

## **Affinity 521**

### Chapter 521 - Strolling Into The Top Fifty

Boom! Bam! Bang!

The battle raged on, and the group of eleven fought zealously. The crowd was impressed by their performance, unfortunately, there was no way for them to defeat the group of fifteen who were already very good at working together.

Some people complained, feeling this was cheating. But unfortunately, grouping up wasn't against the rules of this battle, so the hosts didn't see any reason to stop this battle.

After seven minutes, there were sixteen people left on the stage. The group of fifteen, and Grey who was standing by the side, minding his business. It was as if the battle had nothing to do with him.

Sensing their gazes, Grey turned to look at them.

"What do you want?" He asked grumpily.

"You're very cocky. If you had teamed up with those guys, I'm sure you would've been able to grab a spot," One of the trio at the Peak of the Origin Plane said to Grey.

"Huh? You guys are done?" Grey opened his eyes to look at the group.

He wasn't really concerned about this fight. While on the stage, he was running through multiple simulations of arrays that he would use to conceal the aura of the mark on his back.

His question annoyed the group of fifteen.

"Look you weirdo, I admit that you're strong, but I'll advise you to walk away if you know what's good for you," A young lady from the group said to him.

"Haven't you people decided who to kick out yet?" Grey asked with a confused look.

"Be fast with it, I'm in a hurry," He added.

His attitude not only shocked those on the stage but the crowd watching it were also surprised by his behavior. He not only refused to form a group with others so they could fight against the group of fifteen, he even eliminated one of them because they disturbed him. Now, he was telling the group of fifteen who had been working together since the start of the battle to eliminate one of their group members.

How does his head work?

This was the question running through the minds of the people who were watching the battle on that stage.

"Let's send him out," One of the young men in the group said.

The others nodded before all attacking at the same time.

Boom!

Grey stood with his hands behind his back, watching the attacks coming his way.

He sighed before shaking his head.

Buzz! Buzz!

Red lightning suddenly flashed across his body and he disappeared, turning into a streak of lightning, he danced around the stage, dodging all the attacks that the group sent towards him.

Bam!

The sound of someone being hit reverberated on the platform.

Crash! Bang!

A figure was sent flying from the group, crashing outside the stage. It was none other than the young man who urged the others to attack with him.

Grey was standing with one leg on the ground, and the other leg raised, in a position of just kicking someone. He dropped his foot before walking towards the exit of the stage with his hands in his pocket.

"We're fifteen left, can I go now?" He asked the man supervising their stage.

"Normally, you should wait till the other battles are done, but I'll make an exception. Here's your number, you'll use this for the next round of battles," The man passed on a small plaque to him.

"Thank you," Grey accepted it before walking away, leaving behind a dumbfounded group who still couldn't comprehend how he managed to move that fast.

Grey walked towards the stands, taking a seat close to Sylvia before getting lost in thoughts once again.

Sylvia knew the reason he was like this, so she didn't bother him and continued watching the battles on the stages.

One hour later.

All the battles had ended, and it was time to announce the sequence for the next round. There are a total of one hundred and five participants left, and they would be having a one on one battle elimination match.

The hosts decided to start the next round on the same day since there was still some time before sunset.

Grey was among the first few people who were called out to fight against an opponent. He was so distracted that he was almost ruled out, luckily, Sylvia managed to snap him out of it in time.

He went on stage, and literally sent his opponent flying with a single kick. No flashy moves, no words, just one kick and he was done with it.

This wasn't a contest for him anyway. Sylvia and Void knew he could easily stroll through the fighters in the Origin Plane without so much as breaking a single sweat.

That day soon ended with fifty- two people eliminated from this round. The next round would be taking place the next day.

Since the number was still above fifty that was left, a draw would take place for five people to fight in a battle royale of some sort. Three people would be eliminated so that the top fifty could be decided.

The next day.

Sylvia was the one who called Grey once again, dragging him to the arena.

When they got there, the battle royale was just about to start, and Grey was part of it.

The reason he was placed here was that he was among the few people who weren't in the previous top fifty in the geniuses rankings for those in the Origin Plane.

Presently, almost everyone from the previous ranking was still here.

According to what he found out, this next round would be people trying to challenge those at a higher rank. This means, unlike the previous battles where they were given opponents, they could pick who they wanted to fight.

The battle royale soon started, and just like what happened in the fifty-person battle royale, Grey walked to the edge of the stage, sat down, leaving a word for the four others who wanted to fight.

"Do not disturb me."

Chapter 522 - Challenging One And Two At The Same Time

This was the first time the group of four were seeing him, so they found his behavior downright outrageous.

"Who the hell does he think he is?" One of the youths on the stage asked.

"A proud fool, that's what he is," Another said.

"Let's kick him out before fighting to see who stays," One of them suggested.

The others nodded to this suggestion since they all had a common enemy, Grey.

Grey opened his eyes to see all four youths walking towards him, one female and three males. He narrowed his eyes to a slit, before standing up.

'Looks like I should eliminate three of them and challenge the number on the rankings and be done with this,' Grey said to himself.

After coming to a decision, he vanished.

Bam! Bang! Crash!

With the sounds of flesh hitting flesh, three figures were sent flying from the stage, all landing outside the stage at the same time.

A young man was the only one Grey left on the stage, the reason for this was because the young man was the strongest and naturally deserved to go through.

He turned to look at the supervisor, and it was unexpectedly the same man from the previous day.

"Can I challenge someone now?" He asked after walking close to the man.

"Not yet, your names will have to be registered into the geniuses rankings before you can challenge someone ahead of you. Take note, you only have three chances," The supervisor said.

"I only need one," Grey replied.

He went back to his seat while his name and that of the young man were registered in the geniuses rankings.

A huge stone descended from the sky, and at the top of it was the word Origin Plane boldly written on it. Below it were names along with numbers. It went from number one to fifty.

Grey's name appeared at number forty-nine.

After this was done, the hosts called for the top fifty to step forward.

Grey was naturally the one who caught the most attention. The reason for this was because he was someone unknown in the region, so the majority of the top Factions here were hoping to recruit him.

These competitions are held by the Factions of a region. It is done in every region, and it's what they use to fish out hidden talents. They've managed to get multiple from these competitions, and currently, they're all vying for who would be able to lure Grey to their Faction.

Unfortunately for them, Grey was not the least bit interested in joining any Faction right now. Even if he wanted to join one, it would be one that can protect him until he grows strong enough.

The top fifty were rewarded with some essence stones and an elemental weapon each. Grey kept his before walking away from the stage.

Sylvia told him not to challenge the person in the first position yet since she would like to watch others fight. If Grey challenged the person ranked first and easily defeated them, then the others would lose their will to fight properly since the first place was taken.

Grey sat down and closed his eyes, making simulations of arrays once again. Sylvia promised to remind him when it was time for him to challenge the person who was first in the rankings.

The geniuses rankings are updated monthly, and the person who is number one for those in the Origin Plane was a young lady who was at the Peak of the Plane. She was said to be a rare Light and Darkness Dual Elementalist.

After those in lower ranks challenged each other. It slowly moved to those in higher ranks, with the intensity of battles increasing as the ranks increased.

The rankings kept changing with almost every challenge, with many people losing their previous positions, and new people going higher.

While the battles were still ongoing, two individuals walked into one of the stages, attracting the attention of everyone in the arena. They were the two currently ranked one and two in the geniuses rankings.

Ezra Mason, the young lady ranked number one, and Jesse Hanks, the young man ranked number two. They were both at the Peak of the Origin Plane, and each of them was a Dual Elementalist.

One of them had the light and darkness element which was a rare combination, and the other has the space and fire element.

"Ezra, looks like you'll be losing your number one rank today," Jesse said coolly.

"You've grown stronger after your expedition, but I don't think you will be able to defeat me," Ezra said with a smile.

"Heh, we'll see about that," Jesse smiled before flames erupted around him.

Just as he was about to attack, he heard a voice calling for them to stop.

"Stop!"

They turned to look at who was speaking, and it was none other than Grey.

"What are you doing? Why are you interfering in their match?" The supervisor in charge of that stage questioned coldly.

The judges from the different Factions also looked at Grey oddly. They all had an interest in this masked boy, but they didn't understand why he would stop the most anticipated battle in the Origin Plane.

"As much as I'd like to see them fight, I don't want to fight against a weakened opponent," Grey said.

"Meaning?" The supervisor asked with narrowed eyes.

"I want to challenge them right now, after I'm done with them, they can fight for the scraps," Grey said nonchalantly.

His words invited rage from the crowd, Ezra and Jesse, as well as the judges from the Factions, especially the two Factions Ezra and Jesse belonged to.

"Be careful what you wish for, boy. You might have some potential, but don't forget that others your age are already in the Overlord Plane," One of the judges said coldly.



The meaning of his statement was as clear as day for all to see.. If Grey was really talented, then he wouldn't still be in the Origin Plane.

#### Chapter 523 - Climbing To The Top

"What I wish for is none of your business," Grey turned to the judge coldly.

"Pestilent child, I hope you do not regret your decision," The judge replied.

His impression of Grey just took a big dip down. He was even having thoughts of trying to recruit Grey a few minutes ago, but now, he wanted nothing more than for Ezra and Jesse to beat the living hell out of him.

Ezra turned to look at Jesse, "Why don't I give you the pleasure of satisfying the wish of my Teacher?"

Jesse squinted his eyes, looking at Grey.

"As you wish, but as soon as I am done with this shrimp, we'll begin our battle," He nodded.

Ezra smiled before turning to look at Grey coldly, since he dared to speak to her Teacher so rudely, he had entered her blacklist. If she were the one who fights against him, she didn't know if she could hold herself back from killing him.

"Where do you think you're going?" Grey asked as Ezra was about to step down from the stage.

Ezra paused, looking at Grey with her icy gaze, "Only after you defeat him do you have the right to speak to me,"

Her words showed her proud nature.

Grey wanted to stop her, but since he decided against it, "Fine, stand by the side, you'll be coming in shortly,"

After saying that, he walked onto the stage, staring at the huge stone that was in the sky. He was a little interested in how it worked, but he didn't have the luxury of checking it out since he had a lot on his hands right now.

"Where did a proud monkey like you come from?" Jesse asked after Grey stood in front of him.

Grey tilted his head slightly to the side when he heard his words, staring at the youth who was speaking to him. He didn't say a word, turning to look at the supervisor as if to ask when can I start pummeling this guy?

"Begin!" The supervisor called out a few seconds later.

As soon as the supervisor called for the start of the battle, Jesse vanished. He was a Space Elementalist, so he wouldn't attack like others.

This was Grey's first time in dealing with other Space Elementalists aside from Void, and he couldn't help but shake his head at Jesse's use of the space element.

When the crowd saw Jesse disappear, they all thought this was the end for Grey.

"Looks like the battle ended before it even began," Ezra commented.

Jesse rarely starts a battle with the space element, unless he has the utmost confidence in being able to come out on top.

Just as everyone was waiting for Jesse to appear out of the blue and send Grey flying. They saw something that stunned them.

Grey, who was previously standing idly on the stage, took a simple step forward, stretched out his right hand to the left, and to the greatest shock of every person in the arena except for Void and Sylvia, Jesse suddenly appeared, his neck firmly grabbed by Grey.

It was like he pulled him out of the space tunnel he was hiding.

"What?!" The judges, crowd, supervisor, and other fighters were dumbstruck by what they saw.

Grey was slightly taller than Jesse, holding him by the neck, he holstered him up into the air, with just one hand. It was like he was holding a baby.

He tilted his head to the side, studying Jesse properly.

"You were saying?" He asked mockingly.

With a simple motion, he tossed Jesse out of the stage. A small smile on his face.

Although he was currently grumpy, he didn't want to create enemies all around, else he would've beaten Jesse to the state that he would find it difficult to walk for a month or so.

Crash! Bam!

Jesse's figure first crashed on the stage, before sliding out of it, landing on the ground outside the stage.

Ezra, who was still just outside the stage was left shocked and confused. She couldn't comprehend how it happened.

Only those with a much higher cultivation base clearly understood what just happened.

Grey being able to accurately pinpoint Jesse's position and fishing him out of the space tunnel was no easy feat, even for a Space Elementalist. But he did it with such ease that they found it almost difficult to accept.

The judge who was speaking to Grey previously was left a little perplexed.

"You're also a Space Elementalist?" He asked with a low voice.

Grey didn't reply, but his silence said the answer everyone wanted to know. He truly was a Space Elementalist.

"No wonder he's this confident," Ezra muttered outside the stage.

Doubt was slowly coming into her head since she knew even at her best day and Jesse's worst, she couldn't defeat him so easily. If Grey could throw him out of the stage so easily, then the odds of her being able to defeat him was not good.

"Please come in, I'm in a hurry," Grey said, taking a step back as if saying if you're scared, I will give you more room.

"Ezra, be careful. He is not as weak as you think," Jesse, who had already stood up from the side said as he walked towards the stage.

He was feeling slightly embarrassed after being beaten in such a quick time, and even after he brought out his biggest guns to boot.

"Don't worry, I will help you send him packing. Maybe now you will acknowledge me as the strongest after I defeat him," Ezra's confidence slowly started to come back as she boldly stepped onto the stage.

Jesse nodded, before a step back. What he found surprising was that Grey left him in a perfect state. He was basically still the same way he was before the fight started, it was as if he hadn't been in a battle a few moments ago.

"I will defeat you," Ezra said as she stood before Grey.

"Feel free," Grey replied nonchalantly while giving an inviting gesture.

He turned to look at the supervisor, waiting for him to call for the battle to begin.

"Begin!"

Chapter 524 - Number One In The Origin Plane At The Acer Region

'I should take this opportunity to study the light element up close, but I really do not have that time,' Grey contemplated as the supervisor called for the battle to start.

This was his first chance to witness the light element first hand, and if not for his current predicament, he would've taken the opportunity to try and see if he could learn a thing or two from it. Unfortunately, he still had multiple array simulations he was running in his head even as he was fighting, so he didn't want to waste any time here.

'I'll just observe it a little before defeating her.' He finally came to a decision.

Although he was pressed on time, this was an opportunity for him. He didn't know when next he might encounter a Light Elementalist he could fight against. Sylvia wasn't a good choice, and he was sure it wouldn't be easy to get her to show him the light element as much as he wanted if he wanted to comprehend it.

....

After the supervisor called for the battle to begin, white light surrounded Ezra's body, making her look like a goddess.

She was beautiful to begin with, coupled with the light, it was as if she was not from this world.

Her figure suddenly vanished from where she was standing, almost as quickly as Jesse did.

Swoosh!

But compared to Jesse's, Grey wouldn't have the privilege of using his advantage of the space element to fish her out. She could easily dodge Grey if he tried to attack her.

Boom! Bam!

Ezra attacked with the darkness element, but Grey was already prepared for her attacks. With simple side steps, he dodged all her attacks by the tiniest of margins, while studying her movements.

Bang! Boom!

Ezra continued attacking nonstop, but each attack was hitting empty air. Grey didn't dodge the attacks with any flashy moves, all he did was to sidestep at the last minute, making sure the attack missed him by a hair's breadth.

The attacks continued for more than a minute, and everyone found it odd that Grey wasn't making any signs of attacking.

....

At the judges' area.

"What is he doing?" The judge, who is Ezra's Teacher, asked curiously.

"He seems to be studying her movement. From his reaction, it's like he finds the light element to be very intriguing, so he wants to study it more," Another judge said.

From all of them here, she was the most observant person. So it wasn't too difficult for her to discern what Grey was doing.

"\*Sigh\* After he defeated Jesse, I knew Ezra was no match for him," Ezra's Teacher shook his head sadly.

"It's not something to be sad about. You can clearly tell he's from a powerful background. Maybe he is stuck at the Origin Plane and seeking ways to break through it. From how he didn't hurt Jesse when they fought, you can tell that he's not a bad person," The Lady who was able to discern Grey's motive for not attacking Ezra said.

The other judges nodded to what she said. Grey's strength wasn't something that a genius in a region like theirs could have. Even if he was from their region, he must have been recruited from his early ages by big Factions.

....

After almost two minutes, Grey shook his head in amazement.

The speed of the light element was unbelievable. Even with Ezra's low Plane, she is easily faster than most First stage Overlord Plane Elementalists, and even some in the Second Plane.

Grey was using her help to further hone his space element, so he could dodge faster with it, while also studying the light element. So far, he had gotten nothing from staring at it. But he wasn't sad since he knew it would only take some time, but he would surely get it.

'Time to end this,' He said to himself after dodging Ezra's attack once again.

This time, he called upon his lightning element, using it with the help of the space element. He vanished while covered with red lightning, and as soon as his figure appeared again, he was in front of Ezra.

Ezra tried to move to the side, but Grey was faster, anticipating her next move. It was as if everywhere was blocked, and she found it difficult to resist.

Grey stretched out his hand quickly, and just like Jesse, he grabbed her by the neck, lifting her up easily for all to see before tossing her out of the stage, in the same manner as he did to Jesse.

With that, Grey's name on the stone board suddenly lit up, before quickly jumping from the second place to the first.

His name had moved from the forty-ninth to second place after he defeated Jesse, pushing him to third place. But he didn't really take note of it. He only looked at it after he defeated Ezra.

"I left them in perfect condition, so they can still fight against each other," Grey said to Ezra's Teacher.

When the judges found out the reason he didn't harm either Ezra or Jesse, they were a little taken aback. He left them in perfect fighting conditions so that they could still fight against each other.

"His sense of reasoning is definitely not like the rest," The Lady amongst the judges said.

"Hmph! But it doesn't give him the right to be arrogant. His arrogance will lead to his downfall," Ezra's Teacher snorted coldly.

Of everyone here, he was one of the few who found Grey as an eyesore.

....

Grey is currently the first amongst all Origin Plane Elementalists in the Acer region, but it wasn't something he was really proud of.

Looking at the name Grey Dawson, Sylvia turned to look at Grey strangely. But she shook her head soon after when she realized how clueless Grey was. She didn't think he was from the family that came to mind when she saw the name, Dawson.

As things are, no one would want to challenge Grey, so it was easy to say that the first position was already secured.. Now, all that was left was for those in lower ranks to fight to try to increase their ranks.

## Chapter 525 - The Next Round

With the first position claimed, Ezra and Jesse still fought fiercely for the second place. Ezra won by the smallest of margins.



Their battle was the only battle fought that Grey watched, discarding his thought process for the few minutes the battle was on.

The reason he watched it was to get an outer view of the light element. There is a difference between experiencing it up close and looking at it from a distance.

When the battles for the rankings of the Origin Plane concluded, the judges called those whose names were in the top ten to step into the stage to receive their rewards.

While Grey was outside, he asked Sylvia a question that was bothering him. He wanted to know how the stone worked since it was able to automatically move his name to the first place after he defeated Ezra.

According to Sylvia, in the small amulets given to them after they qualified for the top fifty, a small portion of their essences was taken from it. This amulet is made from the same item as the stone board, and it was connected via an array. No matter where Grey or other individuals ranked in it, as long as any of them is defeated by someone on the rankings, that person would take their spot on the rankings, pushing them down.

Grey was left surprised when he was asked what item he wanted as a reward, and rather than asking for a technique that everyone thought he would, he requested a book on arrays.

It can't be helped, he really wanted to increase his knowledge of them as quickly as possible. The arrays here are more complex when compared to the one back at the Azure Continent, and since the chance presented itself, why not take it?

After the rewards were given to the top ten, the first stage of the competition was concluded. Now, it was time to start the second stage of the competition, the ranking for Overlord Plane Elementalists.

The first set was for the Early stages rankings. Only Elementalists in the First stage of the Overlord Plane to the Third stage are allowed to participate in this set.

Before Grey left after collecting his reward, he asked the judges if he could be allowed to also participate in the Early stages rankings for the Overlord Plane. His request threw them off their feet as they didn't expect he would want to try out his strength against those in the Overlord Plane.

After giving it some thought, they didn't feel it was odd given how strong he was. Even Ezra and Jesse were also planning to take part in it as well, so why couldn't the person who defeated them easily also take part as well?

The Lady amongst the judges gave Grey the go-ahead to participate. With that, he left the arena altogether.

The next round would begin the next day, and he wanted to try to study the books on arrays he was given. When he requested a book on array, he was actually given three instead of one.

Just like before, Grey stepped into his room and shut his door, before taking out the books on arrays and studying them.

Sylvia and Void were left to wander around the city alone. Unlike Grey, they didn't enjoy solitude.

....

The next day.

The next round of the competition was about to begin, and a fair few individuals in the Origin Plane were said to be taking part as well. The most notable name was none other than that of the current newly crowned number one genius in the Origin Plane across the entire Acer region, Grey Dawson.

It was said that he won the competition without facing any challenges. Not everyone watched the battle take place, so there were fresh faces who came just to see this young genius who managed to sweep the ground with those in his cultivation stage.

By the time Grey came to the arena, the battles had started. It was just like the time they came for battles for those in the Origin Plane.

In comparison to the number of participants in the Origin Plane. There were fewer people at this stage. According to what was registered, there were around five hundred or so youths who registered for this stage of the competition.

Just like the first stage, they would be having a battle royale. Only, twenty people would be going through from each stage instead of fifteen. There would be a total of fifty participants in a single stage as well, making things quicker.

But unlike the Origin Plane battles, the previous top ten in the Early stages geniuses rankings wouldn't participate in this round of battles.

....

When Grey stepped into the arena, he quickly attracted the attention of a lot of individuals. It was impossible for him to hide from them. His dressing, appearance, hair, and mask were too distinct from others.

People were pointing at him, showing him to those who were unfortunate not to be here the previous day to watch him breeze through his opponents.

"We're late again," Sylvia complained when she realized that the battles had started.

"Better late than never, right?" Grey asked with open arms.

"We should be done with this and leave soon, we still have other regions to go to," Sylvia replied.

"I'll be doing this again?" Grey asked, concerned.

"No, instead, you'll be challenging those ranked first. This way, you would save yourself the time of going through this long process," Sylvia answered while they headed to their seats.

Since Grey was ranked the number one genius in the Origin Plane, he had a special seat designated for him in the arena. Of course he could bring those close to him along!

When Grey heard Sylvia's words, he heaved a sigh of relief. He didn't have the time to go around for competitions, but challenging a single individual was less time-consuming and more straightforward.. Had he known, he would've waited till the winner was announced before challenging them in this competition, but he couldn't say he didn't like his reward though.

## Chapter 526 - Let's Team Up

Twenty minutes later, it was time for the next set to get on stage.

While walking to the stage, Grey was sensible enough to study the people who were heading towards the stage he wanted to pick. He might be arrogant, but he's definitely not stupid.

Taking Overlord Plane Elementalists like they were Origin Plane Elementalists would be the biggest mistake he'll ever make in this competition, and since he planned to stay in the competition for a long time, he couldn't be careless.

Before getting to the stage, he had surveyed where all the participants were headed. Thanks to this, he didn't have any issues with picking a stage to get on.

Of the two stages that would be used, the last one was the one least occupied by people in the Third stage of the Overlord Plane, and that was the one he picked.

Ezra and Jesse were surprisingly also in this stage as well, and seeing Grey come towards the stage they narrowed their eyes.

Everyone here recognized Grey, and there were a few Overlord Plane Elementalists that were eager to show this newly crowned number one genius in the Origin Plane some lessons.

While waiting for the battle to begin, Grey took the liberty of approaching Ezra and Jesse.

"What do you want?" Ezra asked when she saw him getting close.

"As you can see, I'm not particularly welcome in the eyes of many here. So I feel our chances would be great if we were to team up," Grey said with a smile.

Ezra and Jesse paused, surprised by Grey's words. They originally thought he was the arrogant type given his display from the previous day. Only now did they know that he was a totally different person.

"Actually, you approaching her has made you even more unwelcomed in the eyes of most of the male Elementalists here. As you can see, a lot of them have a thing for Ezra, and some would feel beating you might be the opportunity they need to get closer to her," Jesse said.

Grey turned around, and he couldn't help but shake his head when he saw the gazes most of the male Elementalists on the stage were giving him.

"\*Sigh\* Great! Just when I thought it wouldn't get worse," He sighed dejectedly.

"Alright, I'll move away, see you guys in the next round then," He turned around, walking to another side of the stage.

Jesse and Ezra nodded, but it was after Grey left did they suddenly recall his last words.

"Did he just say see you guys in the next round?" Ezra couldn't help but ask.

"Yeah," Jesse nodded, stumped by Grey's confidence even after seeing how the situation looked.

From the gazes some of the boys here were giving Grey, it was evident that he would be the target of many. All wishing to eliminate him even before the competition goes far.

The remaining participants soon got on the other stages, and it was time for the supervisors to call for the start of the battles.

Most of the attention from the crowd was placed on the stage where Grey was standing, they all wanted to see how this genius would fare against opponents on another Plane.

Would he be able to breeze through like he previously did in the Origin Plane competition, or would he be stopped early on?

"Begin!"

Boom! Bang! Bam!

As soon as the supervisor called for the battle to begin, Grey's location was instantly flooded with a series of attacks. Each attack coming from a different individuals.

When Sylvia and Void made a headcount, there were about eleven people attacking Grey simultaneously. It was a shocking scene as different elements converged on one position.

Those who were standing close to Grey had already created some space between them just when the battle was about to begin since they sensed what would happen after the battle started.

Ezra and Jesse watched on with Grey interest, waiting for the attacks to die down.

Although Grey's situation was attracting a lot of conditions, other people had started fighting on the stage, as well as the other two.

Swoosh! Bang!

A blue flame was seen spreading at the center of the attacks, before exploding out in all directions. Sending out a powerful shockwave across the entire stage.

Some unlucky individuals who were standing at the edge of the stage were even knocked off, getting eliminated by the power of the shockwave.

The others on stage turned to look at the cause of the shockwave, and to their surprise, Grey could be seen standing there, blue flames burning around him as he looked around with cold eyes.

This was the first time he was displaying another element other than the lightning and space element, and the power of his flames sent chills down the spines of some of the Overlord Plane Elementals in the stage as well as the arena.

....

At the judges' area.

"Blue flames, he also has red lightning, right?" Ezra's Teacher asked when he saw Grey's fire.

"Yes, for a single individual to possess two special elements is not something you see every day," Another judge nodded.

"This boy is a real talent, if he can get through this stage, I don't mind recruiting him," A lady said.

"Why are you sounding as if you're giving him a privilege? Given the strength he has shown, do you think we'll sit idly and watch you snatch him up? None of the geniuses in this region seems to hold a light when placed in front of him," An old man said.

"Isn't that a little bit too exaggerated? Don't forget that he's only still at the Peak of the Origin Plane," Ezra's Teacher said.

Of all the people here, he was the only one who didn't like Grey. One of the reasons for this was because of the manner in which Grey decided his prized pupil.

While the judges were arguing on who would recruit Grey, the battle had started once again.

....

On the stage.

After Grey blocked the attacks with his flames, he didn't hold back and instantly attacked the group who attacked him in the first place, charging straight right into them.

#### Chapter 527 - Highest Elimination Count

Grey's movement was causing mayhem on the stage as it was difficult for others to touch him, yet he was sending people flying one by one.

This time, the crowd got to see some of his strength, and they couldn't hide the awe in their eyes. Those who watched him yesterday felt like they were currently watching a different person, while the ones who came to see him today felt like it was totally worth it.

Bam! Boom! Crash!

Grey kept attacking ferociously, not giving his opponents the opportunity to get a strike at him.

After the first surprise, the battles had started once again on the stage, and with Grey breaking through the circle of the eleven people, it paved the way for others to eliminate some of them while they were scampering around to block Grey's attacks.

Within the short time of three minutes, Grey managed to eliminate eight people in total, which was the highest for a single individual in all the stages. And the fact that the person with the highest elimination count was still in the Origin Plane was even more fascinating.

Boom! Bang!

Grey didn't show any signs of slowing down as he continued attacking. He was like the ultimate filter, picking out all the weak people while leaving the strongest ones on the stage.



Ten minutes later.

The battle in Grey's stage had ended all thanks to Grey's quick actions. There were currently only twenty people left standing on the stage, and of the twenty people, only four of them were in the Origin Plane. Grey, Ezra, Jesse, and the young man who is ranked fifth in the Origin Plane geniuses rankings.

Of the thirty people eliminated, Grey single-handedly eliminated fifteen, a staggering figure given the number of people on the stage. There were even a few people in the Third stage of the Overlord Plane in this stage, but none of them was able to eliminate up to five on their own.

It took almost ten minutes of waiting before the battles on the other stages showed signs of stopping. After the battles ended, there were a total of two hundred participants left, excluding the top ten who weren't a part of this stage.

The supervisors handed out small plaque-like amulets to Grey and the others who qualified.

"Since there are a hundred and ten more people, another elimination match will take place later today. One hundred and thirty people would be randomly selected, and once you see your amulet light up, know you're part of them. Only twenty of these hundred and thirty people would advance to the next round of the competition..." The supervisor explained.

Grey and the rest of the people on stage listened closely. When they all heard that only twenty people would advance in a total of a hundred and thirty people, they looked at each other with fiery eyes. There were a few people who threw a glance in Grey's direction.

His performance in the previous round didn't go unnoticed, and even though most of the people he eliminated were in the First stage of the Overlord Plane, he still eliminated a fair few in the Second stage.

Presently, he was one of the few people that others were actually praying not to get selected for this round. Other than him, the only other people they didn't want to be picked were mostly in the Third stage of the Overlord Plane, with a few in the Second stage.

After the supervisor was done with his explanation, the lights on the amulets of the participants started to go off one by one. Before long, the eighty people who would be taking part in the next round of battles had been decided, and Grey was among them.

....

Grey stared at the amulet in his hand, it was at times like these that he wished he was as lucky as Klaus in these types of things. If Klaus were to be here, then he would definitely not be part of these people who would be fighting to get into the next round.

He didn't know how he did it, but so long as it involved luck in skipping a battle, he was almost a hundred percent certain that Klaus would get it.

While Grey was reminiscing about his friend, the supervisor told them all to head back to their seats to rest, before they started the battle. Since some of them were just involved in a battle, it wouldn't seem fair for them if they started the battle immediately.

"Why did so many people attack you?" Sylvia asked when Grey got back to his seat.

Grey went on to explain the whole Ezra dilemma to her.

"Heh! Boys will be boys," She scoffed when she heard the story.

"They're just a bunch of stupid foolhardy people," Grey said before taking a seat.

He had not been one who would fight others because he liked a girl. He didn't even like anyone to begin with, other than Alice, he had no other female friend. He could've added Aella, but they barely got to know each other. If not for wanting to get to learn about forgemastering from her, he wouldn't have approached her in the first place.

Two hours soon went by, and it was time for them to step on stage again.

Ezra and Jesse were lucky enough not to be part of this set, which meant they'd automatically entered the top one hundred. The only thing that bothered Grey a little bit was that there were over fifteen Third stage Overlord Plane Elementalists that were picked, not just that, but there were also some powerful Second stage Overlord Plane Elementalists as well.

In a one-on-one scenario, he was at least fifty percent confident since most of them wouldn't be more powerful than the young man who had an Elemental Warrior in the Gale region.

The Third stage Overlord Plane was seventeen in total, and they wisely separated, giving themselves a better chance of qualifying.

Since there were one hundred and thirty people, two stages will have fifty people that would be fighting simultaneously and eight qualifying from each, with thirty fighting in the last one stage and only four people qualifying from that one.

#### Chapter 528 - Fighting Confidently

Grey didn't head to the stage with thirty people there, the reason was that there were four Third stage Overlord Plane Elementalists there, and from what he sensed, they wouldn't be easy to deal with. Not just that, but the four of them seemed to be on good terms, so there's the possibility of them working together.

With that stage out of the list, he was left with the other two. One of these two had seven Third stage Overlord Plane Elementalists, while the other had six. According to the supervisor, eight people would qualify from this set, while only four from the group of thirty.

Grey surprisingly picked the stage where seven Third stage Overlord Plane Elementalists were standing. When the fighters saw him walking in, they all hardened their gazes. If they were ever told that an Origin Plane Elementalist would be able to make them this serious while they were in the Overlord Plane, they would never have believed the person.

With everything set, all that was left was for the supervisor to call for the start of the battles.

The man in charge looked around, after confirming the numbers, he nodded.

"Begin!"

Boom! Bam!

Attacks flew all around as soon as he called out for the fight to start. Everyone here wanted to qualify, especially after managing to pass the first round.

The number of Origin Plane Elementalist in this group was three, Grey and two others. When the battle started, one of them was quickly eliminated. He was unfortunate enough to be standing close to the Third stage Overlord Plane Elementalist and was eliminated by one of them.

A Second stage Overlord Plane Elementalist attacked Grey since he was the one closest to him.

Grey dodged the attack with lightning dancing across his body, and the person behind him was struck by the attack, sending him flying.

He countered, shooting a ball of flame towards the youth who attacked him.

The young man was a Water Elementalist, seeing the fireballs coming towards him, he quickly raised an ice wall in front of him to block it.

Bang!

The attack slammed into the ice wall, but it wasn't the only thing that did.

Cracks appeared on both sides of the ice wall. The one on the front was caused by Grey's fireball, the one on the back was caused when the young man slammed into the wall.

He fell to the ground weakly right after, and behind him was Grey who had a nonchalant look.

After he saw the young man setting up a defensive wall, he simply teleported to his back, punching him into the ice wall.

Grey grabbed the unconscious youth, tossing him out of the stage as if he was weightless.

While Grey was tossing the young man out of the stage, he was attacked from behind by a young lady in the First stage of the Overlord Plane.

Grey had always been a cautious person, so there was no way he wouldn't be alert while eliminating the young man.

He sidestepped, and the attack of the young lady hit the young man who was still mid-air, inflicting heavy injuries on him while also increasing the speed of his movement.

Bang!

The young man crashed into the ground, bleeding from different parts of his body.

Grey on the other hand had already engaged the young lady who thought she could catch him unaware.

Within a few moves, he tossed her out of the stage as well.

When he was done with her, he went on to the next target.

Boom! Bam! Bang!

The battles in the stages raged on, with multiple people being eliminated as time went on.

One of the greatest shocks in the battles was the elimination of one of the Third stage Overlord Plane Elementalists, he was eliminated by a young lady in the First stage of the Overlord Plane.

A series of misfortunes was what brought about his elimination, but the young lady played a big part in it.

The first stage currently had only five Third stage Overlord Plane Elementalists, which boosted the morale of those in that stage. The second stage which Grey was fighting in still had all seven Third stage Overlord Plane Elementalists, the same thing with the last stage which still had all four of them.

Grey had eliminated five people since the start of the battle, and other than the young lady in the First stage, the other four had all been Second stage Overlord Plane Elementalists.

These people were weaker when compared to those top Second stage Overlord Plane Elementalists Grey fought against at the Gale region, so he didn't have any problems in dealing with them.

After almost ten minutes of fighting, there were only fifteen people left on the stage Grey was standing on. Six of them were in the Third stage of the Overlord Plane, eight were in the Second, and then there is Grey, an Origin Plane Elementalist.

The stage was no longer crowded, so they could all pick a fight against an individual without worrying about getting into another fight. Of course, this didn't mean that they would be careless.

One of the Third stage Overlord Plane Elementalists walked in Grey's direction. He was a Fire Elementalist with amber hair.

"I would like to test the strength of the number one genius in the Origin Plane," The young man said humbly.

Grey nodded, after all, he wasn't picky with his opponents.

The young man bowed, before attacking Grey with a stream of fire.

Grey dodged the stream of fire, before sending out an attack of his own. The young man sent out an attack towards Grey's attack.

Boom!

Their attacks collided, causing a huge explosion.

After seeing the duo engage in a fight, the others started to fight as well. They couldn't just sit by and watch.

With fifteen people left, seven people had to be eliminated before they could stop fighting.. Grey didn't care who those seven people were, as long as he qualified for the next round, he was satisfied.

Chapter 529 - Qualifying

The young man with amber hair attacked again, sending a fire blade at Grey that slashed horizontally.

Grey set up a defensive ice wall in front of him.

Bam! Crack! Bang!

The blade broke through the ice wall easily, heading towards Grey.

Grey didn't panic, as he sent a fist made of flames at the slash.

Boom!

The attacks collided, causing a huge shockwave that pushed Grey a few steps back.

Before he could regain his footing, the young man appeared above him, cutting down vertically this time.

Grey sidestepped, but to his surprise, the young man was able to increase the width of the blade slash, covering almost ten meters.

With no other choice, Grey used the space element to escape from the range of the attack, escaping by a hair's breadth.

After he appeared, he attacked the young man instantly, sending out a lightning bolt that almost hit the back of the young man.

Bang!

The young man turned around quickly, slashing his fire blade at the bolt of lightning that was heading towards him.

After deflecting the attack, he continued slashing at Grey. Easily breaking the ice wall that Grey tried to use as a defense.

'Crap! I would've told her I was an Earth Elementalist. Although, why do I feel like my ice is stronger than it previously was?' Grey complained when he saw how easily the young man was breaking through his defense.

However, he also noticed that compared to before, his ice ability was stronger. Even though it couldn't hold out against this young man's attack, it was still able to delay it.

From Grey's estimation, it was at least fifteen percent stronger than it usually was. But it still isn't as strong as his earth element in terms of defense, yet.

Grey bent back, dodging the slash of the blade. Due to the speed of it, it cut a little bit of his hair, almost burning it.

Bam! Bang! Boom!



The young man with amber hair continued attacking, pushing Grey back.

While they were fighting, the others were still fighting, trying their best to eliminate the rest.

Of all the battles on the stage though, none of them was as intense and exciting as that of Grey and the young man with amber hair.

Grey's performance was not below everyone's expectations since he was fighting against a powerful Third stage Overlord Plane Elementalist while still being in the Origin Plane. In fact, they all found it almost difficult to accept since although he has been on the back foot since the battle started, there weren't any signs that the young man was completely dominating him.

Ezra and Jesse got further confirmation from this fight that they were no match for Grey.

The judges were also watching the battle with keen eyes. The young man with amber hair was one of the strongest individuals amongst those in the Third stage except from the top ten. From what they recalled, he was in the top twenty of the geniuses rankings.

If Grey can hold off against someone in the top twenty in the geniuses rankings for the Early stage Overlord rankings, that meant his strength was unbelievable.

....

While everyone felt Grey was already performing more than expected, he made an attack that shocked everyone, especially the young man who was fighting against him, literally.

Buzz!

The sound of lightning was heard across the arena, as a ten meters radius around Grey was covered entirely in lightning.

The young man with amber hair was within that ten meters radius, getting the full brunt of the lightning attack.

On the ground, what looked like a seal could be seen. It was what brought about Grey's quick lightning attack that took the young man by surprise.

The young man convulsed for the first few seconds before his defense wasn't set up, but after that time, he covered his body with the fire element, before shooting out of the ten meters radius.

After coming out, he gasped, trying to catch his breath while staring at Grey warily. He had been on the front foot since the start of the battle, yet Grey was not only able to endure, but he found an opportunity to counterattack as well.

The young man's expression changed slightly when Grey, who was still in the curtain of lightning, smiled, and he increased his vigilance.

Grey looked around, realizing there were nine of them on the stage, instead of eight. Choosing randomly, he switched positions with another unsuspecting young man in the Third stage of Overlord Plane who was lazing around after defeating his opponent.

Buzz!

"Ah!"

Due to how unexpected it was, he was unable to do anything to defend against this attack.

Bam! Crash!

The sound of flesh hitting flesh rang across the stage, before the young man's figure was sent flying outside the stage.

This was an unexpected outcome nobody felt would happen.

Grey used the first chance he got against the young man with amber hair to force him back while picking a weaker opponent to eliminate.

This not only meant that their two were qualified for the next round, but it also showed his impeccable battle awareness.

Grey had been taking note of what was happening around him even while he was suppressed by the young man. When the opportunity arose, he took it so well that nobody could find any faults with him. It might be a sneak attack, but it was one that was well executed.

Other than the young man who he eliminated, no one else found his attack as an eyesore.

....

At the judges' area.

"Clever, taking out two birds with one stone. He used the same attack for not only pushing back that boy but also eliminating someone else. But do any of you find the way he switched positions with him strange?" One of the Ladies amongst the judges asked.

"He used the space element, this is something I've not seen before.. Hmph! I've always hated Space Elementalists, they're always a headache for everyone else," Ezra's Teacher replied, clearly still not happy with Grey.

Chapter 530 - Eliminating You Is Enough

On the stage.

The young man with amber hair was taken aback when he saw how Grey was able to quickly eliminate the young man.

"Thank you for letting me advance into the next round," He said to him.

He knew his strength, and from how Grey switched positions with that young man before stepping into the lightning once again, it would've been difficult, even for him to get out of it in time. Also, when he saw the speed at which Grey eliminated the young man, he knew Grey didn't want to eliminate him, else he could've done so after he was struck by the attack the first time.

"Compared to him, I am not sure I can eliminate you that easily," Grey replied with a smile.

"You animal! How dare you eliminate me?!"

While Grey and the young man were exchanging words, they heard a holler from below the stage.

Everyone turned to look at the source, and it was none other than the unfortunate young man Grey eliminated.

"What's the meaning of this? Since you're eliminated, you are no longer allowed onto the stage,"

Before Grey or the young man with amber hair could respond, the harsh voice of the supervisor was heard from the side.

"I... I... this isn't fair! I challenge him to a deathmatch! If I win, I'll take his spot," The young man declared aggressively.

The supervisor took a glance at the judges, and seeing Ezra's Teacher nod, he didn't rebuke the young man, now, it was all in Grey's hands.

If Grey agreed to this, then he would allow it, if not, then he would chase the young man away.

Grey narrowed his eyes when he heard the words of the young man.

"Come on number one genius, are you scared?" The young man mocked.

"Scared? Of an already defeated opponent? Not a chance. But, I am not so evil that I would want you dead, eliminating you is more than enough," Grey replied.

His answer to the young man's challenge was a resounding no. He had other things to worry about, why would he want to waste his time fighting against this young man.

Even though it wouldn't be easy, he knew if he pulled out a few cards, then he would win for sure. He still hadn't used his inscriptions in the battles, then there was also that space array he learned which would make it impossible for his opponents to touch him.

It wasn't yet time to show his cards, so he wasn't interested in fighting against this young man. Besides, he had defeated him before, although it was from a sneak attack, a defeat was a defeat.

"Damn you, you scoundrel. Fight me if you dare!" The young man wasn't willing to let this go.

"Not a chance," Grey shrugged, before turning to look at the supervisor, waiting for him to chase the young man away.

He wasn't disappointed as the young man was soon chased away by the supervisor. Of course, he continued making a scene, threatening to kill Grey after they left this place.

Grey grinned when he heard this, further angering the young man. Of all the things Grey was worried about, being killed by someone while being under the watch of Sylvia wasn't one of them.

With Sylvia around, even the judges wouldn't dare to attack him, much less a little figure like the young man.

....

"You should be careful, he's from a family of low-leveled moralless people, they might not hold back in trying to kill you," The young man with amber hair warned.

"Oh, thank you. But I'm not worried about him," Grey thanked the young man for his concern.

The young man nodded, before walking out of the stage.

Now, there are one hundred people left in the competition. Ten of them had not been involved in any battles, and they were the people who were in the top ten of the rankings.

After this set of battles, the judges called it a day, telling all participants to go back to their places of rest. The competition would continue the next day.

Grey and Sylvia walked out of the arena together, heading straight for the tavern. They soon got to the tavern.

"Looks like that guy didn't make an empty threat, some people had been following us, and they aren't his people alone. How many people did you offend?" Sylvia asked.

"I have no idea," Grey shrugged before walking into the tavern.

This wasn't something he should concern himself with. Since Sylvia was the one who made him participate in this competition, then she was the one who would deal with any of the troubles outside the competition.

Sylvia looked at Grey's receding figure before shaking her head and stepping into the tavern as well. It was already almost sunset, and she knew if these people wanted to make a move, they would wait until it was dark.

She didn't really mind killing them now though, but she was sure not all of them wanted to kill Grey, some only wanted to confirm where he was staying.

The next day.

Grey came out as usual, tired from his constant research of arrays. He truly wanted to stop this and get good sleep, but with the knowledge of there being something on his back that would attract people who would want to kill him, he couldn't.

"How did it go?" He asked Sylvia after coming out of his room.

"Just some small fries we won't be hearing from again," Sylvia replied.

"Alright, thank you," Grey said gratefully before stepping out of the tavern.

They headed towards the arena, and on the way, he heard about the corpses of eight people which were found in an alley not too far from the tavern he was staying in.

'Hey, Void, how are you?' Grey started conversing with Void as they headed towards the arena.

He hadn't been able to speak with him for a while, so he felt now was a good time.