

## **Affinity 541**

Chapter 541 - Rare Talent

Pu-chi!

The arrow pierced through his left shoulder, but he attacked at the same time as well.

Bam!

Grey was slammed by the heavy hammer, crashing into the ground once again.

Lucan stood still mid-air, looking below him to see if Grey was still able to stand up. His shoulder was feeling numb from the arrow, and he could barely feel his left arm.

His expression changed when he didn't see Grey's figure on the ground. Without any delay, he knew Grey must've used the space element to escape at the last minute.

Flame soon surrounded him, before exploding out in all directions. Since Grey was trying to attack him covertly, he would use this to bring him out.

Boom!

An explosion occurred in his left, and he turned to look at Grey who was standing there, shaking slightly from the previous vicious hammer attack. Blood could be seen coming from the side of his mouth, and head.

One has to know that Grey's physical body was far above that of others in the Origin Plane. Even Elementalists in the Overlord Plane didn't come close to him when it came to physical defense, yet, he wasn't only bleeding from internal injuries, but external as well. This goes to show how powerful the hammer attacks were.

Grey was breathing heavily after his sneak attack was blocked by Lucan's quick decision.

'If only I could use a few more elements or the Fusion State, then victory would be guaranteed.' He thought with a shake of his head.

After this, he knew there was no use in fighting anymore, although he could still go on, he knew had been defeated.

"I give up, you win," He said before disappearing, appearing on the ground of the platform.

As soon as his legs touched the ground, it gave way, and he fell on his ground, luckily, it was in a sitting position.

"\*Sigh\* It will take a while before I can get back to top shape again," He muttered while rubbing his shoulder.

Lucan breathed a sigh of relief when he saw Grey admitting defeat. He had to admit, he was starting to get worried when he saw how persistent Grey was, luckily, he noticed that sneak attack, or else he would've been the one defeated today.

"If you were in the Overlord Plane, I'm certain that you wouldn't have any problems with defeating me," He said while getting off the rock he was standing on mid-air.

He approached the exhausted Grey, making sure to stand upright, not to give away his tiredness.

"Yeah, a shame I'm still not there yet," Grey replied while regulating his breathing.

"Given your talent, it's only a matter of time before your name spreads across the entire continent," Lucan said with a smile.

"Actually, I wouldn't want that," Grey replied honestly.

If not for Sylvia who made him start this challenge, he wouldn't want to be known all around. He had always been one who enjoyed solitude, a life of fame wasn't something he was after.

The moment they separate, he'll continue living like he previously did, when he was unknown to many while searching for Ellis. Once he finds Ellis, he would head back to the Azure Continent to bring his friends here, after that, he would start his search for his parents, while also trying to get to the peak of the world.

When Lucan heard his reply, he was taken aback since he thought Grey was someone who liked the limelight. If not, why would he start challenging geniuses all around, topping the rankings for the Origin Plane in every region?

From the strength Grey showed, there's a huge chance that he could be in the top twenty of the Early stages Overlord Plane geniuses rankings, much less topping the rankings of the Origin Plane Elementalists.

If Grey had encountered one of the geniuses ranked sixteenth to twentieth, then he had at least a sixty percent chance of winning.

This was high, given that the genius ranked fifteenth here could easily stroll into the top five in the rankings of regions like the Gale region.

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Sylvia didn't feel disappointed in Grey's performance, she was amazed. If this was the strength Grey displayed at the previous regions, then he would've been able to sneak into the top ten in the Early stages Overlord Plane rankings. This was something deemed almost impossible for an Origin Plane Elementalist.

Lucan's family members were all left astounded by the battle, finding it difficult to accept the fact that the genius of their family found it difficult to defeat a youth who is still in the Origin Plane, if they didn't witness the battle, they would've been embarrassed if they heard it.

Grey wasn't your regular Origin Plane Elementalist, and they could all tell from how winded Lucan was after the fight, even though he was trying to hide it, they could see it.

"This boy, who is he?" An old man with long white beards asked while staring at Grey.

"If I'm not mistaken, he's the young man who had made a name for himself recently, he had..." A man who was in his late twenties stepped forward to tell the old man about Grey's exploit this past month.

"Oh, such a prodigy. It's a shame he's only still in the Origin Plane, if he were to break through to the Overlord Plane," The old man didn't finish his statement, but everyone knew exactly what he meant.

This was a genius that even the top Factions in the Middle Continent would fight to get, and it was no exaggeration.

"Hmm," The old man squinted his eyes as he stared in Sylvia's direction.

"Hello Senior," Sylvia greeted politely.

Unlike her previous unruly nature when she was in the Gale region, she knew even though her family is more powerful than the Edinburgh family, this old man was more powerful than she was.

"Oh, where are you from, young lady?" The old man asked.

"The Middle Continent, I'm with him," Sylvia replied while pointing at Grey.

"Oh, no wonder. He's a rare talent," The old man nodded in realization.

Now it all seemed to make sense. When he heard Sylvia say she was from the Middle Continent, he assumed it was the same for Grey.

'Maybe he couldn't break through, so he decided to travel and challenge others..' The old man thought.

Chapter 542 - The Burchard Family

Lucan told Grey he could rest at his place until he recovered, which he agreed to, he was too tired to even leave the platform, much less the compound.

Their next destination was still a good distance away, and the ruin would stay open for a few more days before it closes. Void was left breathless by the countless shiny things he was seeing.

When he spoke with Grey, he referred to the Edinburgh mansion as a shiny heaven. Grey didn't know whether to laugh or cry when he heard how he described the place.

If he wasn't in a hurry, he wouldn't mind staying behind to learn a thing or two about forge mastering. He hadn't been able to practice since he left the Azure continent, and he developed quite an interest in it after leaving the trial land.

Five hours later.

"Thank you for your kindness, we will be leaving now," Grey bowed to the Edinburgh family who accompanied him to the front door of the mansion.

"Are you sure you're feeling alright?" Lucan couldn't help but ask.

Even he hadn't recovered completely, yet Grey, who was more injured than he was, looked fine. He couldn't wrap his head around how Grey was able to recover this quickly, even with a good healing tonic, it should still take a day or two for him to recover.

"Yeah, my injuries were nothing serious," Grey replied.

"Alright, you're welcome to visit anytime you are around," Lucan said after getting confirmation from Grey.

"Thank you," Grey said before turning around.

He was currently dressed in blue long sleeves and trousers, and he had taken out another mask.

"Oh, before you leave, I have something for your cat," Lucan brought out a shiny large silver plate from his storage ring.

"This is a defensive treasure, it can repel the attacks of Elementalist below the Mid stages of the Overlord Plane," He explained while tossing it to Grey.

Before Grey could catch it, Void appeared before him, grabbing onto the silver plate and disappearing with it.

The plate was over six times his size, but he didn't care, as long as it's shiny, it should be heading into his collection, besides, it was meant for him anyway.

Grey shook his head when he saw this and lowered his hand, "Thank you for the gift, I don't have much to offer, you can have this,"

He didn't want it to seem as if they were freeloading, after all, Void had already collected one shiny orb, before this silver plate, and unlike the orb, this was a treasure. Since Lucan was trying to create ties with him, he felt he should also show some effort as well.

What he offered them was the healing tonic they obtained from the Blooming Viper, from Ellis' reaction when he used it the last time, he could tell it was also something precious here.

Lucan didn't stand on ceremony and accepted the tonic, he was surprised when he knew the value of it. This was not something you get to see every day. What Grey offered was countless times more valuable than the two items he gave to Void.

"Thank you, and goodbye. I hope we meet again," He waved as Grey and Sylvia walked away from the mansion.

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While Grey and Sylvia were leaving the mansion. A group of people entered the Polaris region. It was none other than the group who were with the Gayle family when Sylvia's family members came searching for her.

The young man who was in the lead was sitting on a carriage that was being carried by Griffins.

"According to their movements, they should be headed towards the place where the first person in the Origin Plane is located," A middle-aged man in the carriage reported to the young man.

"Hmm, ask around to see where this person ranked first is currently located," The young man ordered.

"I've already done that young lord, a ruin opened up some days ago, and the boy ranked first is there," The middle-aged man said.

"Good, we're heading there," The young man said, giving off a cold aura.

"Young lord, do you think Sylvia's family will let you do as you wish? Since they're also searching for her, they should be there as well." The middle-aged man said.

"Hmph! They wouldn't want to fight against us over someone who isn't from their family, and besides, I'm only going to challenge him," The young man said coldly.

"You're right," The middle-aged man nodded before walking out of the carriage.

"Hmph! Does she think she can find anyone who can defeat me? Heh! I'll see just what this candidate of hers has," The young man scoffed coldly.

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Grey and Sylvia were unaware of the people coming after them. If Sylvia knew, she wouldn't dare to let Grey head out on his own.

After the duo left the city, they headed straight for the city where Sylvia said she would be searching for one of the participants she saw in this region.

"We'll be separating here, if you do decide to come, search for the Burchard family, you can find me there," Sylvia said to Grey while handing Void over to him.

"The Burchard family, got it," Grey nodded.

"Thank you for your help so far," He bowed to her before turning around.

"It's alright, I hope we meet sooner than expected," Sylvia said with a smile.

"Goodbye," Grey waved, before walking away.

He was currently headed towards the teleportation array in the city, his current destination was Payne City, the last city in the Polaris region before leaving the Eastern Continent.

Sylvia watched his figure as he disappeared into the busy streets.

"I hope he stays safe, that mark shouldn't trouble him too much since the range has been reduced," She muttered before turning around, heading into the city.

Grey and Void were once again left alone to travel.. This was what the duo preferred since Grey would get a chance to be free and use whatever elements he wanted without having to hide.

Chapter 543 - He's Here

Grey left Sylvia, heading towards the teleportation array. When he got there, he had to wait for some time since some people were using it. It soon got to his turn, and he disappeared with Void.

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A few kilometers away from Payne City.

Grey appeared in a forest. He was already expecting this, so he wasn't surprised.

"Void, do you sense anyone around?" He asked while looking around.

"No, we can advance," Void replied after a while.

But just as they were about to move, Grey paused, now he was stuck in a dilemma. He didn't know which side to face since he didn't know where the city was located. Even if he brings out the map now, it would be of no use since he didn't know his current location, all he knew was that he wasn't far from the city.

"We need to find someone, either that or we guess the direction," Grey muttered.

"Waiting for someone might take too long," Void said.

"You're right. \*Sigh\* At times like this, I wish Klaus was here, he would've used his gut feeling, although he is not always a hundred percent accurate, it was better than mine. My luck isn't the best," Grey thought of Klaus while thinking of which way to face.

They didn't stay long before he finally allowed Void to pick the direction, first off, his luck wasn't good, so who knows what they might encounter if he were the one who made the decision, secondly, he could blame it on Void for picking a bad direction.

Void picked the western direction, so they started walking in that direction. Since they were in a forest, they were bound to be attacked by al beasts. The beasts weren't too powerful, but they were all in the Overlord Plane.

Grey used them to practice while trying to improve his battle prowess. He could feel himself growing stronger, and he knew it was a result of the increase in strength when he was battling with Lucan.

When he was trying to break through to the Overlord Plane with Sylvia's help, he was using the normal method, which was technically the right one, but because he had seven elements and the orb in his body, he was unable to break through with it.

The night he went out to train, he tried using a different method, and it was as if a memory sealed in his head opened up, flooding his consciousness with information. It was just like the time he got the knowledge of the Fusion State and Chaos Orb from the orb in his body.

The information he received was on how to break through to the Overlord Plane, but it was with a completely different method. Not just that, but before he could breakthrough, he would need to hone his physical body to the peak of the Origin Plane as well. Without this, it would be impossible for him to breakthrough.

He allowed some of the attacks from the beasts to hit his physical body, to strengthen it with the process. It was a dangerous move, but it was one of the fastest ways to increase it.

Void was lazing around during the journey, occasionally helping Grey out if the beasts were too many. Of course, Grey could fight against multiple beasts with the help of the space element, he was too bored to watch him fight alone, so he joined him.

Four hours later.

The sun had already set, and Grey and Void were currently sitting in a cave.

"I'm not sure this is the right direction," Void said.

"Yeah, with the distance we've covered, we should've seen the visage of the city by now," Grey nodded.

"Don't think about it too much, we'll find a solution in the morning," He added before closing his eyes to cultivate.

He still took his comprehension seriously, trying to further improve the elemental grades of his elements. It would be amazing if he could manage to raise the rest to the violet grade before he breaks through, that would send his strength to a whole new level.

The next morning.

Grey and Void continued their journey, but this time, they changed their direction. After walking for almost two hours.

"Did you notice the sudden increase in strength of the beasts?" Grey asked, with a beast lying dead below his foot.

"Yeah, I can also sense people up ahead, lots of people," Void nodded before speaking up.

"Hmm, alright, we should continue, but be cautious, we do not know who they are, or what they are doing here," Grey said before they continued moving forward.

He sent Void to go ahead of him, since he was better at hiding his aura from people above the Sage Plane, it was best he went ahead first.

By the time Grey got close to the place, Void had already filled him in on what was happening there. Surprisingly, it was the place where the ruin opened up. The people outside were those waiting for their family's young lords and miss to come back from the ruin, while more youths were heading into the ruin.

According to what Void found out, the greatest treasure has yet to appear, so Grey still had a chance to get it. As long as there were no Overlord Plane Elementalists in the ruin, then he naturally had no competition who could challenge him.

Grey walked out of the forest confidently without any worries since he knew he wouldn't be stopped by anyone if he headed towards the ruin. Moreover, he wasn't the only one who was head there.

He didn't attract the attention of anyone as he walked out of the forest. Walking straight, he headed into the ruin without a hitch, with Void on his shoulder.

Unknown to him, a pair of eyes had been staring at him since he walked out of the forest, heading into the ruin.

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In the forest. A few meters away from the ruin.

The carriage that was carried by Griffins could be seen perched on the ground. A middle-aged man soon descended from the sky.

"Young lord, he's here,"

#### Chapter 544 - I Thought They Were Rare?

Grey ventured into the ruin, quickly maneuvering through the paths. There were a few places with people gathered, but Void said the treasures were trash and not worth wasting their time, so he didn't head there.

They headed straight for their target which was the treasure that helps Origin Plane Elementalists in breaking through to the Overlord Plane.

Most of the geniuses here were already waiting there, waiting for when the seal in front of the cave opened.

Grey soon got to the place, and from his rough estimate, there were about thirty people seated here.

The moment Grey appeared there, he sensed something that made him look in a particular direction. His gaze met with that of a young man who had burly muscles, the young man had brown hair, with black eyes while wearing a sleeveless shirt that showed his hand muscles.

Grey suddenly felt uneasy when their gazes met before he looked away.

'Void, I don't like that guy,' He said to Void.

He rarely has these feelings towards people he hasn't seen before.

'Which one?' Void asked.

Grey described the young man to him.

'Oh that one, avoid him, I have a bad feeling about him,' Void said.

After hearing Void's words, Grey confirmed his feelings towards the young man. There was a certain look he gave him when their eyes met.

He picked a spot and sat down, with Void on the lookout. As time went on, more geniuses came to the place, all waiting for the seal to break.

Most of them here knew that they didn't have a chance in obtaining the treasure, but they all felt that there might be a chance to get something else in this cave.

Grey was busy comprehending his elements, while Void was trying to see if he could find anything that would interest him.

The day soon turned night, and the seal on the cave was weakening as time went on. At this rate, it would break open the next day.

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The next day.

Crack!

"Look! Cracks are appearing on it," Someone exclaimed while pointing at the seal.

Everyone turned their attention to the seal at the same time, discarding whatever they were doing.

The cracks continued spreading, and before long.

Bang!

The seal broke to pieces, leaving the cave open for all to go in. The entrance to the cave was small, so everyone had to go in one person at a time.

Grey didn't go in immediately, waiting for others to walk in before he did. It didn't take long before everyone walked in, leaving only Grey and the burly youth outside. They exchanged gazes before the young man walked into the cave.

Grey narrowed his eyes, but to be on the safer side, he waited outside for a few more minutes before going in.

Boom!

Grey's figure shot out of the cave slamming into the wall on the side of the ruin.

"Why do you have that mark on you? You should speak out now, either that or I can kill you and make you one of them," The burly youth walked out of the entrance to the cave, two figures walking out from the cave.

"Necromancer," Grey muttered when he saw the figures.

They were corpses.

'I thought Sylvia said they were rare? How come I've encountered one so soon,' He couldn't help but curse at his bad luck.

Necromancers who some people wouldn't see throughout their lifetime, he had encountered two of them within the short time of two months. How could people call that rare?

"After adding you to their ranks, I can extract the information out of your head," The burly youth said.

"You can do that?" Grey asked, shocked.

This was the first time he was hearing about something like this, so he found it quite shocking. The means of these necromancers are outrageous, brutal, but outrageous.

"Why is that mark placed on you?" The youth asked.

"I was playing with a friend, and he accidentally placed it on me," Grey replied.

His words seemed to irritate the youth.

This was a mark that would cost the caster their life, yet Grey was saying a friend accidentally placed it on him, who did he think he was deceiving?!

The young man didn't speak any further, attacking immediately.

The corpse on the right was the first to attack, a Wind Elementalist in the Second stage of the Overlord Plane. Its strength was well below Lucan's level, so it wasn't something that could cause him any trouble.

Grey dodged the wind blade it sent at him, before attacking with the fire element. The second corpse jumped out, blocking the attack with the earth element.

The Wind Elemental corpse attacked once again, trying to use a cyclone to hold onto Grey.

Grey forcefully cut open the cyclone with a fire blade, attacking the young man.

The Earth Elemental corpse stepped in front of the youth, blocking the attack once again. This time, its earth wall was almost broken by the attack.

Grey continued attacking, with the youth blocking and countering at the same time.

"No wonder you were marked, you not only have valuable information, but you're also a genius," The youth commented.

Grey didn't say anything, attacking the corpse while bringing out an inscription. Luckily for him, this necromancer was still in the Origin Plane, so he wasn't too powerful. If he were like the last one, he would've escaped the moment he was attacked.

Boom! Bang! Bam!

Their battle continued, and the necromancer soon started to notice that he made a mistake in attacking Grey. Even with two corpses, he was obviously no match for him, and he could see that Grey didn't have any plans of letting him escape since all the escape routes had been blocked by inscriptions.

Bam!

Grey's attacks broke the earth wall in front of him, sending him flying.

When he landed, he sent his corpses towards him before making a run for it. His target was the entrance to the cave. This was his only hope of escaping.

Grey smiled, easily capturing the two corpses since the young man was no longer in sight.

"I'll study these two for now, maybe I can get something from it.." He nodded before walking into the cave.

#### Chapter 545 - A Single Punch

Void was currently nowhere to be seen, he followed the young man as he escaped. Grey might've not been able to finish him off when they were fighting, but it didn't mean he would let him escape. There's a good chance that there might be another way out of the cave once he is in, this was something he didn't want.

Necromancers are interesting but vile people, he wants to make sure he eliminates anyone he finds. If he could learn a few things from them and remove that stupid mark from his back, then he would be grateful to whoever showed him before killing them.

The entrance of the cave extended for over two hundred meters before it slowly started opening up. As he got to this part, he understood why no one came out while he was fighting with the young man.

'Void, which way?' He transmitted his voice over to Void.

There are currently six paths in front of him, and he didn't want to go on a wild goose chase. Void's ability to locate treasure was something that could help, so why waste it?

'Take the second path on your right, the treasure is at the end of that path. Also, be careful, there are traps, poisons, and other deadly things on the path,' Void reported back quickly.

'Alright, how's your victim doing? Any luck yet?' Grey asked while walking towards the second path on the right.

'He has still refused to say anything, but so long he doesn't commit suicide, he still has a will to live. I'll see how things go,' Void replied.

Grey didn't speak any further before going into the path. Void's mission is to obtain the method of removing the mark from the young man and then killing him. If he refused to say anything, then he would still kill him nonetheless. Keeping such people alive is too risky, especially for an organization that has few people. It might actually cause more harm than good.

From the connection Grey had with Void, he sensed that they were on the first path from your left. Seems the young man didn't even think of a target before running in, all he cared about was staying alive.

After walking into the path, Grey felt a slight tingling sensation on his leg, but it soon stopped.

'Huh? Strange,' He thought to himself.

He sent his spiritual sense into his body to check if anything was wrong, but he couldn't sense anything. It was only after he walked a few meters forward did he know what was happening.

"Poison?" He muttered while staring at the corpse of a youth that had black lines running across their body.

For some reason, he seemed to be immune to all forms of poison, which is somewhat unexpected. He still hasn't been able to find out the cause, but he felt it had to do with the orb.

He continued walking further into the path, seeing two more corpses, and a youth that was already on the verge of dying from the poison. When the young man saw Grey, he started pleading with what little strength he had left, tears running down his face.

Grey stared at him for a while before shaking his head. Using the healing tonic on someone he didn't know might put him in danger. People tend to act on their greed more than anything else, this was a chance he wasn't willing to test.

He continued walking, and after leaving the poison-filled side, he soon started facing trap arrays, elemental attacks, and a few traps that were physical attacks.

He dodged every single one of these attacks without breaking a sweat, as he continued heading further.

After twenty minutes of walking, he entered an open field. In these twenty minutes, Void had reunited with him after killing the necromancer. Unfortunately, he wasn't able to get any information from him. Grey decided to study the corpse before discarding them after leaving this place. And moving around with a corpse felt strange and weird to him.

Six people were already standing on the end of the path, staring at the glowing fruit that was on an eleven meters tall tree. On the tree was a single fruit.

All six individuals were exchanging glances between each other. When they heard footsteps, they turned to look at the person who just arrived.

"Gentlemen, lady, as you all know, I'm the person ranked first in the Origin Plane in this region, there's no way any of you can defeat me," A youth dressed in red stepped forward.

The four young men and the single lady squinted their gazes when they heard this. The young man in front of them was right, he was the present genius ranked first in the Polaris region for those in the Origin Plane, so defeating him was something none of them could do alone, especially while they were just around the Seventh and Eighth stage of the Origin Plane.

When they sensed Grey was also at the Peak of the Origin Plane, they planned to use him to fight against the young man ranked first, before beating him. They simultaneously turned to look at Grey.

"Whatever plans you have, dump it, I'm a far bigger threat than he is," Grey walked forward, heading towards the young man ranked first.

"You all can either watch from the side or leave this place. If any of you dare to think of stealing the fruit while we're fighting, then prepare for your death," The young man in red said coldly to the five people who stared at the duo.

"Who are you?" He asked when Grey stood in front of him.

"No one important, all I want is the fruit," Grey replied casually.

"I like your guts, fine since you're confident enough to say that even after knowing who I am, I'll entertain you for a while," The young man in red said.

Grey smiled, before vanishing from his location.

Bam!

The sound of flesh hitting flesh reverberated out before the figure of the young man in red was sent flying.

Bang!

He slammed heavily into the tree, rocking it.

The five youths who were watching from the side had their mouths wide open than an entire egg could perfectly fit into it.. They looked at the young man who was lying below the tree, then back at Grey who had his right hand outstretched, in a punching position.

Chapter 546 - You Don't Have A Choice

"Wow! Did he just defeat him with a single punch?" The young lady in the group asked while pointing at the young man in red.

"Seems like it, and he didn't even use any elemental attacks," A young man in the group said.

"That's incredible!" The young lady and the others exclaimed.

They couldn't believe what they were seeing, at this moment, they recalled when Grey said he was more dangerous than the youth in red.

"Are you sure he's still in the Origin Plane?" One of the young men asked, just to be sure.

"Yes, he is," The same young man who answered the young lady's question nodded.

The rest couldn't help but sigh in frustration. They turned around, not even daring to get near the tree.

Grey smiled softly before walking towards the tree. His strength was increasing almost daily, and his physical strength was already close to the Eighth stage of the Origin Plane. It was very easy for him to defeat someone at the Peak of the Origin Plane, even if that person is a genius such as the youth in red.

Of course, surprise played an important role in this attack.

Grey walked towards the tree before gently plucking it from the tree. The fruit gave off a warmth that made him feel relaxed.

"Good stuff!" He exclaimed before keeping it in his storage ring.

He used the water element to wake up the youth in red, before turning to leave.

"What happened?" The youth in red asked.

"Nothing, you lost," Grey shrugged.

Just before he walked to the passage, he noticed the tree glowing, before a passage appeared on it.

"Oh, a quicker way to go out," He said softly before turning around.

The youth in red stood still when he heard Grey's words. He couldn't believe he actually lost to a single attack. What was worse was that he was even knocked out!

He followed behind Grey, just like the five others who also saw the passage.

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Outside the ruin.

Just like Grey, the other youths who entered the place were coming out thanks to the passage that opened up after Grey plucked the fruit.

On getting out, they all looked around, trying to find out who took the fruit.

Grey and the group who entered the same path as he did soon came out of the ruin, standing casually.

He looked around casually, before heading towards the forest. There was nothing here for him to do.

Just as he was about to step into the woods.

"Grey Dawson, why the hurry?" A voice came from the side, it wasn't loud, but everyone around heard it perfectly.

When they heard the name, they all looked around curiously, they had heard of a certain Grey Dawson that was going around challenging people. They couldn't believe the figure came to the ruin.

Grey, who paused, continued walking. He pretended as if he wasn't the one the person was talking to.

Boom!

An explosion occurred in front of Grey, forcing him to stop.

Everyone turned to look in the direction, and seeing the youth standing there with a mask on, they all guessed he was the one they were searching for.

Grey's expression turned sour, this was one of the reasons he hated fame. He could swear he had not heard this voice before, yet why was the person trying so hard to get his attention.

He turned around, to look at who was the one who tried to attack him.

Looking up, he saw a youth standing gently mid-air. The young man looked to be his age, with white long sleeves and trousers, and a white short hair to match, his eyes were blue.

"Who are you?" Grey asked coldly.

'Be careful, you're no match for him,' Void warned.

'I know,' Grey replied with a frustrated expression

"Someone you'll know in the future, where's Sylvia? I thought she was with you," The young man asked while looking around.

His sharp eyes easily picked up everyone that were here, and there was no sight of Sylvia.

'Sylvia? Could he be from that Faction she spoke of?' Grey's brain went into overdrive when he heard this.

He never thought someone would come after him because he associated himself with Sylvia.

"She's gone," He replied.

He didn't like Sylvia that much because she forced him into challenging those geniuses, but it didn't mean he would tell this guy her location. What if he wanted to kill her? He could tell that those beside the young man weren't people Sylvia could defeat.

"Oh, a shame, and I wanted her to watch how I defeat one of her candidates," The young man said with a shake of his head.

When Grey heard this, he knew full well that he was in trouble.

"I'm not interested in participating in that competition," Grey said straightforwardly.

This was the truth, he might go there, but he was not going to participate in it. It had nothing to do with him.

"Huh? Sylvia wouldn't waste her time on you if you were not going to participate. Forget it, I'm already here, since that's the case, I'll leave you alone," The young man said.

Grey was about to heave a sigh of relief before he heard the rest of the youth's statement.

"If you can survive a single attack," The young man added.

Grey narrowed his eyes to look at the young man, "Not interested, like I said, I will not take part in the competition,"

"The thing here is this, you don't have a choice," The young man said with an evil grin.

Buzz! Swoosh!

As soon as he finished his statement, he attacked. He was a Lightning Elementalist.

The lightning bolt moved so fast that Grey was unable to keep up with the movement. Without even thinking, he used the space element to teleport to another location.

"Oh, you managed to survive," The young man said with a smile on his face.

Grey stood in another position, on his chest, a small two inches hole could be seen. People could literally see the other side through the hole. Blood soon started to gush out of it, staining Grey's blue shirt, down to his trouser.

On the side of his mouth, blood was dripping from both sides.

Even with his quick reaction, he was still unable to dodge the attack, luckily, he moved quickly so it missed his heart.

#### Chapter 547 - Setting A Deadline For Revenge

Grey looked at the young man with cold eyes. He did his best to keep his situation stable, not trying to do anything rash.

"Since you survived, I'll keep to my words, you can leave," The young man said arrogantly.

Grey didn't say a word, turning around immediately the young man finished his words. Just before he walked into the forest, he turned to take a proper look at the face of the young man, edging his appearance in his head.

This was something he would never let go of.

The young man watched as Grey walked away.

One of the men beside him came close to him, "Young lord, you shouldn't have let him go,"

"He's not someone worth mentioning, since he survived it's his luck," The young man said before turning around.

He left along with his group.

The crowd who were outside the ruin watched as the entire event played out. Those who were in the same place as Grey were all stunned when they saw he couldn't even evade the attack of the young man, especially the young man in red who was ranked first in the Origin Plane rankings.

He couldn't stand a single blow from Grey, yet Grey couldn't stand a blow from this young man.

While they were all looking, discussing the event which just took place, one of the young men who was in the same cave as Grey had sneaked away, rushing towards Grey's direction with greed evident in his eyes.

....

In the forest.

A shadow could be seen dashing through the woods.

"This is my chance, he's already weak from that attack," The young man muttered while licking his lips.

An opportunity presented itself before him, of course he was going to take it!

While running through the forest, he followed the slight trail of blood, heading towards where it led.

Further into the forest.

Grey was running as fast as he could, trying to get to a place he felt was safe enough before he started healing. He had been trying to stop the bleeding, but whenever his essence goes close to the injury, it seems to increase the damage done to it. His face was already pale, even his body was starting to show signs of lack of blood.

Presently, all his hopes are placed on the healing tonic he got from the Blooming Viper.

'Someone's following you,' Void said, his expression one of seriousness.

'Strength level?' Grey asked.

He could barely speak, luckily, he didn't need to speak out when communicating with Void.

'One of those people we met at the cave,' Void replied.

Grey's initial thought went to the young man he defeated with a single punch, but he quickly threw it to the back of his head. This wasn't the time to think about it.

'I don't know the reason they're coming after me, you'll deal with it when the time comes. If it's for a stupid reason, then you can do as you please,' He said.

Void nodded before focusing on the journey in front of them.

After around five minutes, they soon found a cave.

Grey didn't even try to set up a protective array, he didn't have such leisure time. He was losing more blood as time went on, and his vision was already blurry. While he was running here, he had coughed up several mouthfuls of blood.

After sitting down, he brought out the vial containing the tonic, gulping the entire thing down instantly.

He shut his eyes and focused on healing, a few seconds after he gulped down the tonic, the bleeding stopped.

Void lay at the entrance of the cave, keeping watch.

A few minutes later.

Void heard a rustling sound in the trees, looking up, he saw the figure of a young man dashing towards the cave.

Due to Void's small body, the young man missed him, heading straight into the cave, going towards Grey.

"You're injured, if you know what's good for you, hand over the fruit," He said as soon as he saw Grey.

His request was met with silence from Grey, he didn't even open his eyes to look at the person speaking.

The young man was slightly irritated by this behavior.

"Guess I'll have to take it myself," The young man smiled as he approached Grey.

He stretched his hand in Grey's direction, hoping to collect his spatial ring.

"Huh?!" He exclaimed in confusion.

No matter how much he stretched his hand, it didn't seem to get to the target. When he looked at his hand, his face changed drastically.

The only part that was visible in his outstretched right hand was from the elbow up, the rest seemed to have disappeared into thin air.

The young man hurriedly withdrew his hand, but the result was the same.

"A..." He was about to scream when Void's small paws covered his mouth.

"Don't shout, you'll disturb him. Now, let's go outside," Void said.

The young man was taken out of the cave against his will, his voice, never heard again. Void soon appeared back in the cave as if nothing happened.

....

Four hours later.

Splat!

Grey spat out a mouthful of blood before opening his eyes. His previously pale face had regained its color, the same as his skin.

"Are you alright now?" Void asked.

Grey nodded, staring at his bloodied shirt. He stood up before changing to something else. His eyes were cold, it was as if he was still experiencing what happened some hours ago.

Void told him about the young man who came in, he naturally killed him. Although he could tell that the young man didn't have any plans of killing Grey, he wasn't as compassionate as humans, to him, an enemy should be killed, and anyone who tries to steal from him while he's down is an enemy.

"In two years, I'll repay this favor," Grey said slowly, before walking into the forest, his lonely silhouette looked sturdy, just like a rock.

Void knew Grey was definitely going to take his revenge, but he never expected him to set a deadline for himself. The young man who attacked him was already at the Peak of the Overlord Plane, and Grey seems to be older than he is, this showed how powerful and talented he is. There's no telling how far he would've grown in two years.

But Void was certain of one thing, Grey would be stronger than him by then.

## Chapter 548 - Still Having A Rough Time

Three months later.

Southern Continent, Mostar City.

At the city gates, a young man could be seen walking out of the city, some black patches were on his face, and he looked like he hadn't rested for weeks now.

"Damn it! Those stupid elders, I can't even rest properly before they send me out again. \*Sigh\* If only father wasn't ill," The young man complained under his breath continuously as he walked outside the city.

The crowd stared at him, with some speaking about him while the others minding their businesses.

"Isn't that the son of the O'Brien family? Why's he looking so haggard?" A young lady asked.

"I heard his father, the current head of the family, is very ill. The elders didn't want to make it obvious that they wanted him out of the family, so this happened, mission after mission. And from what I heard, the mission increases in difficulty whenever he successfully completes one," A young man explained.

"That's sad, he used to be very vibrant," The young lady shook her head in pity while staring at the sad and lonely back view of the sorry figure who was walking out of the city.

This person was none other than Ellis, after coming back from the Azure Continent, he found out things weren't as they were when he left. His father was ill, and the elders had taken control of the family. They initially thought he was dead, but when they saw him returning out of nowhere, they were left with no choice but to think of something else.

The reason for this was simple, amongst all the children of his generation in the family, he was the most talented. His growth speed was on another level when compared to others, so he had been the one tipped to get the position as next in line to be the family head. His disappearance was like a blessing to the others, and some had even started planning with their fathers who were part of the elders.

....

While walking with his head down, Ellis soon disappeared into the crowd that was headed towards the forest.

Unknown to him, a pair of eyes were looking at him with interest.

After three months of constant traveling, and literally exhausting his savings, he finally got to the city where the O'Brien family stayed. He had been here for about a week now, and his cautious personality didn't allow him to head straight to the O'Brien mansion, and he was grateful he didn't.

When he got here, he started asking about the O'Brien family, and the news he got left him worried for his once jovial friend.

Grey soon blended into the crowd and disappeared.

....

In the forest.

Ellis brought out a map, looking at the spot that was marked, there were three spots, and each represented a location he would have to head to. These were places that had notorious criminals around Mostar City, and some of them were even more powerful than he was.

"I should get to work. I'll take as much time as I can before returning," He kept the map before adding with a depreciating smile, "If I don't die,"

Just as he was about to continue walking forward, he paused before looking around.

Swoosh! Boom!

Ice spikes sprang out of the ground in Ellis' north, as a figure jumped out of the woods.

"We haven't seen each other for over half a year and this is how you welcome me?" Grey's voice traveled into the ears of Ellis who was about to attack again.

"Huh? Who?" Ellis paused, before looking at the figure in front of him properly.

"Grey?" He asked curiously.

Grey still had his mask on, and he's been so tired lately that he forgot a few things about the friend he made in the Azure Continent. Actually, because of his father's condition, he hadn't been social lately.

"Who else? I can see you're having a rough time once again," Grey said before taking off his mask.

"It's really you! I never thought you'd be able to come this quickly," Ellis exclaimed before hugging Grey.

When Grey heard his feminine voice once again, he couldn't help but smile unconsciously. He had always found it funny.

"Why's your communication device not with you?" Grey asked while taking out the orb Ellis gave to him back at the al Beasts' forest.

"Oh that, I've been too busy to care about it. It's buried somewhere under a pile of other things in my ring," Ellis replied while letting go of Grey and giving out a genuine smile.

"Huh? Why are you still at the Peak of the Origin Plane?" He asked when he sensed Grey's cultivation stage.

He thought Grey would've at least broken through to the Overlord Plane by now, never in a million years did he think he would still be in the same stage.

"Long story, had some difficulties, but I've sorted it out," Grey replied.

"Oh, okay. But it's weird seeing someone as old as you are still in the Origin Plane. Well, in lower regions, it's not that rare though," Ellis said while rubbing his chin.

"Have you been able to find that thing you were searching for?" He suddenly recalled the reason Grey sent him to journey across the al Beasts' forest tirelessly.

"I didn't need it anymore," Grey replied.

He didn't think Ellis would still recall the soothing liquid he was searching for to help heal Void.

"This is Void, he was the reason I was looking for that liquid," He pointed at Void who was lying on his head.

"Oh, a cat. Wow! It's already a Late stage Rank Five al beast, amazing! He must have a high bloodline given how small he is," Ellis exclaimed when he saw Void's cultivation stage.

"Of course, did you take me for those petty house and street cats?" Void asked with disdain when he spoke of other cats.

"He can talk?" Ellis was once again surprised by the cat that accompanied Grey.

"Yes, he's different," Grey nodded.

"I can tell," Ellis replied while studying Void.

## Chapter 549 - Suyin Canyon

Grey and Ellis stayed in the forest, talking about their experiences. Well, it was mainly Ellis who did the talking while Grey listened.

He found out about Ellis' father's health, and how the elders had been trying to get rid of him.

"How come he hasn't been healed yet, don't you guys have better healing tonics?" Grey couldn't help but ask.

"Nothing worked, we still don't understand what's happening to him. I do not think it's something physical, if my guess is right, it has to do with a foreign essence that invaded his body some time back," Ellis replied.

"Your guess?" Grey raised a brow.

"Alright fine, the Grand Elder brought some people who did a thorough check-up. According to what was found, a foreign essence is causing havoc in his body. They've tried everything they could, but to no avail," Ellis said truthfully.

"Hmm, is there a way I can see him?" Grey suddenly asked after a moment of silence.

Ellis placed his hand on his chin, "Difficult, but I can try. But I can't guarantee we will be given such a chance,"

"Even if it's only a few minutes," Grey tried persuading.

Since it has to do with a foreign essence invading Ellis' father's body, then he might be able to help with the chaos orb that's inside him. It seems to have a special power against other essences. The only thing that got him thinking is that he had never been able to control it, which means he wasn't sure it would be able to help. Nevertheless, it was worth trying.

"I'll try," Ellis replied, he suddenly paused, as if finally realizing what Grey was getting at before asking in shock, "Wait, there's a way you can help?"

"Technically, it should be able to help, but I'm not too sure yet. We'll have to wait until then," Grey replied honestly.

He couldn't lie to Ellis, after all, this had to do with his father's life.

"If truly you can help, I'll be forever grateful," Ellis said seriously.

"It's nothing, I'm only helping out a friend. And, we still haven't been able to confirm it yet, so no need for all this," Grey patted Ellis on his right shoulder.

Ellis nodded, before turning around.

"So, where are we headed?" Grey asked.

Ellis was on a mission before he stopped him, since he's already here, he would naturally follow him on the mission.

"I'm heading over to clear out a group of bandits from the canyons. They aren't too powerful, but their numbers will surely be a bother." Ellis explained, he looked at Grey before adding, "If only you had broken through to the Overlord Plane, then you would've been of some use,"

"Void can help, so there's no need to worry too much," Grey didn't find his words offensive.

Other than Void, no one else knew the current extent of his strength. He rarely got into battles since being attacked by that young man who was after Sylvia.

"Alright, let's get going then," Ellis nodded, before taking the duo with him.

He briefed them about the canyon, as well as the bandits. The leader was in the Sage Plane, just like Ellis.

Grey had always had the notion that Ellis wasn't in the Overlord Plane, and finding out from his mouth was still a little shocking. Even his Teacher wasn't in the Sage Plane. Just how powerful are those at the peak of this world?

The rest of the members were Origin and Overlord Plane Elementalists. Most of them were around the Mid stages of the Overlord Plane.

There were around over one hundred people in this group, and for a single person to take all of them on wasn't going to be easy. If Ellis manages to instantly kill the leader, then it would all be settled, but if not, he would find it difficult with all the disturbance the others can cause.

....

Suyin Canyon.

"Alright, according to reports, the bandit group stays around here. All we need to do is find their hideout before..."

"Found it," Void interrupted Ellis' speech.

"What did you find?" Ellis asked.

"The bandit's hideout, you were speaking of locating it, well, I have," Void replied proudly.

Ellis was a little short of words, never expecting that they would be able to find the hideout so quickly. What he found more surprising was how quickly it took for Void to locate them.

He secretly tried to see if he could sense anything, but he found nothing. He couldn't help but look at Void doubtfully.

"You don't have to worry about it, he's always right when it comes to things like this, just follow his lead," Grey reassured when he saw Ellis' doubtful expression.

Void was about to complain when he noticed Ellis was doubting his skills, but Grey already knowing Void's personality, closed his mouth, making sure he didn't make a sound. This didn't stop Void from trying though, leaving a series of muffled noises.

A few minutes later.

"Which way?" Ellis asked.

"Right," Void replied, still a little sulky.

Ellis nodded, before heading towards the right path in the canyon. The canyon was a series of maze-like paths, this was why it has always been hard to deal with these bandits. They've been accustomed to the road here, so escaping has always been easy for them whenever they're cornered.

"Do the items we find there belong to us?" Grey asked, since they were going to clear out a bandit hideout, there are bound to be treasures.

"Of course! Whatever we find is ours," Ellis replied, before turning to ask Void for directions once again.

They continued heading deeper into the canyon while going in the northwest direction. This was the area Void said the bandits were located. As they headed deeper into the canyon, Ellis found it hard to believe that Void's senses could spread this far. It wasn't his fault though, since entering the canyon, they've already walked over one kilometer, and still haven't located the bandits.

This distance was one thing while being able to sense the bandits even with the caution they took was another.

'This cat truly is different,' He recalled the words Grey said while they were still in the forest.

## Chapter 550 - The Bandit's Hideout

"Here," Void said abruptly, stopping the group in their tracks.

Ellis looked around, he still hadn't been able to sense any aura of people being here.

"Are you sure?" He couldn't help but ask.

Grey squatted, placing his hand on the ground, trying to use the earth element to sense if anyone was here through the vibrations he got from the ground.

"They're here," He answered before Void could.

Ellis turned to look at Grey, and before he could ask any more questions, Grey added, "And they're not the only things here. Powerful al beasts are lurking around. There's a large array here that's hiding their track, this must've been done by the bandits, but they unknowingly made this place a great hunting ground for this beast,"

"Actually, the beast is theirs as well," Ellis said.

"Oh, guess they plan on using it to sense if people are nearby, cause it's coming our way," Grey said before standing upright, he looked towards his right.

Within a few seconds, the ground started shaking, and they could feel something large was moving quickly through the ground.

'How powerful?' Grey asked Void secretly.

'Not that strong, early Mid stage Rank Five al beast,' Void replied quickly.

"The beast isn't too powerful, we should deal with it quickly before the bandits escape. They should've already been alerted of our presence since the beast is coming towards us," Grey replied.

Rumble!

The ground continued shaking vigorously before a giant centipede burst out of the ground.

After coming out the centipede screeched loudly, with a sticky substance coming out of its mouth towards where Grey and Ellis were standing.

The duo dodged to the side, not daring to allow it to touch them. The thing wasn't toxic or anything, it just looked irritating.

After moving to the side, Grey got a proper look at the beast. The centipede was over twelve meters long, with two long antennae in front of its face that was over a meter long, and a pair of large pincers below the antennae that stuck out from its mouth. A seat was strapped on top of its head, and a figure covered by a cloak could be seen on top of it, seemingly riding the centipede.

Grey moved quickly, vanishing from his previous location.

The person riding the centipede was only in the Third stage of the Overlord Plane, something he could handle easily with his current strength.

Over the past three months since he was attacked by that young man, his strength had grown significantly. It's already at a stage where he felt if he went back to fight against Lucan, he would have at least a sixty-five percent chance of winning. Not just that, but his physical strength was already almost at the Peak of the Origin Plane.

He appeared in front of the figure riding the centipede, and before the person could bring out a device to communicate with the other bandits, he suddenly paused, before looking down.

On his chest, a large fist-size hole could be seen there, the spot where his heart was located is currently empty. Grey was standing in front of him, an indifferent look on his face.

Blood started dripping from the side of the bandit's mouth, he tried talking, but he was unfortunately unable to. He let go of the reins he used in holding the centipede, before falling to the ground.

Grey stood at the top of the centipede, looking around.

Ellis soon appeared close to him, "Well, that was quick. I've always known you're stronger than what your cultivation level tells, but isn't this a tad too scary?"

Grey smiled with a shake of the head, not replying to Ellis' question, "What now?"

"Well, since you've effortlessly killed that guy, why don't we take this thing on a ride back. This way, it would not only bring us there, but the bandits would let their guard down thinking it's the person that came out," Ellis suggested.

Grey nodded, before grabbing the reins, since they were going to ride it, he should be the one to, since technically, Ellis could fly.

....

Six hundred meters away from where Ellis and Grey took hold of the centipede. Deep in the canyons.

Large spaces had been carved out inside the canyon walls by the bandits. The place was large enough for over a thousand people to stay inside.

The bandits could be seen partying after making a windfall from their latest robbery. Drinks were all over the place, with half-naked ladies as well.

A middle-aged man with a snake tattoo above his right eye could be seen sitting on the main seat in the hall while the others were seated across the tables in the hall.

"Drink my brothers," He said while gobbling the wine in his silver chalice down his throat, with some coming out from the side of his mouth, dripping on his clothes.

The crowd cheered before doing the same, all drinking in pleasure.

While they were drinking.

Rumble!

The ground soon started vibrating.

"Looks like it was nothing serious, Ezkel is back already," One of the people in the hall laughed out loud as he heard the rumbling sound caused by the centipede.

A hole soon appeared and the centipede came into view. But the man with a snake tattoo soon realized something was wrong when he sensed the aura of two people, instead of one.

"Who are you, and how dare you intrude into our private grounds?" He yelled angrily while standing up from his seat.

He stamped his foot on the ground, causing the entire place to shake.

"You're the leader?" Ellis asked with a serious voice.

Grey was left a little shocked because Ellis just made his voice sound like that of a guy, this was the first time he was hearing him speak like this.

'Guess this is how he speaks when taking things seriously,' He thought while looking around.

Since the leader of the bandits was in the Sage Plane, it meant he and Void had to deal with the others. Of course, he couldn't deal with those in the Late stages of the Overlord Plane yet, but luckily, Void could. The only problem here was that there were at least two hundred people here, that was if he even removed the half-naked ladies.

'How the hell are we going to deal with this many people?' He couldn't help but complain slightly.

Thinking that Ellis' family members sent him here, he felt a tinge of pity for him.