

Affinity 531

Chapter 531 - Top Fifty

Grey and his group got to the arena a little sooner than they previously did.

On getting there, the news of one of the previous participants found dead circulated across the place. It was none other than the young man who threatened to kill Grey the previous day. He wasn't found alone, according to reports, some other people were found alongside him, all dead.

When Grey and Sylvia entered the arena, they drew a lot of attention because of this matter in particular.

Before they could sit down, one of the judges flew towards them, giving off a malicious aura.

"What did you do to him?" The judge asked coldly.

She was one of the few females amongst the judges.

Grey looked at her, a little taken aback.

"Sorry, but what are you talking about?" He asked, not sure what the lady was referring to.

"Kyle, you killed him didn't you?" The lady said.

"I'm sorry, but who's Kyle?" Grey asked with a confused face.

The lady was incensed when she saw this, before sending a powerful pressure with her cultivation base at Grey. But her expression soon changed when she didn't see any form of distress on Grey's face.

'Impossible! Even those in the Overlord Plane wouldn't be able to neglect my pressure. There must be a treasure with him, a powerful one at that,' The lady thought, looking at Grey with evil intentions brewing.

"Stop playing dumb, he said those words out of anger, yet you sent people to kill him," The lady said.

"Oh, you're talking about that guy from yesterday? If I wanted him dead, I would've done it myself. I'm not that shameless to send people after him," Grey said, before taking his seat beside Sylvia who was already sitting.

The lady was about to press further when she suddenly sensed something, she paused, looked at Sylvia before turning around quickly, not daring to stay any further.

The confrontation by the lady further increased the discussions in the arena.

Thirty minutes later.

The next round of battles started. Since there were only a hundred people left, they did another battle which would see fifty people get eliminated.

The battle lasted for about one hour thirty minutes, and Grey was the only Origin Plane Elementalist left. Ezra and Jesse were unfortunately defeated by an Elementalist in the Third stage of the Overlord Plane.

With the top fifty confirmed, it was time for the start of the challenge.

Just like with the Origin Plane ranking, they would challenge an individual higher than them on the rankings.

For the first time in a long time, one of the names in the top fifty was unexpectedly still in the Origin Plane.

Grey was surprisingly ranked fiftieth, even when everyone knew he could get a better rank than this.

'Who would you be challenging?' Void asked Grey.

'I think the person ranked thirtieth. Although I want to get this done quickly so we can leave this place, I can't be careless and fight against someone too powerful. If I'm able to get into the top twenty, I'll be satisfied,' Grey replied.

'Okay,' Void nodded.

'There's also something bothering me, although she hasn't shown any malice towards me, I still don't know her purpose for staying with me, and why is she so adamant in me getting stronger?' Grey said, throwing a quick glance at Sylvia.

He might not show it, but he was still very cautious towards her. She was someone who forcefully entered his life, although she had been of some help, he wasn't one to trust people he knew nothing about.

'Yeah, I think you should ask her after this, maybe she will give you a reply this time,' Void suggested.

'I will, but after we leave this place,' Grey replied.

He wasn't in a hurry to challenge anyone. He planned on seeing the strength of those in the top thirty, before picking an opponent. If he feels he is powerful enough, he might even challenge those in the top twenty.

There's a possibility that he might only challenge a single individual, so he wanted to make sure he made it count.

Two hours later.

The rankings had changed drastically within these two hours, and people with lower ranks had shot up. The most notable one was none other than the young man with amber hair who fought against Grey the previous day. He had managed to climb from the fifteenth position to tenth after putting on a solid performance against the previous tenth place genius.

Grey was genuinely stunned by the battle. The young man with amber hair was powerful, at least more powerful than what he showed the previous day. There were a few techniques that the young man used that he was certain would give him a difficult time.

With everything set in place, Grey decided he would challenge the person ranked eighteenth. The reason for this was that there's a chance others would advance in their ranks, pushing those above them down. If someone below the top twenty were to defeat the person ranked seventeenth, then the person would take that spot, while the others would move down by a rank.

Most of the people below the top twenty had tried challenging those in the top twenty, and only a few managed to improve. Other than a few changes, the rankings were the same, with almost the same names in the top twenty.

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When Grey stood up, he immediately attracted the attention of everyone in the arena. They were all curious as to who this young genius would want to challenge.

Being the only one in the Origin Plane, he attracted even more attention than the youth who was ranked first.

He slowly walked towards the stage, a nonchalant expression on his face.

After getting to the arena, he told the supervisor the person he wanted to challenge.

The person ranked eighteenth was a young lady called Catherine, she was a Dual Elementalist, having both the lightning and earth element.. She had been challenged once today, but she obtained a resounding victory, easily defeating her opponent.

Chapter 532 - Deathmatch

Grey stood on the stage, as he waited for Catherine to walk onto the stage.

Just as she was about to step onto the stage, a young man with a black mask covering his face, leaving only his eyes, walked up to block her.

"He's mine," The young man said.

"You can do as you wish," Catherine shrugged, before turning around.

Grey, who was on the stage saw this and was a little baffled as to why Catherine went back.

The young man stepped onto the stage, walking straight in his direction.

"I'm Ezel, ranked sixteenth on the geniuses rankings. I have a bone to pick with you," He said, straightforwardly.

"I do not know you, nor have I offended you before. And, you're clearly not the one I challenged, I'll be happy if you can head out and let her come on stage," Grey said, pointing at Catherine who was outside the stage.

He didn't know this guy, nor did he care what this guy had in mind to do with him. All he wanted to do was to fight for a spot in the top twenty before leaving the Acer region.

"You killed my brother, and I want to avenge him." Ezel squinted his barely visible eyes, before adding, "I challenge you to a deathmatch,"

"This, again?" Grey was stumped by his challenge.

Since the competition started, he was the only one who had been challenged to a deathmatch, twice! He didn't even know what he did to deserve such attention.

"You remember now?" Ezel man asked.

"That guy from yesterday? If yes, then heads up, I haven't seen him since leaving the arena yesterday. If he was killed by someone, then it must've been as a result of his own stupidity. Go and find out who killed him and stop bothering me," Grey said, not backing down.

Technically, he was speaking the truth. Although Sylvia was the one who killed him, he didn't actually witness the crime, nor did he even see him after leaving the arena.

"Hmph! You're the one he followed, so you must have a hand in it," Ezel snorted, not willing to believe Grey's words.

"You know what? Fine, I accept your challenge," Grey said coldly, an icy aura radiating from him as he said this.

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The entire arena was abuzz when they saw Ezel stepping on the stage. They were further shocked by his challenge. But Grey accepting it was what crowned it all, making them excited when thinking about the prospect of a blood-boiling match.

In contrast to the previous battles, this one would definitely be more exciting since both fighters would be going for the kill, instead of just trying to eliminate their opponents.

Grey was a young prodigy who shot to fame a few days ago, Ezel had been known for quite a while now.

Even though Ezel was in the Third stage of the Overlord Plane, no one here was confident he would be able to obtain victory easily. Grey had shown his strength and perseverance when he fought against the young man previously ranked fifteenth.

If Grey could hold his own against him, while also being aware of the happenings around him, then he should have a chance against Ezel.

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Grey turned to look at the supervisor as if saying he had changed his opponent to Ezel.

The supervisor didn't need any more words before asking if both fighters were ready, after getting confirmation from the duo, he called for the start of the battle.

Swoosh!

A gust of wind blew across the entire stage, as Ezel's figure moved quickly, charging towards Grey.

'A Wind Elementalist,' He thought internally before wrapping himself with the lightning element.

Buzz! Bang! Bam!

He also moved quickly towards Ezel, sending out an attack that was easily dodged by his opponent. Ezel countered after dodging, but Grey was also able to dodge his attack.

The duo didn't stop, raining lightning-quick attacks on each other.

Boom! Bam! Bang!

A powerful force dragged Grey towards Ezel, before sending him flying.

This was one of Ezel's special moves, sucking the air in front of him with the wind element, forcefully pulling his opponent towards him before sending them flying.

The reason he didn't allow Grey to get close to him was that he was a little wary of him.

Grey landed on the ground, feeling slightly woozy from the force that dragged him towards Ezel, and without wasting any time, he dodged to the sides as some wind blades were sent towards him.

Swoosh! Bam! Boom!

Grey once again wrapped himself with the lightning element, shooting towards Ezel. This time, he learned from his previous lesson and didn't charge towards him from the front.

He sent out fireballs as well as lightning arrows at him, to help distract him while he went close.

Ezel, seeing this didn't panic, spreading out his hands, a powerful repelling wind spread out with him at the center.

Grey, who was rushing towards him was once again sent flying by the unexpected wind attack, finding it difficult to retain his footing.

Just as his legs were about to touch the ground, he felt a powerful attractive force, pulling him towards Ezel.

'Shit! His control over the wind element is massive!' Grey exclaimed.

He couldn't deny it, his opponent was well above other Wind Elementalists he had faced.

As his body helplessly shot towards Ezel without his control, he hastily created an inscription behind Ezel.

He attacked with the inscription when he was around twenty meters away from Ezel.

Ezel sensed the attack, dodging to the side. This made Grey heave a sigh since he was no longer in front of him. But his expression turned when he realized his attack was heading straight towards his moving body which he still hadn't been able to control.

'Damn!'

Bang!

The fire attack crashed into his body, stopping it from its rapid movement.. Because the attack was from an inscription, and he wasn't in the best of states, it was difficult for him to regain control of it.

Chapter 533 - Deathmatch II

"Hahaha, I never would've thought that you would die from your own sneak attack," Ezel laughed when he witnessed Grey being struck by his attack.

The explosion covered the area Grey was located, but he was certain of Grey being hit by the attack since he saw Grey's figure bouncing heavily off the ground from the impact of it.

After a few seconds, the explosion died down, and Grey could be seen standing in the position Ezel was previously standing on. His countenance wasn't the same as before, the mask was broken, his hair was in disarray, and his clothes were ruffled, with burn marks on some parts of it.

But one noteworthy thing was that he didn't seem to suffer from any burns.

Grey's face revealing to the crowd was completely unexpected. Seeing his face which could almost be described as beautiful, most people didn't think he was the same person from before.

A lot of Elementalists who wear masks were mainly to hide scars they suffered on their faces. Who in their right minds would want to hide a face like Grey's?

"It will be a shame that I'll have to kill you now," Ezel said as he walked towards Grey.

"Kill me? Heh! We're just getting started," Grey said while cracking his knuckles and neck.

After doing that, his figure disappeared, appearing almost fifty meters above the platform.

"Meteor descent," He muttered.

Large balls of fire appeared in the sky, spanning across the entire stage, even slightly going over it. Its strength was unbelievable, for a wide-scale attack.

The large fireballs soon started descending at a fast pace, heading towards the stage.

Ezel watched them come towards him with a smile, he couldn't leave the stage, and to be honest, he didn't plan to.

"Ah! Supreme Push!" He yelled, clamping both hands together.

A powerful repelling force, just like when he sent Grey flying spread out, with him at the center.

The fireballs that got close to him were simply pushed back, moving towards Grey. He could not only repel things back, but he could also control the direction he wishes for them to go.

Grey moved across the sky, covered in red lightning as he started shooting lightning bolts at his opponent.

Bam! Boom! Bang!

The battle intensified, Grey attacking with multiple elements, while Ezel attacked with his wind element.

For an element people mostly use to increase their speed and attack, Ezel took it to a whole new level. His control and use of the wind element was something that was beyond Grey's understanding.

For the first time, Grey acknowledged an enemy.

Whoosh!

Grey was lifted off the ground by the wind, but before Ezel could capitalize on this, he was attacked by two different inscriptions, forcing him back.

Even though he had been able to use his control of the wind element to make things extremely difficult for Grey, he had not been able to cause him any major damage since Grey always had a countermeasure once he was in a tight position.

The battle had been going on for almost ten minutes now, and Ezel was starting to feel slightly worried. When he saw Grey's battle with the youth previously ranked fifteenth, he thought he would be able to handle him since the strength difference between him and that young was not much. It was only after the battle started did he realize Grey didn't really show all his cards.

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The entire arena was quiet, watching the battle attentively. They couldn't say they weren't shocked by Grey's display. His strength wasn't something someone in the Origin Plane should possess.

Ezra and Jesse looked at each other, dread evident in their eyes. It was only now they understood where Grey's confidence came from when he challenged both of them simultaneously. In front of him, they were nothing but a joke.

The crowd was all awed by Grey, not just them, but the judges as well. Even Ezra's Teacher didn't have an angry expression like he usually does when Grey was fighting.

Grey's performance was stunning, simply stunning.

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Back on the stage.

The battle had hit its peak, with attacks flying around from both sides. Both fighters were already slightly injured from being struck by each others' attacks. Unfortunately, no one has been able to get the upper hand, yet.

'Lightning rain,' Grey said internally.

Just as the lightning rain started, he slammed both hands on the stage, and water spread across the entire stage.

Where he was standing was quickly turned to ice, lifting him off the ground. After getting to a high level, ice shards started appearing beside him as they shot towards Ezel.

This sequence of attacks happened within the space of three seconds.

Ezel, seeing the lightning that was raining down, was about to dodge to the side, but when he felt water below him, he quickly figured out Grey's plan.

A gust of wind blew below him, as it took him airborne. It was almost like he was being raised by a small tornado, with only his upper body being visible.

He escaped from the range of the lightning rain but was still attacked by the ice shards nonetheless. He set up a windscreen before him, using it to block most of the attacks while also sending wind blades towards Grey.

He didn't aim for Grey, instead, he aimed for the ice platform Grey was standing on.

When Grey felt the ice breaking below him, he couldn't help but smile inside, before jumping towards the center of the lightning rain.

That was not all, two more inscriptions appeared mid-air, all attacking the location he was about to land on at the same time. Not just that, but ice spikes sprang out from the ground around where he was about to land, leaving only the spot his foot would touch open.

His actions stunned Ezel and everyone who was watching the battle. From what he was preparing, even he would find it difficult for him to escape from his attacks since they were just too much.

It was only when his foot was about to touch the wet floor did the expression of everyone in the entire arena changed. Some of the viewers even stood on their feet, as they watched the scene unfold before them.

Chapter 534 - On To The Next!

"Oh, this move," One of the judges said when they saw what happened.

It was the same move Grey used in eliminating the young man Ezel was avenging, switch.

"This kid is pure evil," Ezra's Teacher commented.

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Just as Grey's leg was about to touch the wet stage, his figure was changed with that of Ezel who was not expecting this.

Ezel was dumbstruck when he saw multiple attacks only a few inches from him, and before he could use his 'Supreme Push' to send the attacks flying, he was electrocuted by the lightning since he was standing on water.

His body was still in the middle of vibrating when the ice spikes around the side stabbed into him, accompanied by the attacks from four different inscriptions. His eyes widened as he realized what was happening.

This was what he had been defending against since the start of the battle. The memory of how his brother was eliminated was still very fresh on his mind, but after the battle climaxed and Grey didn't use it in any way, he completely forgot about it.

He never would've thought that Grey was so cunning to wait till now before using it. Remorse, regret, anguish, sorrow, and a multitude of emotions could be seen in his eyes as the attacks came crashing down, engulfing him.

The tornado he created soon disappeared, and Grey could be seen standing perfectly fine at the center.

He looked in the direction Ezel was standing on as the attacks exploded. He made sure to make the ice spikes powerful so that even with this explosion, Ezel's body wouldn't leave that spot.

Some seconds later, the explosion died down, and Ezel's figure appeared before everyone.

He was currently stabbed by multiple ice spikes, on different parts of his body. The spikes had turned red from the blood that was flowing from his body. But the main thing in all this was that Ezel was motionless, eyes wide open.

He was still in a standing position, just like when he appeared there.

Everyone in the arena looked at the gruesome scene, before turning to look at the creator of the scene who was watching his masterpiece with a faint smirk on his face. They felt like he had already planned this right from the get-go, but he had to make sure Ezel didn't expect this before he used it.

'Such a cunning figure.'

This was one of the descriptions they had of Grey, and it was almost as significant as his monstrous strength.

All in all, they had three ways to describe Grey if asked to, first of all, he was extremely handsome, secondly, he was powerful beyond imagination, and the last was his cunning nature.

Grey turned to look at the supervisor, waiting for him to announce the results of the battle.

But even before the supervisor announced the result, Grey's name on the stone board was rising up quickly, immediately taking up the sixteenth spot which previously belonged to Ezel. Unlike the previous times, those below him didn't drop by a rank since Ezel's name was removed from the board.

What drew everyone's attention to the board though was that Grey's name was actually inscribed with a different color, compared to that of others. It was written with golden letters, instead of the usual silver.

Grey walked away from the stage, just as the supervisor announced the winner.

Someone came onto the stage to help remove the body of Ezel. Before Grey left the stage, he dismissed the ice spikes which were keeping the lifeless body standing, and the holes they made on the body were laid bare for all to see. They could literally see through the holes before the body fell on the ground.

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"Impressive," Sylvia commented with a smile when Grey returned.

Grey nodded before taking a seat. Although he wanted to leave quickly, it didn't mean that he would leave without his reward.

According to what was said, those in the top twenty will be rewarded.

After Grey's battle, only a few more battles occurred before the Early stage Overlord Plane geniuses ranking was rounded up. Now, it was time for those who were in the Mid stages of the Overlord Plane, but this had nothing to do with Grey.

He received his reward, before leaving the arena, with some people from the different Factions who were hot on his heels, trying to recruit him for their respective Factions. Even after rejecting them, some didn't give up, chasing him with much zeal, it was as if they were told they would be rewarded heavily if they managed to recruit him.

Since this was the last city before leaving the region, they would be going through it to the next region. They can't use the teleportation array since they couldn't.

According to what Grey knew, only those with powerful backgrounds could use them without being stopped. He asked Sylvia why she couldn't, but he got no reply.

To get to the next region, they would have to walk through the city, heading to the back gate. If they didn't want to go through here, they could also go around it, but one has to know that this is a very big city, and there were guards stationed around the city, to help fight against people who were trying to come in from the next region.

They would still need to cross three more regions before they can get to the Polaris region which was their target. With Sylvia's new plan of making Grey challenge those in the geniuses rankings of the other regions, their journey would take longer than expected since they would have to search for whoever he would be fighting against.

Grey planned to top the Origin Plane ranking in the rest regions, becoming the number one person below the Overlord Plane.. So in each region, he would be challenging two people, the person ranked first in the Origin Plane ranking and someone in the top twenty in the Early stage Overlord Plane ranking.

Chapter 535 - Sylvia's Intention

After leaving the city.

In the woods.

"Can I ask you a question?" Grey stopped, looking at Sylvia.

"Yeah sure," Sylvia nodded.

"What are your true intentions?" Grey asked.

He already decided to ask her after they left the city, so he didn't delay any longer.

"About?" Sylvia raised a brow, staring at Grey.

"Why are you so adamant about me getting stronger? It's odd if you think about it. You have no connections with me, nor did I help you or anything, so why would you go through the stress of trying to make me stronger?" Grey asked, looking at her straight in the eyes.

"Also, if you were to be in my position, would you trust you? Someone you knew nothing about just picking you up, deciding to train you?" He added.

"Guess there's no use keeping you in the dark any longer," Sylvia said before walking towards the tree beside them, sitting below it.

"Actually, I originally approached you before I had nothing to do, but after you absorbed my lightning attack, I grew interested in you..." She began explaining her reason behind wanting to help Grey grow stronger, and just like Grey expected, it wasn't any simple.

According to Sylvia, there's a Faction her family had an issue with. There's a secret realm that opened at the border of the two territories, since they couldn't decide who had it, they agreed to bring their best genius below twenty-five years of age. Whoever won would gain ownership of the realm for ten years.

For the past two hundred years, they had been losing constantly to this Faction. Not to forget, the Faction was regarded as the second strongest Faction in the entire Aurora Continent.

It was almost time for the competition for the secret realm once again, and she wanted to bring in someone to break their bad luck in the competition. This was why she traveled out of the Middle Continent, searching for the right candidates. She had encountered a few people who she had sent to her family for training, and just when she was about to stop her search, she heard of a treasure appearing somewhere in the Gale region.

She encountered the Pyro Faction leader on her way back after obtaining the treasure. He thought she was weaker than him, so he tried attacking her, luckily for him, she was in a good mood, hence she refrained from killing him.

When she saw Grey absorbing the lightning, she wanted to test out his strength, and also see his potential. This was why she allowed him to fight against Clara at the Gayle family mansion, and also the reason she was trying to get him to challenge others to quickly boost his strength since there was just around two years left before the competition.

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Grey stood beside her, surprised for the reason she was trying to make him stronger. He couldn't believe she was actually preparing him for something that important.

"Why would you put your trust in a total stranger. If I'm not wrong, you should have powerful geniuses in your family, especially since you're actually going against the second most powerful Faction in the entire continent, it means you guys aren't weak either. There are definitely people who are more powerful than I am in your family," Grey said.

He couldn't understand why she would do something like this when she knew nothing about him.

"There are. Honestly, there are a few in the Origin Plane who can achieve what you've achieved in the competitions that you've won in these regions," Sylvia answered honestly.

"Then why choose me?" Grey asked.

"I have a special feeling about you, and you're different. Not just that, but there's a fire in you that gives me confidence in choosing you," Sylvia replied, to the shock of Grey.

He did not expect her answer to be something like this.

"Hmm, well, I can't be too sure of that yet. For now, I have a lot of things I need to settle, putting your challenge as one of them is not something I can say I want to do. There's also the problem of the mark that necromancer placed on my back," Grey voiced out his thoughts.

Although fighting against what was regarded as the second strongest Faction in the continent sounded nice, he wouldn't want to make an enemy of them because he wanted to assist Sylvia. Not just that, but he wasn't confident he could even be of any help, at least with his present strength, that is.

"I know this isn't something you can just agree to, but let me tell you this. That secret realm was what turned this Faction into the second strongest Faction in the continent, and if they were to continue using it, it would only be a matter of time before they turned into the strongest Faction. Although, there's still the possibility of them using the entire resources there, so we can't be too sure," Sylvia said.

"Then as for your reward, you can head into the secret realm to train for two years," She added.

"I can't decide if I'll be participating for now, two years is still a long time for me. I'll decide when the time comes," Grey said.

He couldn't carelessly make such a decision, after all, he knew nothing of the Middle Continent. He had only been in the Eastern Continent and was currently headed towards the Southern Continent to search for Ellis. If things work out, he might even leave immediately he finds him so that he could bring his friends here.

"Alright, I never expected to agree immediately. We'll go our separate ways once you're about to head into the Southern Continent. I still have a lot to do," Sylvia nodded to his words, not feeling surprised by his decision.

"Alright, since we've come to a conclusion with that issue, I want to ask, are you from the Northern Continent?" Sylvia asked after a moment of silence.

"Northern Continent? I've never been there before," Grey shook his head.

"Alright," Sylvia nodded.

'Looks like he's not from that family.'

Chapter 536 - How's This Possible?

Grey didn't know why Sylvia asked about the Northern Continent. Since he had already been able to clarify why she was training him, he was satisfied.

He still didn't know if he would be able to participate in the competition, and for now, he wasn't thinking about it. There are more important things to worry about, like the mark for example.

Because of the mark, he knew staying outside a city would endanger him. Since he was still with Sylvia, he could stay in the woods and train, but as soon as he was alone, he would try his best to always stay in cities.

He hadn't been able to create an array that had been able to seal off the aura that the mark released, so he was still worried about it.

When Sylvia knew Grey could sense the aura, she was left dumbstruck. This was something that even the head of her family wouldn't be able to sense, and he was at the top of the world when it came to strength, yet Grey, who has had almost zero interactions with necromancers is able to.

Grey just keeps giving her new surprises every day, making her resolve grow stronger in convincing him to participate in the competition. If Grey were to train in that secret realm for two years, it was unimaginable how far his strength would grow.

They didn't stay in the woods for long since they had a mission. There were still three continents before they left the Eastern Continent, and Sylvia not only wanted Grey to fight against the top geniuses, but she also wanted to make sure he broke through to the Overlord Plane within this time frame.

According to her estimation, it would take them a month to leave the Eastern Continent. The reason their journey was faster was that she decided to carry Grey, flying from one location to another.

Three days later.

They located Grey's first opponent in this new region, it was the Elementalist ranked first in the Origin Plane geniuses rankings. Grey defeated him within two minutes, easily taking the top spot.

On the tablets region-wide, a new name appeared on the first spot, Grey Dawson, pushing the previous first place Elementalist to the second spot.

When he was done with that challenge, they went to search for his next challenge, the individual ranked Fifteenth in the Early stage Overlord Plane geniuses rankings.

They found the person within a day, and just like before, a new name appeared on the rankings tablet region-wide, and to the shock of everyone, it was the same name as the one who was currently holding the first position in the Origin Plane rankings.

After they were done with that, they headed straight for the next region. With the help of Sylvia, and teleportation arrays, it took them a little over a week to cross an entire region, while searching for the geniuses to fight against. Their speed was shocking to Grey, given how long they used in crossing the Acer region.

Within this time period, Grey had been training furiously, literally. Sylvia was putting him through a series of training that even for someone like him who enjoyed training, he almost broke down. The only issue they had was that he had unexpectedly been unable to break through to the Overlord Plane, even with Sylvia's help.

Grey had also been working on the array, and he hadn't been able to get anything so far, but he had feeling he wasn't far from gaining a breakthrough in his research.

They soon entered the next continent, and just like before, their first target was the genius ranked first in the Origin Plane rankings, unfortunately, the genius went out on an adventure, seeking to break through to the Overlord Plane. With the first person not available, Grey opted to discard the positions in the Origin Plane ranking, choosing to challenge someone in the top twenty of the Early stage Overlord Plane rankings.

This region was above the Gale and Acer region, so the geniuses here were stronger than them. But it didn't stop Grey from challenging the person ranked fifteenth, and winning.

The battle was one of the hardest battles he had gone through for a long time, and he couldn't say he didn't enjoy the thrill of it.

Twelve days later.

Deep in a forest in the middle of the night.

"We will enter the Polaris region soon. The geniuses here aren't like those you've been fighting against. Since this is a border region between two continents, it's far stronger compared to the others. Most of the geniuses here have elemental grade above the violet grade, so even those at the Peak of the Origin Plane would be no pushovers," Sylvia said to Grey who was sitting crossed leg.

"Of course, they wouldn't be much of a problem for you," She added.

"Hmm," Grey nodded, staring at the sky.

"Why can't you break through to the Overlord Plane?" Sylvia suddenly asked.

She had been helping him for a while now, but he still hadn't been able to.

Grey smiled before looking at her, he shrugged and said, "I have no idea,"

"Why are you so nonchalant about it?" Sylvia asked, not impressed with his carefree attitude.

"Since I can't break through now, why mull over it for too long?" Grey asked.

Sylvia shook her head when she heard his question, deciding to let him be.

Grey went deeper into the woods to train after she went to sleep.

The next morning.

"You got stronger?!" Sylvia exclaimed when Grey came back to their camp site.

"Oh, why did you say that?" Grey asked.

"Your aura is different from yesterday night. It almost seems like you are in the Overlord Plane, but you aren't," Sylvia replied with her hands on her chin.

"I didn't take note," Grey said.

"But I still don't understand something, why are you getting stronger when you've not broken through?" Sylvia asked, stumped by what she was seeing.

She already thought Grey was very powerful in the Origin Plane, and he actually went out for the night to train and got stronger. How could she not be surprised?

Grey's lips curved into a smile, but he didn't answer her question.

Chapter 537 - Polaris Region

Grey and Sylvia walked into the first city in the Polaris region with broad strides, especially Void who was actually walking mid-air.

Grey and Sylvia found what he was doing quite remarkable, and when asked, his reply was simple.

"Lord cat is awesome, what else matters?" Void asked.

Sylvia laughed, finding Void's pride to be something funny. After a while, she recalled something.

"Those in the Overlord Plane can not fly, why are you able to do so when you're just a Rank Five beast, and why are you able to do so when you're using that attack?" She looked at the duo.

Void could walk mid-air, which meant he had the ability of flight while still being a Rank Five beast, while Grey could actually stand mid-air whenever he was using the skill, 'Meteor Descent'. She initially wanted to ask him about it when she first saw it but forgot. It was only after seeing Void fly that she remembered it.

"I have no idea, you can tell that I can't fly yet, only when I use that move am I able to do it," Grey replied with a raise of his shoulder.

What was worth mentioning was that he didn't learn this move from anyone, he created it himself. Of course, he knew there might've been others who had used it before, but he hadn't seen or heard of anyone who used it.

"I'm awesome, that's enough," Void replied when Sylvia turned her gaze to him.

"You two should be careful when showing off your skills when I'm gone, especially you, Void. Special al beasts like you are highly sought after, if anyone were to find out about your treasure sensing ability, even if you explain that it is only treasures beneficial to you, they still won't listen," Sylvia warned.

"Alright," The duo nodded.

"Fine, let's search for your next challenge. I recruited a young lady from this region a few months ago, I don't know if she's still here or she has gone to the Middle Continent. I plan to search for her while we're here," Sylvia said as they walked into the city.

The city was bustling with activity, with people walking in and out of it. There were merchants just after the gate that were selling off their products, and people could be seen buying or looking at the items.

Sylvia took Grey to the merchant guild building, it was the fastest way to get information. After paying a small sum, one thousand high-grade essence stones to be precise, which almost sent Grey wild, they got the information they were searching for.

The genius ranked first was recently crowned, after the previous one broke through to the Overlord Plane. The genius was currently on an expedition at a ruin that opened a few days ago.

He wasn't the only one who went there, a lot of the geniuses ranked in the top fifty of the geniuses rankings of the Origin Plane went as well.

The ruin is said to hold an item that helps when breaking through to the Overlord Plane. Although it was rare and valuable, it was only of use to those in the Origin Plane, hence it only attracted those in the Origin Plane.

The few in the Overlord Plane who went there were mostly mercenaries hoping to acquire and sell off the item at an auction. While there were a few who were hired to get the item.

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"Will you head to the ruin, or will you challenge someone in the Overlord Plane?" Sylvia asked.

"The ruin will be closing in three days time, correct?" Grey asked.

The man telling them the information nodded.

"And it's around the edge of the Polaris region, almost close to when you're leaving the Eastern Continent?" Grey asked.

The man nodded again. These were all things he had stated, he didn't understand why Grey was asking him about these things when he had already told him about them.

"Alright, thank you." Grey said, before turning to Sylvia, "I'll challenge someone in the Overlord Plane first, once I'm done with that, I'll head to the ruin. You can leave when I get there,"

"Hmm, alright, that's not a bad choice. Who knows, you might need this thing to break through to the Overlord Plane," Sylvia said with a sigh.

"I won't, but it wouldn't hurt having it," Grey replied.

Sylvia looked at him, not sure where his confidence was coming from. This was someone who had been trying to break through for a month now, just because he grew stronger over the night, his confidence had shot over the roof.

They asked about the whereabouts of those ranked in the top twenty of the Early stage Overlord Plane geniuses rankings and found out he could only challenge the individual ranked fourteenth since he was the only one who wasn't out on an expedition.

The location of this genius coincidentally aligned with the place Sylvia said she was headed to search for the young lady she recruited.

Without any delays, the duo headed straight for the teleportation array. A long-distance teleportation cost too much, so they had to break it down. Of course, this was Grey's idea, he felt spending so much when he could easily use different teleportation arrays that would reduce the price was better.

Sylvia didn't complain, it wasn't like she was the one paying. Besides, she preferred traveling by flight.

There had been cases where the spatial tunnels crumbled while people were using it, other than a few times when a Space Elementalist would be among the group using it, only about forty percent of the other people had managed to survive it unscathed.

The city they were currently heading to was called Bruges City. It was home to the best forgemasters family in the entire region.

Grey and Sylvia got there within three hours, and without delay, they headed straight to the family where the young man ranked fourteenth was staying.. It was none other than the best forgemasters family.

Chapter 538 - Lucan Edinburgh

"We're here to see Lucan," Grey said while standing at the gate that led to the Edinburgh family compound.

This was the name of the family of forgemasters, and where the genius ranked fourteenth was from.

"Do you have an appointment with him?" The guard asked respectfully.

He could tell that Grey and Sylvia weren't simple people, so he wasn't foolish enough to annoy or offend them.

"No, I'm here to challenge him," Grey stated his reason for coming.

"Okay, I'll send someone to report to the young lord, please, wait for a few minutes," The guard said, bringing them to a small garden just after entering the compound.

Grey and Sylvia followed behind him, surprised by his nature and how he treated them.

After a few minutes of waiting, a guard and a youth who looked to be a year younger than Grey could be seen walking towards them.

He wore simple clothes, with his long hair tied in a ponytail behind him. His sharp facial features were remarkable.

When they got to where Grey and Sylvia were sitting, the young man looked at the duo with curious eyes.

"I'm Lucan, I believe someone wants to challenge me. But, if I may ask, where's my opponent?" Lucan asked.

Grey was the only youth here, and given that he was still in the Origin Plane, he wasn't someone who could fight against him.

"I'm the one," Grey said, not picking any offense with Lucan's question.

"Oh, you? An Origin Plane Elementalist," Lucan asked, surprised.

It wasn't every day you get to see someone who is in the Origin Plane, confidently coming to the front of a Third stage Overlord Plane Elementalist, someone regarded as a genius for that matter to challenge them.

"Yes, I'm the one who came to challenge you," Grey nodded.

"If I may ask, are you Grey Dawson?" Lucan asked, staring at Grey.

"How did you know?" Grey asked, shocked that Lucan knew his complete name.

"Well, you've been challenging people from each region, and people predicted that you were headed towards this side from your previous battles. Besides, for a new name to pop up and start appearing in almost every region's geniuses rankings, it's bound to attract the attention of the people," Lucan explained.

Grey turned to look at Sylvia, and couldn't help but shake his head. Luckily, he wasn't being chased by anyone, so even if people knew his name and where he was headed, it was that bad.

However, if he was given the chance, he wouldn't want others to be able to guess where he was headed because of his previous actions.

"I had no idea," He said.

"Alright, since you're the one, I'll make an exception. The truth is, we have been waiting for you for a while now, but it looks like those morons below me went out to train. This is the only reason you challenged me, right?" Lucan asked.

Grey nodded, it wasn't like hiding it would change anything anyway.

"Come with me," Lucan said, walking in the direction of the mansion.

Grey and Sylvia followed behind him, with Void looking around curiously.

'Don't you dare touch any shiny thing,' Grey said to Void.

'Come on, I was only looking at it. How could you be so judgemental?' Void complained.

'I can see your eyes, it speaks of you stealing,' Grey looked at Void, with narrowed eyes.

'Sheesh! Give me a break, what do you take me for, a petty thief who steals wherever he goes?' Void rolled his eyes.

'Yes, yes I do,' Grey replied.

Of course, this was what he thought of Void. If he weren't here, Void would one hundred percent steal every single shiny thing located in this compound.

'You know what, I'm going to prove you wrong. I won't speak of obtaining any... oh shit! I have to collect that even if it means offending these people!' Void, who was just about to say he wouldn't see anything that he liked, was blown away by a silver sparkling orb that was hanging just above the door to the mansion.

'Crap!' Grey knew what was about to happen and instantly turned around to grab onto Void who was walking on the ground.

Unfortunately, he missed.

'Shit! This cat is going to get me killed!' He looked around, trying to locate Void.

Sylvia and Lucan noticed his weird behavior, and couldn't help but look at him curiously.

Lucan didn't take note of Void missing, but Sylvia did. Her expression changed to one of interest.

She moved closer to Grey before whispering, "Where's the cat?"

"Remember his obsession with shiny things?" Grey asked, a little dejected.

"Yeah, don't tell me he saw something he liked," Sylvia looked surprised.

She knew of Void's obsession, but she still didn't know to what extent he would be willing to go to get them.

"Take a look," Grey used his eyes to point in the direction of the silver orb.

Void could be seen floating a few inches away from it, staring at it with shiny eyes.

Sylvia giggled when she saw this.

They weren't the only ones who had taken note of Void, even Lucan had seen him as well.

"What's a cat doing there?" He asked one of the guards by the door of the mansion.

"Is that thing valuable?" Sylvia asked, pointing at the orb.

"Not really, just an ornament my sister brought back from an auction," Lucan replied.

"Can you please sell it to me? You see, my cat has an obsession with shiny things, and as you can see..." Grey stepped up to explain.

"Oh, it's alright, you can take it if you want," Lucan laughed when he realized what was happening.

Now he knew the reason behind Grey's sudden strange behavior. Just as he finished speaking, Void hugged the orb, which was almost three times his size, and yanked it off the wall.

Crack!

A crack appeared on the place where the chain holding the orb was previously fixed.

"I'll fix that," Grey said, scratching his head in embarrassment.

Lucan's eyes twitched at the strength of the small cat, but he shrugged it off, "It's alright, no need to worry,"

When he was about to take his next step, he jolted, it was as if he suddenly recalled something.

'Oh crap!'

They are a family of forgemasters, so there are bound to be countless shiny things in the building.

"Is anything wrong?" Grey asked.

"We're forgemasters, since your cat..."

"Oh crap!" Grey didn't need him to complete his sentence before he knew where he was headed.

Sylvia on the other hand burst out laughing, finding the two youths' expressions funny.

Chapter 539 - Huge Difference In Strength

"Alright, no need to worry about Void, he won't see anything that will catch his attention," Sylvia said.

'Hey, Void, since you've already taken this, you are not allowed to want anything else,' Grey said to him.

'But... but... they're shiny,' Void tried to refute.

'Are they yours?' Grey asked.

'No,' Void answered, albeit weakly.

'Fine, I have my eyes on you, if so much as one thing goes missing, you're toast,' Grey threatened.

'Fine, hmph! Lord cat doesn't need their shiny things,' Void said angrily.

Grey felt a little relaxed after hearing this, he couldn't deny it, Void's love for shiny things was getting a little out of hand. Although he didn't stop him most of the time, it didn't mean he'll allow him to steal from everyone they encountered.

He assured Lucan that Void wouldn't take anything, before they continued their journey. After going through the first hall in the mansion, they passed through a door that led to the other side of the mansion, a large space was located there.

"This is where we'll be fighting," Lucan said.

Grey nodded, before preparing himself.

"A word of advice, do not assume that this guy is in the same league as those people you've been fighting with all this while. Although he isn't on the same level as those in the Middle Continent or the top regions in the Eastern Continent, he's not too far from it," Sylvia advised Grey while he was preparing.

"Yeah, I can feel the difference in strength, if I do not push myself to the extreme, heh, there's no way I can win this," Grey replied.

"Good," Sylvia nodded.

This was all that she wanted to see from Grey. Others would feel like since their journey so far has gone without a hitch, then they could defeat anyone. But knowing one's weakness means one can work on it to grow stronger.

"Are you ready?" Lucan asked while walking into the platform that was located in the empty space.

Grey nodded, walking towards the platform as well. This was going to be one of his toughest challenges so far, and he wanted to see how powerful the geniuses who were ranked at the top are.

After the duo stepped on the platform, they gave their greetings, before exploding out with powerful attacks.

Lucan was rumored to be a Dual Elementalist, having both the fire and earth element. This is something common in a forgemasters family like this one.

Boom!

A fire snake was sent towards Grey, blasting into the fireball he sent towards Lucan.

Bang!

Both attacks collided, causing an explosion. Lucan's attack was able to quickly overpower Grey's, shooting towards him.

Grey didn't panic, setting up an ice wall in front of him that the fire snake slammed into.

Bam! Crack!

Even with the fire snake weakened from Grey's first attack, it still almost destroyed the ice wall, causing cracks to appear all around it.

Bang! Boom!

Before Grey could reinforce the ice wall, something strong slammed into the, breaking it to pieces. After breaking the ice wall, the item didn't stop there, going straight for Grey who was only around two meters away from where the ice wall was located.

Grey did a backflip, dodging the attack. When he looked at the object properly, it was a one-meter hammer made from the earth element.

The hammer didn't stop its attack, continuing to chase after Grey as it tried to strike him down.

Grey was fast, making it impossible for it to touch him, but the problem was, he couldn't stay still to attack. He would occasionally send out an attack, but they were easily blocked by Lucan since they weren't that powerful.

Boom! Bang!

Whenever Grey was about to escape from the attacks of the hammer, Lucan would attack with the fire element, forcing Grey back to the hammer that was chasing him.

'Hmm, I can't go on like this,' Grey thought before using the space element to escape from the range of the hammer or Lucan's fire attack.

As soon as he freed himself.

"Meteor Descent," He appeared mid-air with both hands spread apart.

This was the first time he was getting the chance to deal a proper attack since the battle started, and he wanted to make good use of it.

Lucan already heard of Grey's space element since he had heard of stories from his previous battles, this was one of the reasons he didn't want to give Grey any chances.

An earth wall sprang out from the ground, blocking the attacks that were coming his way.

Bang! Bam! Boom!

The attacks continued raging on, but Lucan's defense stayed strong.

Grey, seeing this, didn't feel down. He stretched out his right hand, and a bolt of lightning started forming on top of it.

The concentration of the lightning power was far more powerful than any other one he had done before.

Buzz! Swoosh!

While the fireballs were still raining down, a single bolt of lightning shot straight at the earth wall that was protecting Lucan.

Bam! Crack! Bang!

The lightning bolt opened a hole right through the spot where it hit the wall, going straight for Lucan who was behind it.

Lucan reacted quickly, using the fire element to block it, but he was pushed back from the aftereffect of the resulting explosion.

The earth wall above him started to fall apart after having its defenses breached by the lightning bolt.

Lucan scrambled to dodge the attacks that were raining down on him. He would dodge some while blocking most of them.

The attack soon died down, and Grey's figure shot towards Lucan from the sky. He couldn't afford to give him the chance to start attacking again.

Swoosh! Bang!

Lucan was already prepared for something like this, attacking Grey from the side.

Grey managed to block the attack but was sent flying from the force.

Bang! Boom! Crash!

They continued exchanging moves, with Grey trying to get close to Lucan, and Lucan being able to not only keep him at bay but also land some powerful blows on him.

From the short time the battle had been going on, it was easy to see that Lucan was well above the other geniuses in the Overlord Plane that Grey had fought against.

Chapter 540 - Getting Stronger While Fighting!

Crash! Boom!

Grey's figure crashed into the ground, bouncing off repeatedly after being hit by the giant hammer Lucan made.

Fire could be seen running across the body of the hammer, just like what the Barbarian Grey saw back at Eagle's City when he just came to the Aurora Continent made.

"You see, our family learned the act of combining the earth and fire element from the Barbarians. Although, it isn't the same thing they do, it is pretty close," Lucan explained as he slowly walked towards where Grey's body was lying.

Grey stood up with a little difficulty, his shirt destroyed from the attack, and his mask was nowhere to be seen. Black marks could be seen on his body and his left cheek.

"Oh, still standing, guess there's a reason you were able to beat people in the Overlord Plane even when you're still at the Peak of the Origin Plane," Lucan said before raising his hand, slamming the hammer at Grey once again.

Buzz! Swoosh!

Red lightning danced across Grey's body as he vanished from the spot, dodging the hammer strike by a few inches, before heading towards Lucan.

He appeared a few meters away from him, sending out a powerful lightning and fire orb at him.

Lucan hastily raised an earth wall to block the attack.

Bang! Boom!

The orb slammed into the earth wall before exploding, causing cracks to appear on the wall.

Swoosh! Bam!

A flash cut across the wall, made of blue flames.

Lucan hurriedly retreated, making sure the light didn't hit him.

The wall broke apart, and Grey's figure came to view, on his right hand was a blue flaming sword, and on his left hand was an orb that was made of lightning and fire.

Grey moved the instant the wall broke apart, attacking with full force.

Lucan didn't stay idle, although he could tell that the current Grey wasn't the same as the one he had gained the upper hand over, he was still confident in his abilities.

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"Huh? He grew stronger again!" Sylvia, who was watching the battle from the side explained in shock.

The aura she could sense from Grey was more powerful when compared to the one she sensed earlier in the morning when he came back from his training. What she still found unacceptable was the fact that he was still in the Origin Plane.

One has to know that the strength Lucan was displaying was far above that of those geniuses from the Gale or Acer region, or any region they had been to before this one.

Lucan can easily beat up two of those geniuses in the same stage as himself without even breaking a sweat. Yet, Grey was exchanging moves with him in what almost looked like a deadlock situation.

She was both impressed and shocked by what she was seeing. Grey's current speed of growth was shocking.

The rate at which Grey's strength had improved from the first she saw him until now was unheard of, especially when looking at the fact that he still hasn't broken through to the Overlord Plane yet.

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Grey's sudden increase in strength made him faster, stronger, and deadlier.

Unlike the first time, Lucan was having a hard time keeping him at bay, and the battle had increased in intensity.

A seal suddenly appeared across the entire platform that was over one hundred cubic meters, and lightning rose up from the ground.

This was the array Grey learned from the group who captured the Barbarians. He currently infused it with four elements, this way, he could manifest them at will, while also gaining the privilege of sending out attacks as well. It works almost like an inscription. With this array, he could also move quickly with the space element, so it would be extremely difficult for Lucan to hit him now.

When Lucan saw the seal on the ground, an earth pillar appeared that shot him into the air, just before the lightning rose, saving him from the attack. But he wasn't completely away from Grey's scope yet, after all, the array wasn't the only thing that was attacking.

Grey appeared in the sky, close to him before sending out a stream of flames.

Lucan attacked as well.

Boom!

The two attacks collided, causing an explosion.

Grey shot through the explosion, heading straight for Lucan.

Lucan seeing Grey head towards him didn't panic, rather, he made a swift movement with his finger, drawing an array mid-air.

When Grey saw this, he halted his movement, before hastily dodging to his left.

Swoosh! Bang!

A beam of red light shot out of an array that appeared in front of Lucan, shooting into the sky before exploding.

He was from a family that had a long history as forgemasters, he was bound to be a great array master as well.

Grey created two inscriptions while being aided with the array that was on the ground of the platform as well.

He continued attacking Lucan with powerful strikes.

Lucan blocked the ones he could, while also dodging the ones he couldn't. He was also attacking with the beam, trying to shoot down Grey.

The commotion the duo caused had attracted the attention of everyone in the mansion, and the platform was currently filled with viewers.

Grey and Lucan were oblivious to this fact though because the battle had entered its most critical stage with both parties going all out, well, this couldn't really be counted as going all out for Grey.

Swoosh! Boom! Bang!

The speed of their attacks increased, and Grey who was covered in red lightning could be seen moving quickly across the entire platform.

Boom! Bam! Swoosh! Buzz!

Attacks continued flying before Grey finally found the opportunity to strike Lucan.

Without delay, he shot a lightning arrow towards Lucan who was busy protecting himself from the fire snake in front of him.

By the time Lucan noticed the arrow, it was already too late. He soon came up with a decision.

With a step, he moved towards the arrow, which was the only way he could get a chance to edge closer to Grey to deliver an attack.