena altogether and battles would take place on each of them simultaneously.

The students with plaque numbers one to four and plaque numbers one hundred and seven to one hundred and four all stood opposite their opponents on the platforms.

"Remember to give up once you feel you can't deal with the attack of your opponent. This is not a life and death battle so there is no need to endure till your last breath, although we encourage your courage, it doesn't mean you should get yourself killed"

"Once you see your opponent can no longer fight back, you are not allowed to continue attacking. After your opponent admits defeat, you are not allowed to attack them"

"Are we clear?" The instructor asked after telling them the rules.

"Yes"

The fighters answered together.

"Alright, begin" The instructor nodded his head before leaving the platform and going to the side. He would step in immediately any of the students is in danger.

Instructors were also assigned to the other three platforms, after they were all ready, the battles commenced.

Grey and his friends decided to stay and watch the battles, there would be twenty battles today, and they weren't among the fighters. Watching the battles of others was a good way to also learn.

The students who weren't participating in the tournament because of their low levels were all watching the battles with interest. They were all excited at the thought of the battles since they all enjoyed watching battles.

There would be five sets of battles taking place today on all four platforms which would make a total of twenty battles for the day. They sat till the third set of battles before Grey decided to leave, since he wouldn't be participating in any of the battles for today, he wanted to train.

He first headed over to meet with Chris, he practiced for two hours before heading to his house to continue his training.

They watched the battles on the second day as well but didn't stay till the end. Klaus was more carefree among them since he didn't have to battle in this round.

The next day, Grey and his friends came to the arena early. He still didn't know his opponent and didn't really care, whoever stood in his way, he would storm past them. There were only thirteen battles left for this round to come to a close and Grey's battle was the last battle.

Reynolds would be battling before Grey did. He would be part of the third set to battle today, Grey and his opponent would be the only ones in the fourth set.

"Do you know who you're fighting?" asked Reynolds.

Grey shook his head, "I don't, how about you, do you know who you're fighting?".

"Hehehe, I'm quite lucky, my opponent is Larry from the Fire Hall. He's at the Sixth stage of the Arcane Plane, so I shouldn't have a problem defeating him" Reynolds scratched his head before answering. Although he said this, he knew he shouldn't underestimate his opponent.

When he was in the Sixth stage, he didn't have a problem with battling those at the Seventh stage. Even if he couldn't beat them, he wasn't totally helpless against them.

Grey nodded when he heard this. Getting to battle someone at the Sixth stage wasn't challenging for him. He didn't believe anyone in a lower stage than he was could defeat him. Yes, he was that confident.

"Don't dare return here if you don't advance to the next round. I mean look at me, I've already advanced. I am too awesome that my opponent had to admit defeat even before seeing me" Klaus said shamelessly.

"Yes, I agree with him" Alice added.

Grey and Reynolds glared at Klaus.

"Lucky bastard," They said simultaneously.

"Hehehe, you don't have to feel bad, as long as you decide to follow me for the rest of your lives, I could allow you to rub off some of my awesomeness. If you guys were awesome just by a little bit, you wouldn't have a problem getting a girlfriend" Klaus laughed loudly.

Alice also joined in the laughing when she heard this. If looks could kill, then Klaus would have already died ten times by now with the way Grey and Reynolds were glaring at him.

While they were bantering, it soon got to Reynolds turn to head towards the platform. After this set of battles, it would be Grey's turn.

"Make sure to win," Alice said.

"Of course, I can't bring shame to our group right?" Reynolds asked with a smile as he walked confidently towards the platform.

Both fighters on the platform majored in the offensive, their elements were focused mainly on attacking, so it was going to be an interesting battle.

The battles soon started and Reynolds charged towards his opponent before sending an orb made of lightning towards his opponent. When the orb got within ten feet of his opponent, it immediately exploded and sent lightning towards him.

On seeing the attack, Larry didn't panic and used a sea of flames to block out the attack. He knew there was no way he could match up to Reynolds in terms of speed, so he had to keep a cool head and defended calmly.

The battle went on for some time and Reynolds couldn't find a chance to deal a strong attack on Larry, he didn't rush and took his time. He knew just like how he was searching for an opportunity, his opponent was also doing the same.

Their battle was the most intense one among all the battles which were taking place. It was as spectacular as it was colorful due to the series of attacks from both fighters.

"Larry is cool-headed, if he were to be in the same stage as Reynolds, he would have won already," said Klaus.

"You're not totally right, you should know Reynolds by now," Grey said.

If Reynolds failed to defeat his opponent with his first flurry of attacks, he would immediately change his strategy to something better suited for his opponent.

While they were still talking Larry suddenly screamed in pain before collapsing on the floor, shaking violently. The crowd was surprised by the sudden change, they were all enjoying the battle and Larry suddenly screamed and collapsed.

Reynolds immediately stopped his attack, he smiled and walked out of the platform. Others might not know what happened, but he knew.

Over the course of his flurry of attacks, he was carefully leaving behind little lightning elements on the air in the platform, if his opponent focused intently they might be able to sense the disturbance in the surrounding elements. But due to the high intensity of their fight, Larry didn't notice it.

The elements attached themselves to Larry, after it got to the required amount where it could totally incapacitate his opponent without killing him, he activated them.

"Reynolds win" The instructor announced the result.

Reynolds walked towards his friends confidently.

"How was it?" He asked.

"Not bad, your strategy was amazing, even I wouldn't notice it," Grey said, he was stunned by the attack his friend used. Although it took time, it was very effective.

They all laughed before the instructor called out the last battle.

"Next up, plaque number fifty-three and fifty-five" magic

"They're calling me, I'll be back soon" Grey stood up and calmly headed towards the platform with calm and confident footsteps.

"Good luck," Klaus said.

"Yeah, luck" a little smile formed on his face.

#### *Chapter 56: Inscribing*

Grey stood calmly on the platform and stared at his opponent, he couldn't help but sigh with disappointment. His opponent was a girl from the Wind Hall, Grey had seen her some of the times he had attended classes there. Although they weren't friends, they were still acquainted.

She was in the Seventh stage of the Arcane Plane, but there was no way she was an opponent for Grey. Although he was disappointed, he didn't show it out, so it wouldn't feel like he was looking down on her.



"Hello," She said towards Grey.

"Hello," Grey waved at her with a smile.

"Begin," The instructor said after both fighters got on the platform.

"Please go easy on me," The girl said gently before using a movement technique to try to attack Grey with the element of surprise.

When she appeared beside Grey and sent out an attack, Grey suddenly disappeared from where he stood and appeared on the other side of the platform. He looked at his opponent calmly with a smile still plastered on his face.

The girl sent another attack towards Grey, but just like before, Grey was able to easily evade all the attacks. The girl went on attacking with Grey easily dodging them.

"You should just give up," Grey said with a sigh. He had already gotten a lot of chances to end the battle, but he didn't want her to feel bad if the battle ended too quickly.

The girl looked at him and bit her lower lips, from this little exchange, she knew she wasn't an opponent for Grey. But she didn't want to give up without even trying harder.

"No" She shook her head stubbornly.

"Okay," Grey answered before disappearing from her view once again. There was no need to extend the fight any longer, he had already allowed her to show some of her abilities. The sooner he ends this, the quicker he could start training for today.

Earth spikes suddenly came out of the ground, the girl immediately jumped upwards in a bid to dodge the attack. While she was still airborne, Grey appeared behind her and struck her on the neck. Since she was a student from the Academy, he didn't want to hurt her. magic

She was surprised by the sudden appearance of Grey behind her, before she could think of a way to maneuver, she suddenly blacked out.

Grey caught the unconscious girl so she wouldn't hurt herself before handing her over to the instructor. The instructor nodded when he saw Grey's conduct, it was clean and effective. He could tell Grey was not like most of the students from how he fought, Grey must have engaged in different life and death battles.

After handing her to the instructor, Grey walked out of the platform, it was like he didn't even take part in the fight that just took place. Only the students at the Eighth stage could excite him a little, but he wasn't sure they could make him go all out. Only those at the Ninth stage were the ones he regarded as his true opponents.

If not for wanting to take part in the competition, he would have just focused on his training and not bother himself with all this.

"All the students who advanced should come to the platform" The instructor called out. Since there was still time, the students would receive their new numbers today, so they could know the order of fighting tomorrow.

All fifty-four students stood on the platform. There were fifty-three battles during the first round, half of the students advanced while the other half were eliminated. Klaus got an automatic advancement, that made them fifty-four students in total who made it to the second round.

"Since the number of students tally, all students would fight in this round" The instructor explained before bringing out a big box which was filled with plaques.

The students already knew they would all battle after they did the calculations.

"Come forward and pick a plaque," The instructor said.

The numbers were placed randomly, so there was no way the students could choose who they wanted to fight with.

The first person went over to pick a plaque, the others followed in an orderly manner. Soon all the plaques had been taken.

"Just like the first round, the student with plaque number one would battle number fifty-four and so on. There would be twenty battles each day just like the last round also" The instructor said before dismissing the students.

"What number did you get" Klaus curiously.

"I'm forty-three," said Grey.

"I'm fourteen," said Reynolds

"I'm six, luckily you guys won't have to face me," Klaus said with a smile.

After leaving the arena, Grey headed over to the valley. He was looking forward to his training today since Chris told him he could start learning inscription today. The thought of learning inscription excited him. Even though it was slower, its attack power was higher.

Besides, as he continues training in it, the time it would take would decrease, till it will become almost instantaneous.

When he got to the valley, he went to prepare the meal they would all eat. He joins Chris most of the time when he was eating, even Brown has grown to like the food Grey cooked. So she was always excited whenever he came.

Over the period Grey had been coming, he had formed a close relationship with Brown. Chris always eats before he starts teaching Grey.

"How was your battle today?" Chris asked after they were done eating.

"It was disappointing" Grey shook his head.

"Why did you say that?" Chris asked curiously.

"Although my opponent is not weak, she's not really my match," Grey told Chris what happened.

"You shouldn't have an equal in the same stage, I don't think those in the Eighth stage can also pose a threat to you. Your real opponents are those in the Ninth stage" Chris said.

Grey nodded. He also felt that way.

"But there are some people in the Eighth stage who are terrifying, they are very rare though" Chris added.

"I know," said Grey. If he broke through to the Eighth stage, he would also be regarded as one of those terrifying ones, if not even stronger.

"Good, now to the business of today. I would teach you the basics of inscribing. Since you already have a good foundation in arrays, it shouldn't really be too hard for you to do" Chris went on to teach Grey how to inscribe.

"It's just like making an array, only quicker, and it's done on the air," Grey said.

"Yes. Now that you know the basics, with your knowledge of arrays, you shouldn't have a problem with it" Chris went back to his chair. Since he had already shown Grey what to do, all he had to do was watch Grey practice and correct him if he makes any mistakes.

Grey followed Chris' instructions and tried inscribing, but failed. It was within his expectations as he didn't think he would be able to make it immediately. He continued with his practice, although he was failing, from his failure he was able to get more experience with inscribing.

After staying till sunset, Grey headed home. He was unable to inscribe, but he had made some progress nonetheless. He did his usual training after getting home before going to bed. Since he would be battling tomorrow, he wanted to be in his best condition. Hopefully, he gets a worthy opponent.

The next morning, they all gathered at Grey's place before heading towards the arena. When they got to the arena, just like before students were already there to cheer on the fighters.

After the instructors arrived, they immediately called for the students to start the second round.

The first set of battles began heatedly. In one of the platforms, two students at the Eighth stage of the Arcane Plane were battling. It was totally unexpected since the number of students in the Eighth stage was few.

Due to how random each of the fights is, students in the Eighth stage also battled during the first round. Now in the second round, they were also battling. The students in the Eighth stage who were eliminated would be unlucky since there are students they were stronger than.

But this had nothing to do with the Academy, although they wanted to take their best students there, they still couldn't act unfairly. Besides, without competent abilities, it would be impossible to advance.

The battle was very tight, but just like all battles in a tournament, there was a winner. The student from the Earth Hall was able to beat the one from the Fire Hall.

After the first round of battles, the second round began. Klaus would take part in the second round of the battle, it was the first time he was going to fight, and he couldn't help but be excited.

His opponent was from the Water Hall just like him but was one stage higher than him.

Among the group, Klaus was the one who is the most playful, but they all knew deep down, he was just as hardworking as they were. Klaus could also battle across stages, so the result of the battle was unknown.

After a long fight, Klaus was able to clinch victory. He was nearly defeated a couple of times, but he managed to pull through and win.

It was Grey's turn the next set, and just like the last time, he got someone who was at the Seventh stage. The only difference was his opponent was a boy from the Water Hall.

'How disappointing' Grey sighed in his heart as he looked at his opponent.

He didn't waste his time and ended the battle quickly since he had to go practice.

*Chapter 57: You Again!*

Reynolds came up and also won his battle against a student at the Seventh stage of the Arcane Plane. The student was from the Earth Hall, so he mostly focused on defense, Reynolds just bombarded him with a series of attacks until his opponent made a mistake from the pressure.

After Reynolds battle came to an end, the group exited the arena. Since they had already battled, they had no other reason to stay. They all wanted to go train and focus on the next task ahead.

Grey headed to the valley, to continue practicing inscribing. It wasn't going to be easy, the only way he could truly get the hang of it was through trying continuously. He failed, he tried again, he failed again, he tried again. The cycle went on till he went home.

Even after getting home, he still continued with his practice. He could feel he wasn't too far away from making his first inscription. So he continued doing it even after the failed attempts. Since he wouldn't be having a battle tomorrow, he stayed up late because of his practice.

The night passed with Grey still being unsuccessful, he managed to get up early, albeit tired. The pressure inscribing placed on spiritual energy was huge, and because he did it over again the previous day, he was exhausted.

"There is no way I can practice this today" Grey knew he was at his limit, if he tried to force himself, it would only be causing more harm than good.

Twenty battles took place yesterday so today only seven battles would be fought. After the battles, they would have to pick a new number. This was the reason Grey came.

They didn't come to the arena on time though, by the time they arrived the first set of battles were just rounding up. They found a seat and waited patiently for the second set to finish, so they could pick their new numbers and head back home.

The second set soon started and they all watched the match, Grey was particularly lazy due to the stress of his training. He just wanted to head home and get some sleep, he wasn't confident he could even prepare a meal for Chris, so he decided to head home for a rest.

After some time, the second round ended. The instructor once again stepped into the arena.

"All students who advanced should come to the platform," said the instructor.

They all stood up from their respective seats and headed towards the platform. The number of students had reduced from one hundred and seven to a meager number of twenty-seven.

"Just like the first round, a student will get automatic advancement since there is an extra student. The student who picks plaque number fourteen would gain automatic advancement" After saying this he took out the box and placed it in front of him.

"Now step forward and pick a plaque," The instructor said.

The plaques were all facing downwards, so there is no way for the students to know which one had the number fourteen. As they were lining up to go pick the plaques, Klaus wanted to get in front of Grey, but Reynolds immediately held him and pushed him towards his back, and stepped in front of Grey.

There was no way he was going to allow Klaus to do the same thing twice. They were the last three on the line, so they would get to pick the last three plaques.

When Grey thought about the first incident, he also pushed Klaus behind him. Now Klaus was the last person on the line, he wouldn't even get a chance to choose which plaque he would like to pick. Although the picking was random, the chances of getting the plaque numbered fourteen was much higher than when he had to pick the last plaque.

Klaus complained when he saw how they were acting, but no matter how much he talked to them, they refused to let him be ahead of them.

Soon it was the last three plaques, Reynolds was the first to step up, and he picked one of the plaques. Grey followed and picked another one leaving the last one for Klaus.

Klaus grumbled under his breath as he walked over to pick the plaque.

"This round's battles are arranged in the same order as the previous round. Since there are only thirteen battles, all the battles will take place tomorrow" The instructor said before walking out of the arena. On his way out, he suddenly turned and asked.

"Which student has the number fourteen?"

All the students looked at their plaques. With none stepping forward. Grey and Reynolds also looked at their plaques and shook their heads with disappointment, they clearly did not get the lucky number.

Klaus grumpily looked at his plaque, his facial expression suddenly changed. Grey noticed the sudden change in Klaus and couldn't help but take a peek at the plaque, his eyes opened wide when he saw the number fourteen boldly written on it.

Reynolds curiously looked at it also when he saw Grey's weird behavior, the result almost made him pass out from shock.

Klaus stepped out and showed his plaque to the instructor.

"You again," The shocked instructor said. He still remembered how Klaus also got the lucky number in the first round. Now in the third round, he also acquired it. The shocking part was the fact that the plaque he picked was the last plaque there.

The surrounding students were also surprised since they knew Klaus was the one who also got the automatic advancement during the first round. The eyes they all used to look at him was filled with envy. Not fighting means he is already so close to obtaining a spot at the competition.

Klaus smiled and nodded.

When Klaus stepped forward, Reynolds edged closer to Grey and asked with a whisper.

Grey slapped Reynolds at the back of his head when he heard this question.

"I only asked a question" Reynolds whined.

"He was just lucky," said Grey. Klaus was lucky, too lucky even. For him to be able to consecutively get the automatic advancement twice in a row, was unbelievable.

"Too lucky if you ask me" Reynolds stressed the first part of his sentence.

Klaus returned confidently. He looked at Grey and Reynolds before laughing, they were the ones who pushed him to the last spot. They even picked before him, yet they surprisingly missed the plaque.

They all headed back towards their seats to meet up with Alice before leaving.  
magic

"How did it go?" asked Alice.

"It went well" Klaus replied with a grin.

"Oh, I saw you meeting with the instructor, was there a problem," The curious Alice asked.

"It really isn't a problem per se, I got the automatic advancement" Klaus spoke like it was something normal.



When Alice heard this, even she couldn't help but wonder how lucky Klaus was. Getting the automatic advancement twice in a row was something that had never happened in these sorts of tournaments before.

"I'm just too awesome. Once again, my awesomeness scared my opponent into admitting defeat without even seeing me. You should learn from me, my lessons start at sunset every day, you should not miss it, especially you Grey. You haven't hooked up with one girl since you came to the Academy" Klaus said shamelessly.

Grey glared at him when he heard the last part of the statement. Alice giggled when she heard this and Reynolds couldn't help but chuckle.

"I still haven't found the right one," Grey said gritting his teeth. Klaus has always used this to mock him, but there was nothing he could do about it. Due to his handsome appearance, a lot of girls approach him. He always declines their offers.

There was a time he went to an occasion with Klaus, he had to leave the occasion quickly due to the number of girls who made advances towards him.

Reynolds had a girlfriend once, but they aren't together anymore. Klaus is the only one who hooks up with another girl the moment he breaks up with one. He was already tagged a playboy by Alice.

They all played and laughed on their way home. The group always enjoyed each other's company, having a girl in their midst didn't dampen the fun at all, it unexpectedly increased it. They all had playful personalities, so they got along pretty well.

The moment Grey got home, he fell asleep. His head was a wreck, and he needed some time to rest. After getting a good rest, the fatigue will surely fade away.

By the time Grey woke up, it was already dark. He felt the fatigue had decreased, if he could get a good night's sleep, he would be as good as new tomorrow morning, if not even better.

Grey had a meal before he continued his rest. This was the first time in a while now that he got a good rest, and it felt refreshing.

*Chapter 58: Almost Lost My Poor Little Life*

The next morning, Grey woke up earlier than usual. He felt very refreshed after the long rest he had. Since he still had time before the tournament starts for the day, he went out for his physical training. He noticed his spiritual energy was stronger than it was previously.

With the increase in spiritual energy, he noticed he could feel the elemental particles in the air more clearly and his mind was more relaxed which in turn increased his focus. He felt his control over the elements was better than before.

"I should be able to attempt it now," Grey said confidently. When he noticed how strong his spiritual energy was, he suddenly remembered there was a technique he had, but had never attempted it since acquiring it.

Elemental fusion.

He got the technique after breaking through to the Arcane Plane, but he had never once tried to attempt it since he felt his control over the elements wasn't good enough yet. But with this current increase in spiritual energy, his confidence increased.

Grey calmed himself, he wanted to be in the best state before attempting it. The sun was just about to rise, the light from the rising sun passed through the trees and shone in the serious-looking face of Grey.

When he felt he was prepared, Grey slowly stretched out his right hand. He put all his focus into sensing the surrounding elements. He slowly started using his spiritual energy to carefully guide the lightning and earth element slowly towards the top of his outstretched hand.

Although he also had the wind element, he didn't want to add it as well since controlling two elements at a time was already tiring. If he were to also add the wind element, he wasn't sure if he would be able to fuse them.

Grey totally lost himself in what he was doing and soon, lights made of brownish and silver color started congealing at the top of his outstretched hand. Slowly an orb started taking shape with two different colors intertwining perfectly in it.

After the orb grew to the size of a fist, it suddenly started trembling. Clearly, it was starting to become unstable.

"Shit" Grey cursed out when he noticed he was losing control of the orb. He tried to regain control over it.

The trembling increased and Grey's heart suddenly tightened, the orb was about to explode and Grey felt an energy that scared the life out of him. The power contained in the orb was terrifying, if it exploded on his palm, he would definitely die.

"Fu\*k!, it's going to blow" Grey cursed again before he threw the orb in one direction and dashed towards the other direction.

As he was running, he suddenly heard a deafening sound.

**\*BOOM\***

The orb exploded in the forest, Grey's heart started beating faster and faster, when he turned to look, he felt the scare of his life. The explosion was expanding from the spot and moving towards him.

"Shit, shit, shit" Grey cursed repeatedly and employed lightning steps enforced with the wind element. He was practically on the verge of crying.

"Why didn't they say it was this dangerous" Grey was running like his life depended on it? Oh wait, it does, if he gets caught up this close to the blast, he would definitely lose his little life. It was clearly stated that the technique was dangerous, but it wasn't stated how dangerous it was.

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Inside the valley...

Chris was sleeping peacefully. Brown was lying lazily on the ground.

**\*BOOM\***

The sleeping Chris woke up from the sound and walked outside his little cabin. He looked towards the forest with interest before disappearing from his previous spot.

Brown also raised her head vigilantly and was about to fly out on seeing Chris disappearing.

"Stay here"

Chris's voice echoed out, but he was nowhere to be seen.

\*\*\*\*\*

Inside the Academy...

\*BOOM\*

"What is that?" Blake suddenly looked towards the forest behind the Academy. Lightning danced on his body before he disappeared.

At different places on the Academy, different instructors were heading towards the location of the blast.

"Did you hear that?"

"Of course I did, I'm not deaf"

"What do you think made such a loud sound"

"I don't know, but from the direction of the sound, it came from behind the Academy"

"Do you think it's an enemy attack?"

"Who would be stupid enough to come here and attack us?"

"The Starlight Academy?"

"I don't think they have the guts to dare"

"We shouldn't bother about this, the instructors will take care of it. Whatever it is"

Different conversations started off among the students. The explosion shook the surrounding, some students thought it was the handwork of the Starlight Academy, others thought maybe some experts were fighting.

The explosion became the hottest topic among the students.

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Back at the forest...

"Creak"

The sound of rock grating against the ground sounded out.

"Bang"

The rock fell on the ground with a loud sound. magic

A youth who looked messed up appeared in sight, his hair stood straight and his face was covered with black substance. He was covered in armor which appeared to be made of rock. Some parts of the armor had holes in them, this was clearly a result of the impact.

This was the new defensive technique he learned, earth armor. It would form an armor on the body of the Elementalist. The strength of this technique increases with the strength of the Elementalist. For now the armor is made to rocks, as his strength increases, it would be made of jade, before turning to crystal and then finally diamond.

Grey looked at his surroundings with a disoriented look. He was still playing out what just happened.

Grey was currently over six hundred meters away from the blast. After the blast occurred, Grey tried running, but he was unable to surpass the speed at which it was moving. Luckily, he managed to get to the outer regions of the blast where the strength of the blast wasn't as strong as the central region.

Grey made an earth wall to try to reduce the impact of the blast, after doing that, he also used earth armor to protect himself, he had to be extra sure. Fortunately, the wall was able to help him reduce the impact, but he still suffered from the little that passed through.

"I could have lost my poor little life if I didn't act fast" Grey whipped off the sweat on his face, he truly did feel fear when he lost control of the orb. The earth armor started falling apart from his body.

"The instructors will probably come here after this blast, what will I tell them if they asked me what happened?" There is no way the blast won't attract the instructors over, and since Grey was currently the only one near the blast, they would naturally question him.

"There's no way I can tell them I was practicing a new technique, the strength of the blast exceeded what someone who is still at the Arcane Plane can do," Grey thought hard about it.

"Thankfully I didn't try it out when I was in the Academy" Grey sighed, the thought of the consequences of destroying his home and maybe putting the lives of other students at risk terrified him.

"I should probably leave here" Grey turned and immediately started walking in the other direction.

"Where are you going?"

A voice suddenly rang out.

Grey's heart tensed up when he heard this, but he didn't show it out. He had learned to mask his reactions well, so even if he's shocked or afraid, it would be almost impossible to notice it from his body language.

He turned around calmly only to see Chris standing midair looking down at him with interest. Chris was the first one to arrive here since his place was closer to the site of the blast, and he was faster.

"Teacher, I'm heading back to the Academy" Grey replied calmly.

"What happened here?" asked Chris

"I have no idea, I was training when I suddenly heard an explosion, luckily I wasn't too close to it" Grey answered.

"Hmm, okay. You should head back now"

"Yes, Teacher," Grey said and quickly dashed away from the place.

Chris's eyes followed the shadow of Grey till he disappeared from his sight.

'Seems like this cook of mine has some secrets, interesting'

Chris heard everything Grey said when he arrived. When he arrived at the site of the explosion, he didn't sense anyone. He knew there was no way the person who did this attack would have already escaped before he arrived.

He suddenly heard movements coming from some distance away and headed towards the place. When he arrived, he saw Grey pushing off a wall he used to protect himself from the blast. After hearing what he said, he knew this was done by Grey.

But what he still couldn't figure out was how someone in the Arcane Plane could make an attack which strength equals someone at the Early stages of the Origin Plane, it just doesn't make sense.

"Whoosh"

Chris looked over when he heard this. He saw Blake coming towards him at a very fast speed.

Blake quickly appeared in front of him.

"Senior" He quickly greeted as he saw Chris.

"What happened here?. Oh!, and I saw Grey leaving here just now," Blake asked. When he was flying here, he saw Grey leaving the place. Since Chris was already here, he must have met Grey.

"I don't know, seems like whoever did this already fled before I arrived" answered Chris.

"So fast?," Blake was surprised. He knew just how fast Chris was.

"Did the blast affect Grey?" Blake asked, he remembered how Grey looked when he saw him. Grey was like a beggar in the street. Some parts of his clothes were torn, so he guessed Grey might have suffered from the blast.

"He was able to act quickly and use his defensive techniques, but he was still impacted by it. But he should be okay" said Chris. He knew there was no way Blake would think Grey was involved in what happened, if not for accidentally hearing what Grey said when he arrived, he still wouldn't have thought Grey was involved also.

The other instructors arrived while Chris and Blake were still conversing about the blast, Blake told them what Chris told him. They decided to investigate the site. After searching for some time and finding nothing, they all went back to the Academy. But they agreed on increasing their guard since they still didn't know what caused the blast.

Grey got back to his house and finally heaved a sigh.

"I was lucky today, but I did learn some things from this attempt"

Although he was scared by the blast, he was also amazed by the strength of it. If he could master it, he would be able to easily defeat everyone in the Arcane Plane, he wouldn't even be scared of battling those in the First stage of the Origin Plane.

Grey decided not to attempt it for now since he wasn't as confident anymore. But he would try it again in the near future.

After he took his bath, he waited for his friends to arrive before they headed towards the arena.

*Chapter 59: Finally!*

The group headed towards the arena while discussing the blast that occurred. Klaus was particularly lively about the topic, he was adamant the explosion was caused by two experts fighting. He even came up with a conjecture that Grey couldn't help but wonder if he was talking about the explosion he made.

If Grey wasn't the one who made the blast, he would feel what Klaus said might be what truly happened. It made so much sense, that you can't dispute it.

They were not the only ones talking about it, students in groups who were also heading towards the arena were all talking about it.

After getting to the arena, they found a seat not too close to the platform and sat down to watch the battles that would take place before it gets to their turn. Grey would be battling in the second set of battles, while Reynolds would be in the third set.

Grey's number was eight, so he will be battling the student with the plaque number twenty. He was hopeful about the battle since the chances of meeting



a student in the Eighth stage of the Arcane Plane had increased, due to the decrease in numbers of participants.

Currently, Klaus was the only student still at the Sixth stage of the Arcane Plane among the participants. Although he didn't stand much of a chance fighting with those in the Eighth stage, against those in the Seventh stage, his chances are not bad.

There was a total of twenty-eight students in the Eighth stage of the Arcane Plane who registered and currently, sixteen of those students have been eliminated. Most of them were eliminated while facing students of the same plane, only one of them was eliminated by a student in the Seventh stage of the Arcane Plane.

The name of the student was Damian, he was a student from the Earth Hall, and he is currently the one with the most eye-catching performance so far in the tournament. Even Grey and his friends acknowledged his strength.

The first round of battles soon started and Damian was among the first set of fighters. His opponent was someone from the Lightning Hall who was also at the Seventh stage just like him.

Compared to most Earth Elementalists, Damian didn't focus fully on defense. He was focused more on attacking. Among all the elements, the earth element is regarded as the mightiest element. Unlike the rest elements, the earth element relies mostly on brute strength.

"Who do you think will win?" asked Klaus.

"Which of the battles are you asking about?" Alice asked. There were currently four different battles going on and one of them had two fighters in the Eighth stage battling.

"The one with Damian" replied Klaus.

"Given the strength he has shown so far, he shouldn't have a problem with defeating his opponent," Reynolds said. He didn't have full confidence in defeating Damian, but he would love to battle him.

"Yeah, in the Seventh stage, he has few rivals," Grey said while focusing his gaze on the platform which held Damian.

"How confident are you in defeating him?" Alice looked at Grey.

When the others heard this question, they also turned to look at him. They had never seen Grey go all out, so they were still in the dark about his true strength. They all knew Grey was strong, but they don't know just how strong he was.

"From what I have seen..." Grey paused.

"He doesn't stand a chance," Grey said with a smirk.

From all the battles he had seen so far, he hasn't seen anyone among the fighters that could make him go all out. Damian was strong, but from his performance from the battle with the student at the Eighth stage, he was still lacking.

Unless he was still hiding his strength even in that battle. He wouldn't know until he had a battle with him. magic

The rest of the group could hear the confidence in Grey's voice. They all really started getting curious about Grey's true strength.

"I would like to see you fight against him," Alice said.

"Same here," Klaus and Reynolds said while raising their hands simultaneously, clearly agreeing with what Alice said. They also wanted to see Grey battle against Damian.

"I think we would get the chance" Grey smiled.

They watched the battle of Damian and the lightning user. From the way Damian attacks, you could tell he was an experienced fighter. His strike was as precise as they were deadly, all his attacks were well planned out.

His opponent started struggling just after the fight started, the battle went on for another three minutes before he finally yielded. He couldn't get past Damian's defense, and he was being struck by his attacks. He could barely stand, so there was no need to endure the pain when he knew there was no hope in winning this.

Damian was the first to defeat his opponent among those in this set of rounds. After his victory, he walked to a less crowded space in the stands and took his seat.

Soon the first set of battles ended, and it was time for the second set to begin. Grey headed to the platform his number was called.

He stood and waited for his opponent to arrive, he soon heard footsteps and saw a fairly handsome youth ascending the stairs to the platform.

'Finally' Grey almost said this out loud.

"Ready?" asked the instructor.

"Yes"

"Yes"

Both fighters answered.

Grey was a little excited, he would be able to finally test out the strength of a student at the Eighth stage of the Arcane Plane.

"Begin"

"Crack"

"Bam"

As soon as the instructor finished his words, both fighters immediately sent out attacks towards their opponents. Grey sent out a series of lightning towards his opponent, who countered with his own attacks.

They exchanged some more moves with Grey holding a clear advantage in the exchange, they both stopped and looked at each other.

Grey smiled towards his opponent.

"Earth tremor" Grey muttered under his breath before he stomped one of his feet on the platform.

\*RUMBLE\*

The platform starting vibrating and his opponent nearly lost his footing from the sudden vibration.

The sudden commotion immediately attracted more attention from the crowd. Since four battles were going on, some students pick a specific battle to watch and just forget about the rest, it's not like they could watch them all at the same time.

But if any of the battles in the other platforms start getting exciting, it immediately draws their attention towards it.

Grey sent three rocks flying towards his opponent, just as the rocks were about to reach his opponent, he released lightning arrows which attacked his opponent from another direction.

His opponent raised a wall of flame which blocked the arrows and only managed to dodge the rocks in a sorry manner.

He was shocked by the strength Grey displayed. He could tell Grey hadn't gone all out yet. Not only that, but he was already breathing heavily and Grey's breath was still calm and collected like he has not even started fighting.

Grey immediately went on the attack once again, since his opponent could last longer than the previous ones, he wanted to enjoy himself.

His opponent soon fell on a passive state and couldn't do anything to Grey. He was a Fire Elementalist, yet he was currently fully on the defensive and couldn't attack. He didn't want to admit defeat since losing meant he couldn't participate in the competition.

Grey was kind not to be too hard in his attacks, but his opponent still had a hard time defending. Soon he sent him flying with a punch, he covered his hands with lightning which in turn increased the strength of his attack.

\*THUD\*

His opponent fell on the platform and passed out. The instructor came to check on him and noticed he only passed out, he also checked to see if his injuries were severe. Luckily Grey was lenient with him, so he didn't really have any severe injuries, as long as he gets a good rest, he should be okay.

"Grey wins"

The instructor announced.

Some students cheered when the battle ended. Grey walked towards his friends before seating calmly.

Grey suddenly raised his head and looked in a specific direction. He saw Damian staring at him intently, with eyes filled with fighting intent.

'Hmm, seems like I attracted his attention' Grey smiled at Damian before shifting his gaze back to the platform.

This was the first time Grey had fought more than a minute. The first battle he fought only lasted about one minute and the second one was even shorter. He hasn't attracted much attention since his battles had ended too quickly. People only felt he was strong since he was able to end his battle quickly.

This battle only showed them a little glimpse of his strength.

'Hopefully he doesn't disappoint me' thought Grey with a smile.

*Chapter 60:Initial Success*

The second set of battles finished and the third set started immediately. Reynolds was part of the third set. As long as he didn't meet an opponent in the Eighth stage of the Arcane Plane, his chances of victory were high if his opponent is in the Seventh stage.

Luckily, his opponent was a Water Elementalist in the Seventh stage of the Arcane Plane. They fought for a couple of minutes before Reynolds got the upper hand. His opponent tried everything he could to reverse the situation, but the moment he allowed Reynolds to gain the upper hand, he lost the match.

Another two minutes passed before he finally gave up. He sighed while leaving the platform, his dream of participating in the competition was over. Reynolds walked down from the platform with a smile on his face. He's currently one step closer to earning a spot.

The last set of battles soon started, there was only one battle taking place since twelve had already been fought over the last three sets. The battle didn't last long, it ended with a victory for the student in the Eighth stage of the Arcane Plane.

After the last battle ended, the instructor walked towards the center of the platform. He called all the students who successfully advanced to the last round.

"Since we have fourteen participants and there are only eleven spots, the last round will be different from the previous ones," The instructor said in a clear and calm voice.

"We would be using a ranking system to determine the final eleven students. Each student will have to battle with the rest thirteen students and the number of wins you acquire will determine your rank" He explained further.

Conversations immediately started amongst the participants, with this new system, they wouldn't have a problem even if they lost. It was good news for the remaining few students in the Eighth stage of the Arcane Plane.

Grey felt excited about this, with this new system, he would be able to battle with each of the students at the Eighth stage of the Arcane Plane.

Currently, there were only seven students at the Eight stage of the Arcane Plane. There were two, in particular, he really wanted to battle with, they were the ones he felt were the strongest amongst the participants.

Including Grey, there were six participants in the Seventh stage of the Arcane Plane. Klaus was the only one who was on the Sixth stage, and this made him stand out from the rest. Having the weakest stage amongst them, the chances of him qualifying was not good. But they wouldn't write him off yet.

Surprisingly, Klaus had only fought just one battle in the three rounds which took place. From the strength he displayed when he defeated his opponent, he had a shot at getting a spot.

The instructor brought out the box as usual which had fourteen plaques inside, numbered accordingly.

The students all stepped forward to pick a plaque.

"Each student will get to fight four battles each day. This round will last for four days" The instructor told them the rules of the round.

"Now go home and rest properly, tomorrow the fourth round begins" The instructor left after this statement.

"Seems like he has his eyes on you" Klaus didn't miss the little exchange between Grey and Damian.

"He's not that bad, his grade is most likely blue" Grey replied after giving it some thought.

"Yeah, but he's too..., hum..., how should I put it..." Klaus thought of the right word to use.

"Moody?" Reynolds joined in the conversation. magic

"Yes, that's the word. He's too moody" Klaus said.

"You don't expect everyone to be like you right?" Grey raised a brow.

"How can you live a life that isn't fun?" asked Klaus.

"You can't," Reynolds said firmly.

"You see, even Rey understands the importance of fun," Klaus said pointing at Reynolds.

"Bastard, what's that supposed to mean?" Reynolds cursed out on hearing Klaus's remark.

Reynolds and Klaus immediately got into a heated cursing episode. The surrounding students all looked at them with weird eyes, Grey tried creating some space between them, so others wouldn't think he was with them.

"And where do you think you're going?" Klaus called out to Grey when he saw him creating a distance between them.

"Fu\*k" Grey cursed.

And soon, the two-man cursing team turned into a three-man team. In the midst of cursing, they managed to walk back to their seats.

On seeing the boys acting this way, Alice couldn't help but giggle. Being with them, especially Klaus was always fun. There was rarely a dull moment in his life.

After leaving the group, Grey headed towards the valley for his training. He was a little bit more experienced about it and knew he shouldn't try it all through the day. It wouldn't be great if he was exhausted before his battle.

On his way to the valley, he passed through the place the blast occurred. The trees were all destroyed, after the blast. Grey didn't come back to the main spot it exploded, so he didn't know the extent of the damage.

Seeing the damage it made, he took in a deep breath. He still felt lingering fear towards the orb that exploded. The blast would have surely taken his life had he been close to it. He smiled wryly when he thought of it before walking towards the valley.

When he entered the valley, a huge shadow suddenly launched towards him.

"Brown" Grey called out on seeing the shadow. He placed his hand on the body of the Griffin, his fingers ran through the hair on the neck of Brown before reaching the fur on the body.

'What a magnificent creature' Grey was awed by the Griffin.

When he went in, Chris was not in the valley. He guessed he must have gone out, this was not the first time he comes and didn't find him in the valley. Sometimes even after his training, Chris still wouldn't have returned.

Grey still prepared the meal since Brown was waiting patiently for it. When he was done with eating, he immediately started his training.

He could feel he would be able to inscribe soon. He hoped to successfully learn to inscribe before he heads to the competition, which would give him a trump card when battling with those at the Ninth stage.

Grey calmed himself and focused on making the inscription midair.

After some time, a symbol suddenly lit up in the air, but it died down just as quickly.

Grey was exhilarated by the initial success, this shows he wasn't far from it. Maybe he could even succeed today or the next.

He continued his training, and sometimes he would be able to get the symbol to last longer, while other times he wouldn't be able to make it appear at all.



