

Affinity 511

Chapter 511 - Rise Of A Genius

Grey, who was lying on the ground, opened his eyes, he raised his hand, dragging his exhausted body up.

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In the stands.

"Look, that guy is the first to stand up," Someone said when they saw Grey moving.

The young man who was beside him wasn't showing any signs of standing up, still lying motionless on the ground.

The crowd watched on as Grey managed to get in a kneeling position, placing two hands on his laps, trying to catch his breath.

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On the platform.

'*Sigh* I'm wrecked. If only I could use all my elements, I wouldn't have been this badly beaten.' Grey thought while gasping for air.

He looked around and noticed he was the only one who was up. After resting for a few seconds, he stood up.

Clank!

As soon as he stood, his mask fell off his face, making a clanking sound as it hit the ground.

Grey raised his hand, touching his face. It had been a long time since he was without a mask, so when the mask left his face, it felt like he was missing something. The mask wasn't the only thing that wasn't on him, his upper clothes had been completely burned down, leaving his bare upper body.

For the first time, the lady, as well as the entire crowd saw the face behind the mask, and they were all taken aback.

Grey was unaware of the crowd's reaction towards seeing his face. He walked towards the young man who had his eyes opened but was unable to stand up.

"Looks like... you... won," The young man said in between breaths.

"Yeah," Grey nodded before offering him a hand.

"It's of no use, I don't think I can stand for a while," The young man said.

"Huh?" The young man suddenly exclaimed lightly.

It was only after calming down did he get a proper look at Grey's face, and he was surprised since he almost felt he was a girl.

Grey noticed this before scratching the back of his head in embarrassment. He waved for the people to come over to help take the young man away.

After doing that, he looked up, and he could feel every single eye in the arena was on him, but they weren't looking at him like someone who won a battle, rather, it was as if they were trying to discern his gender.

He shook his head dejectedly, this was one of the reasons he didn't actually take off the mask after coming to this new continent. Although no one knew him, he knew his face would definitely put him in trouble.

'Such a drag, why do they always have this type of reaction?' He thought dejectedly.

While he was looking around, some people walked into the platform, taking the young man he fought against.

"Will you continue?" The head of the Gayle family asked.

He clearly knew the answer to the question, but he couldn't help himself from doing this. He was hoping Grey's head would be clouded by pride which would make him say yes, given his current state, whoever fights against him next might be able to kill him instantly, not giving him a chance to admit defeat.

"I don't even think I can fight anymore, much less continuing," Grey replied calmly.

His body was a wreck, he would need at least a day or two before he would get back in shape. If he uses the healing tonic he got from the Blooming Vipers though, then he should be fine within a day.

"Are you admitting defeat?" The head of the Gayle family asked, wanting to confirm his words.

Grey nodded, there was no way he could continue fighting in this condition. If he uses the Fusion State, he would be perfectly healed, but in a place where he could barely trust the lady who was traveling with him, it wasn't wise to show off all of his trump cards.

"*Sigh* Alright, the battles have ended," The head of the Gayle family announced with a dejected expression.

"Since you managed to defeat all your opponents so far, I've decided to reward you with this,"

A booming voice suddenly from the special area, looking up, the Faction Leader of the Pyro Faction could be seen slowly floating down, accompanied by the lady.

A scroll appeared on his hand which he threw in Grey's direction.

Grey caught it, keeping it. He wanted to study it, but this wasn't the time.

Since he was done with the fight, then it was naturally time for them to leave this place. Especially after what happened while they were fighting. Of course, no one would suspect them since they were here all through the time of the theft, but he still didn't want any questions to be asked.

"Why didn't you tell me you were this handsome? Anyway, it doesn't matter now, come, we're leaving. It's time to get back at those old tramps!" The lady said, dragging Grey's exhausted body along with her.

"What do you mean to get back at those old tramps? Can you please let me off in whatever plan you're hatching?" Grey begged while being dragged.

"Hmph! Stop showing off because you're handsome, if not that there is no one else who fits the bill for this job, I wouldn't take you as well," The lady said as they left the arena.

"But I don't want to go," Grey complained.

Seeing the departing figure of Grey and the lady, the Faction Leader heaved a sigh of relief, while also feeling a sense of pity for Grey who seems to be bullied by the lady.

From their exchange, it was clear to see that she wanted to make use of Grey's appearance to get revenge on some people. Grey naturally wanted no part in her schemes.

He looked in the direction they were headed, after confirming that it was where the teleportation array was located, he took off, flying away quickly.

The head of the Gayle family stared around, his eyes filled with anger. Of everyone here, only the Gayle family had angry expressions. Their purpose for organizing the event didn't happen, instead, they allowed Grey to make a name for himself. Soon, his exploits here is bound to spread across the entire region.

It was the rise of a new genius.

Chapter 512 - Leaving The Gale Region

Grey's battle in Ernst City quickly spread across the entire Gale region. An Elementalist who was still at the Peak of the Origin Plane, fought against hundreds of people, although not at the same time, but on the same day. He defeated every single person that fought against him. Even though he never fought against those in the Third stage of the Overlord Plane, it didn't change the fact that in the battle, he never lost.

From the group of people he defeated, it was said that some top individuals in the geniuses rankings were among them, and the highest amongst the people he defeated was ranked twenty-ninth.

In the geniuses rankings, Petra was higher ranked than the young man Grey fought against last.

But the story of Grey's rise wasn't the only news that spread from Ernst City that day. All the big families reported that their treasury was raided, and what was more shocking was that the guards didn't get a single glimpse of the thief.

Given the time of the theft, some of the people speculated it might've been the work of Grey and the lady, while others felt the thief took advantage of the information of the battle being spread out, striking at the same time. All in all, they was just speculations, no one knew who the thief was, or where Grey and the lady were.

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In a city thousands of kilometers away from Ernst City.

Grey and the lady could be seen sitting in an Inn, enjoying the tea they ordered.

"You've become a celebrity," The lady said when she heard people talking about Grey's performance, although they didn't know he was the one there.

Grey, who already had his mask back on, scoffed at this. He had never wanted things like this since he didn't enjoy being surrounded by people. Other than his friends, he didn't really enjoy the company of others.

If Klaus or Reynolds were to be the ones who people are speaking of like this, they would definitely try to find a way to make sure everyone knew they were the ones they were talking about.

"Are you like a sadist or something?" The lady asked when she saw Grey's reaction.

Most youngsters would be over the moon if they were this famous, and handsome. Yet Grey seems to see it as nothing more than a disturbance to his peaceful life. If not for the fact that she had confirmed that Grey was truly eighteen years old, she would've thought that he was an old monster who had lived thousands of years, so he's no longer bothered with the things of the mundane world.

"How far are we from the Polaris region?" Void asked while tasting the tea, he immediately spat it afterward.

Grey shook his head when he saw this, before taking out the map, "We still have a long way to go. Even if we continue using the teleportation array nonstop, it would still take us at least a month before we can get there,"

"That long?! How big is this place even?" Void asked, shocked.

They've traveled what seemed to be the equivalent of double the Qilin empire these past two weeks, yet, they would still need a month or so before getting there. And all this was with the help of teleportation arrays which made things easier.

Grey shrugged, not knowing what to say.

In these past weeks, he had been training diligently, focusing on increasing his elemental grades, as well as the strength of his body. He checked out the scroll the Pyro Faction Leader gave him, and it was a powerful fire attack.

He rarely used these types of skills when attacking, but they were more powerful compared to his impromptu attacks. The name of the technique was 'Dragon's Roar'.

When a Fire Elementalist uses the attack, a faint shadow of a Dragon would appear on their back, made entirely of elemental essence, it would open its mouth to spit out a powerful stream of flames that had tremendous destructive power.

Grey had been practicing for quite some time now, but he hadn't been able to fully master it.

The lady had been impressed with Grey's learning speed so far given how quickly he manages to learn new skills. She had also noticed he seemed to be obsessed with arrays, always trying to figure out ways to decipher anyone he sees.

Grey had finally managed to summon the confidence to ask her of her name, it was Sylvia.

When Grey heard her name, his thoughts were 'For someone who bullies people, you have a nice name'. But of course, these were his thoughts. If he dared to voice it out then Sylvia would most likely beat the crap out of him.

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"This is the border of the Gale region, once we leave this place, then we'll be entering the Acer region. They're around the same level as the Gale region," Sylvia said.

"Wait, we're still in the Gale region?" Void asked.

"Yes, are you two from a forest hidden somewhere or something?" Sylvia asked, staring at the two suspiciously.

"You could say that," Grey replied, not saying anything more.

"Hmm," Sylvia put on a thoughtful expression.

"We should leave, I still have a long way to go," Grey picked up his tea before taking a sip.

Sylvia and Void nodded, after a few minutes sitting in the Inn, the trio left, heading towards the teleportation array in the city.

On the way, Grey heard of youths who were speaking of wanting to challenge him, saying the geniuses he defeated were weak. He couldn't help but do a double-take on them, and most of them were still in the Origin Plane.

Even though he wasn't interested in his newfound fame, he still enjoyed testing out his strength. Especially now that he had improved since the battle.

The battle had helped him refine his skills even more, while also giving him better control over his essence.. If he were to fight with the young man who had an Elemental Warrior again, he was confident in winning without being left in a wrecked state.

Chapter 513 - Knowledge Of Elemental Grades

"The teleportation array is broken, if you want to go across the border, then you'll have to go on foot," A middle-aged man said to Grey and Sylvia when they got to where the array was located.

"Hmm, alright," Grey nodded before turning around.

Although it was a bit of a hassle, they had no problems with going on foot. Besides, moving with arrays over the past few days has been very expensive. Luckily, they were super rich from their heist, so it didn't bother them.

Void stole countless essence stones, weapons, treasures, herbs, and lots more. Sylvia had already divided the resources between the three of them. She took forty percent, which came as a surprise to Grey. Given how she was bullying him, he thought she would take at least fifty percent or so.

Void took almost every single shiny item from the loot, some were powerful treasures, while others were just antiques. Grey mainly took the essence stones which were vital to their travels, as well as books that spoke about arrays, forge mastering, and the rest.

Multiple scrolls had some techniques on them, but only a few caught his eye. He hadn't started practicing them though since he was still learning others.

But he felt that the most vital thing he had was the book which spoke on elemental grades. He still didn't know about all the elemental grades, until now.

From his previous knowledge, he was aware of five, adding the cyan grade, which made it six. But he didn't know how high it was. In the book, he found out there were a total of nine elemental grades, namely; pink, orange, purple, blue, violet, red, cyan, yellow, and emerald elemental grades.

There is a rumor about there being a tenth elemental grade, black and white. It was said that there have been cases of people who had either black or white elemental grades over the years, and they always grow to be more powerful compared to others. They were both regarded at the same level since it was unknown which of them was stronger.

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Roar! Boom!

A faint roar was accompanied by a stream of fire which sent a group of men flying.

"Why are you being so lenient, kill them already," Sylvia said when she saw the power of Grey's attack.

"I'm working on my techniques," Grey replied, before dashing towards the group of five who were trying to get back up.

"Please lord, this is all a misunderstanding, we won't bother you again," One of the men quickly got to his knees when they saw the extent of Grey's powers.

Grey squinted his eyes, studying the group. He had never been the type who would kill others on a whim, this group were people who had malicious intentions towards them. The only reason they were still alive was that he was using them to polish his skills.

He didn't say a word to the group, attacking immediately. The group consisted of five men, three were in the Third stage of the Overlord Plane, while the other two were in the First and Second stage respectively.

When they saw Grey and Sylvia, they thought they would be easy targets to rob, hence they didn't hold back when threatening them. It was only after Grey took action did they know it was the mistake of their lives.

Swoosh! Bang!

Grey's figure vanished, appearing beside the man in the First stage. He sent out a punch with his right fist which was covered in flames.

Crash! Boom!

The man was sent flying, bouncing off the ground, before crashing into a tree.

When the others looked at the man, they realized he was twitching, a hole was on his chest. After a few seconds, his figure stopped moving altogether.

Their eyes enlarged, before they turned to look at Grey once again, horrified. They still thought they had a chance of escaping alive, only after this attack did they know Grey had no plans of letting them go.

"Spread out!" One of the men yelled before taking the lead.

The remaining three didn't delay, all running in different directions.

'Heh! This will only make my work easier,' Grey's lips curved upwards to form a smile.

With two fingers in front of him, he waved it quickly to draw an array mid-air. The array enlarged, turning into a large lightning bow. An arrow made from fire appeared on the bow, shooting rapidly at the escaping men.

Bang! Bang! Bam!

The speed of the arrow was unimaginable, attacking swiftly. It didn't take long before all four men were incapacitated. Although they were not dead, they couldn't stand up on their own.

Grey didn't waste any more time, killing them quickly.

Void and Sylvia watched on from the side, each holding onto a piece of meat.

"Great, now we can eat in peace," Sylvia said while chomping down on the meat in her hands.

"Yes, make sure to dispose of the bodies. Also, don't forget to loot the bodies," Void remarked, before pausing and adding, "You know what, why don't I help you with disposing and looting of the bodies? You know you need to take a break after fighting,"

Grey looked at the shameless cat in front of him, and couldn't help but shake his head. In the end, he let Void do whatever he wanted, it wasn't like he was low on items anyway.

The big families from Ernst City were loaded with treasures. If not for the fact that he didn't want to advance with the help of treasures, then he might've broken through some time ago.

Presently, he was working on his elemental grades, trying to improve all of them before he tries to break through to the Overlord Plane.

Unlike the previous Planes, breaking through to the Overlord Plane was a little more difficult. For the other Planes, what an Elementalist needs to break through was gathering as much elemental essence as they could, but in the aspect of the Overlord Plane, it required the Elementalist to gain a high understanding of their element.

The Elementalist would be reborn from their elements when breaking through.. This is what gives them the ability to forcefully gain control of the elemental attacks of those weaker than them.

Chapter 514 - Trouble Lurking

Three weeks later.

Inside a cave behind a waterfall.

Grey could be seen sitting in a crossed leg position.

"Finally, my darkness element has upgraded to the blue grade. I should be able to break through to the Overlord Plane now," He muttered to himself.

Void and Sylvia went out, with the reason of sitting here too boring.

They were currently in the Acer region, but according to Sylvia, they should be able to leave within a two more teleportations. During their journey, Grey had spent most of his time training whenever they weren't using teleportation arrays.

Not all cities have teleportation arrays, and some of the arrays surprisingly couldn't take them to where they wanted, so they had to use another form of transportation to get to a city that could let them teleport. Then there are times when the teleportation arrays were broken, and since they didn't want to wait, they decided to head to the next city.

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"Hey, are you done?" Sylvia asked before walking into the cave.

"Oh, eerie," She said after walking in.

Grey looked at her, before picking up his mask.

"Yeah, we should get going," He replied.

After the increase of his darkness elemental grade, he was giving off an eerie aura. Initially, he thought they would take a while before coming, but who knew they would arrive sooner than expected.

"Alright," Sylvia nodded before taking another glance at the cave.

They went outside, and Void was standing on top of a carriage.

"What's that?" Grey couldn't help but ask.

They were in the middle of a forest, where the hell did this two go and get a carriage from?

"Our ride. We bought it," Void replied.

Grey looked at the duo, shaking his head. He could already tell that somewhere in the forest, there is a group of people who would be walking on foot after being robbed.

Sylvia wasn't too interested in robbing things this small, but Void on the other hand wouldn't mind. Besides, he could see shiny things all around the carriage, so he knew the reason he stole it.

"What about him, did you buy him as well?" Grey pointed at the man who was riding the horses.

"No, he volunteered to come with us," Void replied.

"Alright, we should get going," Grey said, too tired to ask any more questions.

He was currently focused on how he would be able to break through to the Overlord Plane. He felt he had gained a good understanding of his elements since he had been comprehending them from when he started cultivating.

Later that day.

The carriage came out of the forest, in front of them was a large city.

"You can head back now," Grey said to the coachman.

Sylvia and Void looked at Grey, but came down as well.

"Thank you, Young Lord," The coachman said to Grey, before turning the carriage around, heading into the forest.

The trio headed towards the city on foot. After getting to the city, they headed straight to where the teleportation array was located. Once they use it, they would arrive at the last city before leaving the Acer region.

After the Acer region, there were still around two regions between them and the Polaris region. The journey overall would take the trio at least three months or so. If they were fast, they might arrive before the third month.

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Ernst City.

The Gayle family.

The head of the Gayle family was currently standing in front of three men who were seated.

Two of the men looked to be around their late fifties, while the last one was around his early thirties.

"Did you say she passed through here?" One of the men in his late fifties asked gently.

"Yes, she was accompanied by a youth who has a black cat," The head of the Gayle family answered quickly.

"Hmm, do you know of this boy?" The other man in his fifties turned to the man in his early thirties.

"No, Teacher, maybe it is someone she decided to teach on the way," The man in his early thirties replied.

The head of the Gayle family went on to tell the trio of what happened when Grey and Sylvia came to the city.

"Hmm, she always causes trouble wherever she goes," One of the men in his late fifties said.

"We should hurry, those from the Ferra Faction are after her. If they get to her before we do, then *Sigh*" The man in his early thirties said, a little dejected.

"Thank you for your help. We'll be leaving now," The trio stood up, before walking out of the building.

The head of the Gayle family had his head bowed till they left. These were people he couldn't dare to offend, they were from the Middle Continent, and even the smallest family in the Middle Continent could wipe out their family easily.

Of all the continents, the Middle Continent is the smallest one, but also the most powerful. That was where all the powerhouses had strongholds.

Twenty minutes after the trio left.

Another group walked into the hall from inside the building. The group consisted of five individuals, and person in front was a youth around Grey's age.

"You see, I wasn't lying. I really do not know where they went to," The head of the Gayle family said to the other group who just walked into the building.

This group were dressing extravagantly, and arrogant looks were on their faces.

"Hmm, fine. The boy you speak of, what does he look like?" A young man who looked to be around eighteen years old asked.

"He wears a black mask, covering half of his face. But he's also very handsome," The head of the Gayle family described Grey to them.

"What's his cultivation stage?" The young man asked.

"He's at the Peak of the Origin Plane, but he managed to defeat geniuses in the Second stage of the Overlord Plane. With the abilities he showed, he should be able to fight against a few in the Third stage as well. Oh, and he's a Space Elementalist as well," The head of the Gayle family replied.

"You call these weaklings geniuses? Truly a village bumpkin.. But since he's a Space Elementalist, he might be interesting," The young man said.

Chapter 515 - Is There A Reason You're Doing This?

Grey, Sylvia, and Void were currently seated in a restaurant, eating a delicious meal, oblivious to the fact that they were being searched for. They were currently in Brook City, the last city before leaving the Ares region.

"This is good, we should find a way to learn it," Void said after emptying his bowl of food.

"Since when did you start cooking?" Grey asked.

"I mean you should learn how to cook it," Void said, trying to convince Grey into waiting to learn it, just like they did previously in Eagle's City.

"Although this is good, it isn't worth our time. We should focus on getting you stronger," Sylvia butted in.

Grey looked at Sylvia, unsure of what to say.

"Is there a reason you're doing this?" He couldn't help but ask.

Sylvia had been helping him with his training for some time now, and given his personality, he didn't think she was only doing it because she wanted to help. There must be a reason behind this.

"No, is it wrong if I want you to grow strong. Besides, it isn't like it's a bad thing for you," Sylvia replied.

"It's not, but that's on the premise that we knew each other. I do not know who you are, nor do you know who I am. To be honest, I find your character a little suspicious," Grey said.

"Haha, since I mean you no harm, that should be enough for you, right?" Sylvia laughed.

"Well..." Grey wanted to speak, but after sensing Sylvia's threatening gaze, he shut his mouth.

'Why did I even look at the battle in the first place?' He complained.

But he couldn't deny it, she has been a great help. If not for her setting up that battle, then there was no way they would've been able to acquire so many essence stones for traveling. Presently, they've only used about one-tenth of the stones they obtained. They shouldn't have any problems with getting to their destination before the stones run out.

"Since we've come to terms with this, then let's get going. You'll continue training like usual, but this time, you'll need target practice as well. With me here with you, that shouldn't be a problem," Sylvia said.

"I'm going to spar with you?" Grey asked, slightly terrified of his possible outcome if this was what happened.

"Of course not, I would hold back so I won't kill you, but others won't. You'll be challenging all these so-called geniuses, just like you did in the Gale region. This is the quickest way for you to grow stronger, battles," Sylvia said.

"Yeah, but fighting continuously like the last time is too taxing. It would be better if I went to a competition where others would also fight," Grey replied.

"You're right, for a single person to fight against hundreds of people is too straining. Let's see if we can find any competition that would be held soon," Sylvia suggested.

Grey looked around. He had been in the Aurora continent for around two months now, and he still hadn't seen Ellis, who he knew where he was located, much less his parents. He promised his friends he wouldn't be gone for more than six months, and he knew they would all be worried right now since there was no way to contact him.

But, he also needed to grow stronger, this was the only way he would be able to search for his parents, and also live the life he wanted.

While Grey spaced out, Sylvia had called a stranger, asking if there were any contests taking place in the city.

"The regional annual contest will be taking place in two days' time. Geniuses from all over the region are flocking here, hoping to get to a good position. They would also be updating the geniuses rankings with it," The lady Sylvia called over said.

"Oh, is there a reward or anything?" Sylvia asked.

Since it was a contest, it should naturally have a reward in store for the winners.

"Yes, the top ten in each ranking will be rewarded, for instance, the top ten for Elementalists in the Early stages of the Origin and Overlord Plane will be rewarded. It will go in that manner till the Peak of each Plane," The lady explained.

"Can someone compete with those in the Origin Plane then also in the Overlord Plane if they're powerful enough?" Sylvia asked.

Since there was a reward, it wouldn't be bad if Grey obtained the first position for those at the Peak of the Origin Plane, then hopefully get into the top ten for the one of those in the Early stages of the Overlord Plane.

"Yes, there has been a case when a Peak stage Origin Plane Elementalist fought against those in the Early stages of the Overlord Plane. Unfortunately, he wasn't able to get far," The lady said, shaking her head in pity.

"Alright, thank you for the information," Sylvia said before turning her attention to Grey.

"Are you up for it?" She asked.

Grey nodded.

They finished their meal before heading into the city, in search of a tavern. They soon found one not too far from the restaurant they were previously in.

Grey decided he wouldn't be staying in the tavern, opting to stay in the forest where he could train comfortably without any disturbance. He mercilessly dragged Void along.

"Why are you taking me with you?" Void asked while holding onto the table in the tavern.

"Because I need company," Grey said, before using lightning to zap the paws of Void, forcing him to let go of the table.

"Then go and find one, there's a comfy room and bed here I can sleep in, why do you think I would want to sleep in the forest?" Void complained.

"Shut up and follow me," Grey said, leaving the tavern with Void who was still complaining.

Void could easily escape if he wanted to, but he didn't dare to since he might offend Grey, so he hoped he could convince him with words.. Unfortunately, Grey wasn't having any of that.

Chapter 516 - Lord Cat Is Awesome!

"What's happening?" Grey muttered in the middle of the night, staring at his hands while seated in a crossed leg position.

Given how much he had been training lately, he was already long due to breakthrough. With Sylvia with him, he asked all the questions he wasn't sure of, yet he was still unable to break through to the Overlord Plane.

"I should try it again, if I still can't, then I'll leave it at that for now," He closed his eyes.

After he closed his eyes, seven beads the size of a fist came out of his body, each having different colors with one of them having two colors. These beads were the elemental beads he created when he was breaking through to the Origin Plane.

In the Overlord Plane, he would need to first shatter the beads, letting the overflow of elemental essence in them wash over his body. It would first cleanse his outer body, before sipping into his body to cleanse his inners.

This would not only make his physical body stronger, but it would give him better control and understanding of his elements.

Once the cleansing process was done, a new type of elemental bead would form inside him, but this time, instead of a bead, it would be an orb.

The seven beads floated above his head, moving in a circle. He concentrated fully, trying to use his spiritual senses to forcefully break the elemental beads, so the cleansing process could begin. But no matter how hard he tried, he was unable to break it.

Thirty minutes soon went by, and Grey was starting to get frustrated from his constant failure.

He had been trying the entire night, and it was already almost sunrise, yet he was still unsuccessful.

'I already have a great understanding of my elements, not even some Sage Plane Elementalists can say they have studied the elements as much as I have done. Why isn't this working?' He thought in annoyance before keeping the beads back inside his body.

"Still unsuccessful?" Void asked when he saw Grey opening his eyes.

"Hmm," Grey nodded, a little tired from the continuous attempts.

"You shouldn't feel down because of it, you will get through it. Let's just assume you're stuck in a bottleneck," Void encouraged.

"Yeah, I'll be able to break through when the time is right. But for now, I'll occasionally try it, while also improving my elemental grades," Grey nodded before standing.

"Alright, that's the spirit!" Void jumped enthusiastically.

"We still haven't checked your elemental grade for your elements. I'll ask Sylvia, since she's this powerful, then she must definitely have one of those stones," Grey said.

"Those stones for checking elemental grades?" Void suddenly paused.

"Yeah," Grey nodded.

"I acquired one when I raided those families in Ernst City. I only took it on a whim, who knew it would come in handy?!" Void laughed before bringing out one of the stones.

Grey looked at the stone on the ground before looking at Void, he almost had a feeling Void didn't bring out all the items he stole from the families.

The stone was around one meter high, it could be easily be mistaken for a pillar.

'Whatever, I have a ton of essence stones, multiple elemental weapons, and even a better defensive elemental armor. There are also a few techniques,' He said to himself.

He had never been stingy, and since he didn't want to depend too much on treasures to improve himself, he wasn't too concerned about them.

"Alright, place your ha... paw on the stone," Grey instructed.

Void did as instructed, and soon started giggling.

"What's funny?" Grey couldn't help but ask.

"Haha, it tickles," Void laughed while replying.

Grey looked at the stone before shaking his head with a smile. Void was laughing because of the energy that came out of the stone.

A few seconds later, Void stopped laughing which indicated that the energy was out of his body.

"You can take off your paw now," Grey said before taking a closer look at the stone.

Void did as instructed, while staring at the stone curiously. He too wanted to know the elemental grades of his elements.

The results were soon out, and Grey could be seen rubbing his eyes furiously after seeing it, trying to affirm if what he was seeing was true.

On the stone were four colors that indicated Void's current four elements, and at the middle of each of them was a bright white light. The light was almost overshadowing the colors of the elements, making it seem like they were all white in color.

"Is this for real?" Grey asked, stunned.

"What's wrong?" Void asked, a little worried by Grey's response.

He didn't take interest in these things, so he didn't know what the white light at the center of the colors meant.

"Did you take only this stone?" Grey asked.

"No, I took one more as well," Void replied before making another stone appear.

This one was a few inches higher than the other one and had a milky color.

Grey told Void to repeat the same process, and after some time, the result was out. The same results.

"Oh shit! Void, what are you?" Grey freaked out.

He couldn't keep calm. When he found out about elemental grades, he was told that the white and black grades are things that rarely occur, and they were regarded as the tenth grade.

Something said to be so rare was currently seen on Void, all four of his elements! If that wasn't shocking, what was?

If news of a cat having white elemental grade in four elements were to go out, then the entire Aurora continent would be turned upside down.

"What's wrong?" Void asked, worried from how Grey was staring at him.

"No matter what, never do this in front of strangers. If people find out about you, they'll hunt you down," Grey said with utmost seriousness.

"I understand, now tell what this means," Void nodded.

Grey rarely spoke in this manner, so Void knew it was something serious. But it didn't mean he didn't want to know what it meant though.

Grey went on to tell him what it meant, and he couldn't stop grinning from ear to ear.

"Haha, I always knew lord cat was awesome! And you dare compare me to those filthy oversized lizards," He laughed hysterically.

Chapter 517 - Necromancy

Grey was at a loss for words when he heard Void's words, but he couldn't hide the fact that he was shocked by the result.

"Come on, let's head to the city to find out more about this competition," He said while walking in the direction of the city.

Void vanished, appearing on his shoulder. Just as they were about to leave, Grey and Void turned to the right at the same time.

'There's someone there,' Void said to Grey.

'I know. How come none of us noticed when the person came here?' Grey asked.

'We were distracted. Whoever is there has noticed that we've realized we're being watched, but isn't doing anything to leave,' Void said.

'We were careless, I got carried away by not being able to break through, and you were playing. Luckily, we sensed the person in time,' Grey said as his expression turned serious.

Void's secret should never leave this place, or else they would be in danger. This place was far more dangerous than the Azure continent, they couldn't dare to be careless.

"Who's there?" Grey said.

"Hehehe, to think you sensed me in the end. But I must say, you have one great cat. If it grows to its full potential, it would be a force to reckon with," A voice laughed from behind the bushes.

The figure of a thin man stepped out, his hair was disarranged, and his clothes were loose.

"A skeleton?" Void asked unconsciously.

"With skin and hair," Grey added, shocked by the state of the man who walked out.

He could sense an eerie aura from the man, but his appearance was a little too strange. Grey was almost certain that the man had only skins holding onto his bones.

"You can laugh all you want, but after I obtain that cat, the world will know my name," The man declared while walking forward confidently.

Grey studied the man, and he relaxed a little when he sensed the man was in the Overlord Plane, the Mid stages.

He was not as strong as the man, but if he and Void joined hands, they could take care of him. Not just that, if he uses his Fusion State as well, then their victory would be further guaranteed.

"In your dreams," Grey said coldly.

"Hand over the cat boy, and maybe I might keep you alive," The man said with a sinister smile.

"Heh! With the likes of you? If you leave this forest alive then you should count yourself lucky," Grey scoffed.

He had always been confident, showing weakness in front of this man would not do him any good, so why bother. Besides, he had Void with him.

He had never seen Void cultivate or train, yet, he was slowly growing stronger. Presently, Void is already a peak Early stage Rank Five al beast. This was equivalent to a Third stage Overlord Plane Elementalist.

"Cocky, hehehe, I like your type. You would make a great specimen in my cabinet," The man laughed before spreading his hands.

Poof!

A puff of smoke appeared beside the man, and after the smoke died down, three coffins appeared beside him.

"Time to play, my toys," The man laughed before the coffins opened wide open.

A cold chill spread out from the coffins as they opened.

Grey squinted his eyes to look at the coffins, and his expression changed when he realized what was inside.

"Corpse?" He muttered silently.

A thin dark thread could be seen connecting the corpses in the coffins with the man.

Swoosh!

All three corpses shot out of the coffins simultaneously, attacking Grey with three different elements.

One of them was using the fire element, one was using the water element, and the last of them was using the earth element.

"Haha, these are my precious babies. The strongest in my collection," The man laughed in a sinister manner.

Bang! Boom! Bam!

The attacks came quickly, with terrifying speed. But Void was faster, using his space element, he moved himself and Grey away.

'This is bad, we can't fight against those things. They're all at the Peak of the Overlord Plane, and judging from the strength of their previous attacks, they're not your regular Elementalist when they were alive,' Void deducted after the first attacks.

'What?! The peak of the Overlord Plane? All three? Damn it! Why are we always unlucky?' Grey was dumbstruck by Void's words.

Grey and Void appeared a few meters away from where they were previously standing.

"Oh, the cat is a Space Elementalist? Now I just want it more," The man said in excitement.

"What are you?" Grey questioned while trying to get into the Fusion State.

They needed to escape quickly, and Void didn't know any long distance teleportation techniques, unfortunately. Now, he had to use the Great Void technique, but since he could barely teleport twenty meters, he knew without the Fusion State, there was no way he could travel a long distance when he was in a normal state.

"I'm a necromancer, there are few of us in this world, but surely we should be well known. Don't tell me you've been living in the forest?" The man declared proudly.

"A necromancer, what's that?" Grey looked at Void curiously.

Void shrugged, signifying that he had no idea what it meant.

"What?! You don't know about necromancers?" The man asked wide-eyed.

Grey shook his head, he truly had no idea what they were.

"Since you'll be joining my collection soon, I guess I could tell you a thing or two about us," The man said.

However, before he continued speaking, he sent the corpses to three different locations, making sure it would be impossible for Grey and Void to escape if they tried to.

Grey looked at the strategic positions of the corpses and couldn't help but commend the carefulness of the man. He would do the same if he were in the same position as the man.

'As long as I can stall for two more minutes I should be good,' He thought.

Chapter 518 - Hunt You Down For The Rest Of Your Life

"We are special people who can reanimate the dead, making them do our bidding," The man stated proudly.

"Reanimate the dead, as in bringing them to life?" Grey asked.

His curiosity was piqued when the man said they could reanimate the dead. It was common knowledge that once someone dies unless they keep a strand of their consciousness just like what the Chaos God did, they would be gone forever. But if there was a way to tackle death, then it would be an unbelievable discovery.

"Not exactly, it's more like bringing an empty shell, then using them to fight. They would still have the strength they possessed while they were alive, only without a consciousness," The man explained.

Grey was stunned by this discovery, this was the first time he was hearing about something like this, so it was natural that he found it somewhat intriguing. But after hearing the proper explanation, he felt it was an evil skill.

Personally, he wasn't the type who judged people on how they gained their strength, but since it involved stealing the corpse of people, he wasn't interested in learning it.

"Such a dishonorable way to live," Grey commented as soon as the man finished speaking.

"What? I took my time to tell you about us and this is what you say?" The man asked, irked by Grey's words.

"I might not be the most moral person, but I understand that using the corpses of people to fight is a cowardly method to begin with. Given how you obtained the corpses as well, it is even more dishonorable," Grey said, his expression was one of disgust.

"Hmph! What you feel doesn't matter, it's not like you'll live any longer," The man snorted angrily.

Grey lips curved upwards, he had already accomplished what he wanted, so there was no need to be scared anymore.

"Heh, with the likes of you? Impossible," He scoffed, further irritating the man.

Swoosh!

The corpses moved, attacking Grey from all sides.

Grey smiled when he saw this.

Boom!

An energy wave shot out in all directions, pushing back the attacks of the corpses.

'It's been a while I've used this, unfortunately, I'm not fighting,' Grey said to himself before vanishing.

As much as he wanted to keep Void's elemental grade a secret, he knew staying here was no different from a death wish. Even with the Fusion State, he couldn't go against a single Late stage Overlord Plane Elementalist, much less three Peak stage Overlord Plane Elementalists.

Boom!

The corpses attacked again, but Grey was long gone.

"Damn it! Where did he go?" The man yelled angrily, kicking the rock close to his foot.

"He's also a Space Elementalist, he would make a fine piece in my collection," The man laughed before waving his hand.

The corpses flew back to the coffins before the coffins closed shut with a 'bang'. He kept the coffins in his storage ring before moving in the direction of the city.

A smile on his face.

'Hehe, this kid thinks he can escape after catching my eyes?' The man licked his lips as his eyes turned into a slit as he smiled maliciously.

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Liore City.

Grey appeared a hundred and fifty meters away from the gate leading to the city.

'*Sigh* We should be fine here. Come, we need to find out more about necromancers,' He said to Void as they hurried towards the city.

As soon as he entered the city, he felt a cold gaze on him. He paused, turning around, his eyes met with the cold eyes of Sylvia.

"Where are you going? I was just about to come to find you," Sylvia asked while walking closer to him.

"I'm heading to the city library, there's something I want to find out," Grey replied before realizing something, he turned to look at Sylvia, "Do you know about necromancers?"

"Huh?" Sylvia was caught off guard by his question.

The crowd around who were walking into the city turned to look at Grey suspiciously.

"Necr..." Grey was about to say something again before Sylvia closed his mouth.

"Not here," She said before dragging him outside the city.

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Outside the city.

"How did you find out about necromancers?" Sylvia asked coldly, her expression was different from how she usually looked.

"I met one a few minutes ago, I was only able to escape after using a secret technique," Grey explained.

"What?!" Sylvia exclaimed, drawing the attention of the people who were walking into the city.

Grey told her about his encounter with the skinny man, and also his narrow escape. Of course, he removed the part about Void's elemental grade.

"Where?" Sylvia asked seriously.

"In that... ah..." Grey exclaimed unconsciously when he noticed he was currently off the ground.

He was in the middle of pointing out the location to Sylvia, but she picked him up, taking him along.

Swoosh!

All Grey could hear was the sound of them breaking through the wind at an unimaginable speed. He could barely see anything on the way.

They soon disappeared into the forest, heading in the direction where Grey was previously cultivating.

A minute later.

Sylvia stopped mid-air, looking below them.

The skinny man could be seen moving through the trees quickly.

Buzz! Bang!

Sylvia attacked the moment she caught sight of him.

The trees below them were quickly shattered to pieces.

She flew down, with Grey in tow, heading towards where the man was hiding.

"Come out, you can not hide from me," Sylvia said before striking the ground ten meters away with her lightning.

"Ah!"

A scream of pain rang out, and a frail figure was sent flying.

Bang!

The figure crashed into an already broken tree, shattering it completely.

"You foul man, this is your end," Sylvia said, eyes glittering with lightning.

"Wait, wait, I have a huge secret to tell you," The man said, coughing out blood as he hurried to speak.

"There's nothing you have to say that I'm interested in," Sylvia replied before sending out an attack.

"Damn you! Boy, heed my words, we shall hunt you down for the rest of your life," The man said, and just before Sylvia's lightning attack could touch him, he exploded, turning into a black mass that shot towards one person, Grey.

Chapter 519 - Marked

"Oh no!" Sylvia exclaimed, before making a quick hand seal.

A lightning seal appeared that she sent towards the black mass that was shooting towards Grey.

The seal expanded to cover it completely, but a single dot from the black mass managed to pass through the lightning seal before shooting straight to Grey's shoulder.

Grey and Void, who was on his shoulder, vanished before the black dot managed to get to him, appearing a few meters away, but their expressions changed when the dot appeared in front of them at the same time.

They all watched helplessly as the black dot touched Grey on his shoulder.

Grey was a little taken aback when he didn't feel anything after it touched him, and couldn't help but do a double-take at Sylvia, giving her a questioning look.

"Take off your shirt," Sylvia ordered while walking closer to him.

Grey did as instructed, and on the upper left of his shoulder was a small black skull tattoo.

"Shit! Grey, since when did you get a tattoo?" Void asked, stunned.

"What do you mean by that, we've literally been together almost all through, how would I get a tattoo without you knowing about it?" Grey asked with a confused expression.

He made an ice mirror behind him to help him see what was on his back. When he saw the black skull, he didn't need anyone to tell him it was a result of the black dot that hit him.

Luckily, the tattoo was only around five centimeters big.

"What's this?" He turned to Sylvia.

"It's a mark. This will notify any necromancer around that you're someone that has something extremely valuable. To create this mark, a necromancer will have to sacrifice their own life force, so others will know you have something that will be beneficial to them," Sylvia explained.

"Can't we remove it?" Grey asked.

"No, even someone more powerful than I am wouldn't be able to. There was an instance when the greatest genius in the Middle Continent was marked. He was from the strongest Faction there, even the Faction Leader who was standing at the top of the world was unable to remove. Twenty years later, the genius was killed and turned into one of the tools these bastards use to fight," Sylvia shook her head.

For the first time since Grey knew her, he could tell she was genuinely worried about him.

"Now what?" Grey asked.

He hated being in this kind of situation, this was exactly why he had to leave the Azure Continent, yet, it was happening all over again.

"You're lucky I was here, although I was unable to stop it, I managed to reduce the marking to the bare minimum. This means only necromancers around one or two kilometers away from you can sense you," Sylvia replied.

"Oh, thank you. But what I want to know is if there's any way to remove it completely," Grey appreciated her help before asking.

He was slightly annoyed, had Sylvia not tried to kill the necromancer, or even taken him along, none of this would've happened to him.

"None that I know of, unfortunately. Although I've heard other necromancers can remove this mark, none of them would be willing to help, so... you're stuck with it for now," Sylvia replied.

"Damn it! Again, I'll have to hide for my life again," Grey punched the tree that was by his side, destroying it to pieces.

Sylvia looked at him for a while, feeling a little sad about what happened to him.

"The only way for you to escape this is by growing stronger, growing strong enough that no one can threaten you," She said.

"Heh! You say it like it's easy. I tried breaking through to the Overlord Plane throughout the night, but I was unsuccessful. I did as instructed, but the result was the same," Grey said, still annoyed by what happened.

"Don't rush it, there's a reason you're unable to break through for now. Come on, we should head back," Sylvia advised.

"Fine," Grey sighed in dejection.

There was nothing left for him to do, and anger wouldn't solve the problem.

'I'll need to think of a way to create an array that can decrease the distance. This is the best thing I can do for now,' He thought.

A genius from the Middle Continent, not only from the Middle Continent but also from the strongest Faction was marked and killed twenty years after. If even that genius couldn't escape from his fate with the backing that he had, then how would someone like him who didn't have anyone survive?

He would be lucky if he even survived a month, much less twenty years.

"Don't worry too much, necromancers are hated all over, so they're always in hiding. The odds of meeting one is very low," Sylvia encouraged before they took flight, heading back to the city.

Grey didn't speak for the rest of the day, locking himself in the tavern. He brought out all the books he had on arrays, trying to find the best concealing array.

He also tried studying the mark, trying to find out how other necromancers would be able to sense it, so he would know the best way to block it.

Sylvia and Void took charge of finding out when the competition would take place, and also signing Grey up.

The next day.

Loire City was abuzz with the streets filled with people that were walking towards the northern part of the city. They were all heading to where the competition would be held.

In a tavern.

Knock! Knock!

"Grey, come out, we're going to be late," Sylvia knocked on Grey's door.

Click! Creak...

The door opened slightly and Grey peeked out.

When Sylvia saw his look, she took a step back unconsciously.

"Why are you looking like that?" She asked.

"Nothing, I've been staring at books since we got back yesterday, what do you expect?" Grey replied grumpily.

Dark circles could be seen below his eyes, and his hair was disarranged.

"Wash up and let's go.. I'll be waiting for you in the hall," Sylvia pushed his head back into the room before shutting the door from the outside and walking away.

Chapter 520 - Don't Disturb Me

Loire City.

In the biggest arena owned by the city. Countless people flocking into the arena, all excited from the battles that would be taking place.

Presently, most of the geniuses in the Acer region were gathered here. The competition would last for about a week or so since the number of youths who would be competing was many.

The first group who would compete were those in the Origin Plane. There isn't a ranking for those below the Late stages of the Origin Plane.

By the time Grey and his gang got there, the battles had already started, with multiple people fighting in different arenas.

Sylvia asked around and luckily for Grey, this wasn't all the people in the Origin Plane.

From what she found out, a total of around seven hundred registered for the Origin Plane ranking matches. With the numbers being that high, they couldn't fight all the battles one on one. So the hosts of the competition went with the decision of a crowded battle.

Fifty people would be placed in a single stage that was around one hundred and fifty square meters, and the last fifteen would go into the next round.

There are a total of eight stages in the arena, and people are currently fighting in all of them.

The first four hundred people had started fighting by the time Grey got there. Once this set is done, the next set would come on stage.

Grey would be going with the next set.

"Your luck isn't that bad," Sylvia commented.

"Really? I am marked by some psycho so that whenever his psycho friends are nearby they can kill me, and you're saying am lucky?" Grey looked at Sylvia, his expression blank.

"It could've been worse," Sylvia shrugged.

Grey wanted to continue speaking but he decided against it. Arguing with Sylvia wasn't going to change anything. But he couldn't hide the fact that he was annoyed.

Thirty minutes later.

The battles on most of the stages had come to an end with only two stages still having more than fifteen people.

A few minutes later the battles all stopped, with fifteen people left on each stage.

They were each given a plaque before being told to take their seats.

The next set of people was called to come on stage. Each person was to bring an insignia given to them when they registered for the competition.

Sylvia handed Grey the insignia she was given when she signed him up for the competition.

"Don't disgrace me," She whispered in his ear while giving him the insignia.

Grey took the insignia grumpily and walked to the third stage on the right. After showing the man at the front of the stage the insignia, he was allowed to step onto the stage.

They waited patiently till the fifty people were complete in all the stages before the battles were allowed to start.

As soon as the battle started, almost everyone attacked the people close to them. There were a few people who teamed up to fight against others.

Grey retreated to the edge of the stage and watched as others started fighting against each other. Given the size of the stage, it was normal that each fighter's attack will affect others.

Grey stood at the edge, blocking all the aftereffects of the attacks on the stage that was coming towards him.

Within a few seconds, the fighters started eliminating each other. As long as one was pushed out of the stage, then they had been eliminated.

On the stage Grey was standing, there was a group of fifteen who wore the same clothing, clearly from the same Faction. They started eliminating others at an amazing speed, alarming others.

By the time the rest of the people on the stage figured out what was happening, it was already too late, over fifteen people had been eliminated by the group within a short period of a few minutes.

Grey had eliminated two unfortunate people who attacked him, knocking them unconscious. While others had also eliminated a few.

Presently, there were twenty-eight people left on the stage, and fifteen of them were from the same Faction. Grey was standing silently at the edge of the stage, while the remaining twelve were looking at the group of fifteen and each other cautiously.

"Let's team up and eliminate some of them," Someone suggested since they were currently in a standoff.

"Yes," The others nodded, before turning to look at Grey.

"You can do whatever you want, just don't disturb me," Grey said before sitting down.

His words stunned everyone on the stage, especially the twelve people who wanted to team up with each other.

"What? Who the hell do you think you are?" One of the young men from the group of twelve asked angrily before attacking him.

Boom!

The attack exploded out, but soon died down as if absorbed by something. To their surprise, Grey was still standing on the same spot, not moving an inch.

Bang!

An explosion suddenly rang out, and the young man who attacked Grey was sent flying, crashing out of the stage.

When the group looked at where the young man was standing, they were surprised to see Grey standing there, red lightning dancing across his body.

"Don't disturb me," Grey repeated, before walking back to his position at the edge of the stage.

The young man Grey eliminated with a single attack was at the Peak of the Origin Plane, just like him. But it was easy for all to see the difference in strength between them.

The group swallowed in fright, before turning to look at the group of fifteen. Now, their only hope was to find a way to eliminate some of them. The thought of using them to eliminate Grey crossed their minds, but they knew the group of fifteen weren't foolish enough to fight against Grey while they were still there.

The best thing to do was to eliminate them, before ganging up on Grey. Most of the people here were around the Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth stages. Other than Grey, only five others were at the Peak of the Origin Plane. And three of them were in the group of fifteen.

This was going to be the quickest match in all the stages, and there was no way for the group of eleven to turn things around.