

Affinity 551

Chapter 551 - Fighting Against The Bandits

"Try to stall them, I'll deal with the leader as quickly as I can," Ellis said before taking flight, heading towards the leader of the bandits.

Grey stared at the heads in front of him, he couldn't deny it, they were too many for him to handle, luckily, he had Void and the centipede. The reason they were able to control the centipede easily was Void's doing. For some reason, it listened to everything Void commanded it to do.

'Void, it's time to work your . With this thing's help, I should be able to at least deal with them for some time, but you're in charge of all the Late stage Elementalists,' Grey said to Void.

'Alright, lord cat will help you out. But, if there are any shiny things in our loot, I want first picks,' Void tried to negotiate a deal.

'Just get to work,' Grey didn't even think about his deal.

Void grumbled before jumping to the front of the centipede, "Help us kill these guys okay,"

The centipede nodded docilely.

After Ellis went after the leader of the bandits, the rest turned to look at Grey, seemingly waiting for what he wanted to do. There were over twenty Late stage Overlord Plane Elementalists here, and five or so that were at the Peak of the Overlord Plane. Grey was only at the Peak of the Origin Plane, while the centipede was a Mid stage Rank Five al beast, there was no way they could even defeat a regular Early stage Overlord Plane Elementalist in the bandit group, much less all of them.

They couldn't sense Void's stage so they didn't count him amongst their opponents. On seeing the centipede behave in such a docile manner towards Void, they found it a little strange but ultimately didn't think much of it.

Boom! Rumble!

A large explosion and heavy shaking caught the attention of everyone here. Looking in the direction Ellis and the bandit leader faced, they realized they had already started their battle, and from the first attack, they could see that their leader was on the back foot.

"You fools, what are you doing? Come here and help me take this brat down!" The bandit leader hollered when he noticed the young man in front of him was stronger than he was.

One of the men at the Peak of the Overlord Plane ordered, "You two, kill this brat and that stupid animal, the rest of you, with me,"

After giving out the order, the man charged in the direction of their leader.

Of the two men he sent after Grey, one was in the Late stage, while the other was in the Mid stages.

'Void,' Grey called out to Void.

'On it,' Void replied before disappearing.

Grey acted as if he didn't see the two men walking towards him, he stood on the head of the centipede, spreading both hands in the sky, with his eyes closed in total concentration.

When he opened them, they glowed with a mesmerizing pattern on them, before inscriptions started to appear mid-air.

Swoosh! Bang! Boom! Bam!

He attacked fiercely, making sure to stop the group in their tracks before they went after Ellis.

The man at the Peak of the Overlord Plane paused when he saw this attack, he turned around to look at the person who caused it, and seeing Grey's body language, he knew he was the one.

"Why's the brat still alive?" He asked coldly while looking around, trying to find the duo he sent to kill him.

His expression changed when he saw them lying in a pool of blood. What terrified him was that he didn't sense any attack, yet the duo was killed silently in the presence of so many people.

"Stay on guard, someone powerful is with the boy," He ordered while stopping his advances towards Ellis.

When Grey heard his words, he was a little taken aback, but he felt this was the best outcome. First, they wouldn't go after Ellis because of the fear of someone powerful killing them off. This would in turn give Ellis all the time he needed to kill the leader before coming after them.

Boom! Rumble!

The place continued shaking from the attacks of Ellis and the bandit leader, when they looked in that direction, they saw their leader sent flying, crashing deep into the walls.

"Come, we must help him," The man at the Peak of the Overlord Plane ordered once again.

He couldn't sit by and watch as their leader was about to be killed, he knew they would be next if he dies. Although there was a risk to turning their backs against a potentially powerful opponent who was hiding, they just couldn't sit still.

Grey attacked with the inscriptions once again, but the attacks were blocked by the men. They hurried forward, trying to distract Ellis.

Seeing how things were playing out, Void and Grey started attacking ferociously, they couldn't allow these guys to disturb Ellis.

Grey, riding the centipede charged into the crowd of people. He made sure the area he faced was occupied by those in the Mid stages and below. Void on the other hand started to pick out those in the Late stages one by one. Whenever he appeared, he would kill his unsuspecting victim.

Those at the Peak of the Overlord Plane soon realized what was happening, before quickly spreading out and informing the others about the Space Elementalist that was attacking them. They still had no idea that a cat was what had been killing their members.

Three of the bandits at The Peak of the Overlord Plane took some bandits with them while heading towards Ellis, while the remaining two stayed behind, accompanied by almost two hundred bandits in the Overlord Plane.

A brawl soon started, with a youth, a cat, and a centipede fighting against a large crowd.

The arrival of helpers balanced things on the side of the bandit leader and Ellis.

Swoosh! Boom! Bang!

Attacks were flying around, with the ladies in the hall all running out for safety.

Chapter 552 - Killing A Peak Overlord Plane Elementalist

Swoosh! Boom! Bang!

Grey's continuous attacks almost always hit one of the bandits. Unlike the bandits, he had no reservations when attacking, so he attacked wildly, making sure he didn't give them the chance to get close to him.

'Void, stop those guys interfering with Ellis' battle,' He said after taking a peek at the battle happening on Ellis' side.

'Got it,'

Boom! Bang!

The battle on Ellis' side raged on with Ellis having to defend against attacks from different angles. In contrast to Grey's ability with inscriptions which made it easy for him to take on multiple opponents without being too much at a disadvantage, Ellis had to rely solely on his element. Being a Water Elementalist gives him fluidity with his attacks and incredible defensive prowess thanks to the ice ability of Water Elementalists.

Ellis was starting to have a difficult time defending, but he knew he couldn't complain since Grey's opponents were just too many, there's no way he would be able to stop them all, all he could do right now was hang out while taking out any of the bandits when the chance arises.

Bam! Thud!

One of the bandits at the Peak of the Overlord Plane was suddenly sent flying, crashing into the wall before falling on the ground, dead, a hole could be seen on his forehead.

The bandit leader looked around hastily, trying to figure out how one of his best fighters was killed in front of him. But even after looking around, he still wasn't able to figure out how it happened.

Ellis was excited when he saw this, he knew it was Void's handiwork.

The sudden death of the bandit made the others hesitate, no one wanted to die, especially to someone they couldn't locate. Because of this, they weren't able to give their all in the battle because they were reserving some energy in case of a sneak attack from whoever it was.

On Grey's side of the battle.

Bang! Boom! Bam!

With attacks flying, more and more bandits with lower stages continued to fall. They couldn't block Grey's attacks, and what they all found terrifying was that Grey's wide range attacks tend to be very powerful.

Bang!

An attack slammed into the body of the centipede, increasing the wounds it had gotten from the battle. It screeched in pain before brutally biting off the head of one of the bandits.

Swoosh! Boom! Bang!

The bandits quickly figured out something, since they couldn't get Grey, then they would kill the centipede first.

In a matter of seconds, the injuries on the body of the centipede increased exponentially until it didn't have any strength left to even stay upright.

Grey soon jumped from the head of the centipede, landing directly into the crowd of people.

Bang! Bam!

The sound of flesh hitting flesh reverberated across quickly as Grey started to punch his way through, literally.

Given the space between them, the bandits couldn't attack wildly, and their physical body wasn't on the same level as Grey's.

He made sure to always be in the most congested area, making it hard for the bandits to attack him.

"Damn it! Spread out, don't stand in groups," One of the two men at the Peak of the Overlord Plane yelled out an order.

They all could see what Grey was doing, but they couldn't stop him. When the battle started, they all felt that their numbers gave them the advantage. But now, the reverse is the case, this large number of theirs is making it difficult for them to attack a single person.

There's still the fact that this person was still in the Origin Plane, this was what frustrated and annoyed the bandits even more. How could an Origin Plane Elementalist confidently dare to jump into the midst of over a hundred Overlord Plane Elementalist and still be on the front foot?

It was preposterous!

Bang! Thud! Bam! Boom!

Bodies continued flying around, hitting each other before the bandits followed the order of the man at the Peak of the Overlord Plane. They quickly spread out, moving in different directions.

As they started to spread out, the man at the Peak of the Overlord Plane charged at Grey, attacking him with wind blades.

The man's eyes nearly bulged out when he saw the person in front of him wasn't Grey, but the other Peak Overlord Plane Elementalist.

"How?" He asked in shock.

The unsuspecting man was sent flying by the attack of his comrade, sustaining terrible injuries from the attack even before he landed. A large gash was on his chest that was at least three inches deep, and blood was constantly pouring out.

Bang!

His body crashed heavily on the ground, but that wasn't the thing everyone looked at, they all stared at the figure who suddenly appeared beside the man from out of nowhere.

Grey didn't waste any time as he attacked with the earth element, smashing it fiercely into the man's chest, further worsening the injury.

The man was left defenseless by the sudden attack, now coupled with Grey's attack, it was easy to tell that his chances of survival were slim.

Before anyone could react, Grey continued attacking, while using other elements as well. He sent the darkness element into the injury, making sure it would cause more damage to the man's body.

As soon as the darkness element started ravaging through the man's body, he screamed in pain, wriggling around while scratching his chest with his fingers, it was as if something was eating him from the inside and he wanted to tear it out of him.

His painful shrieks sent chills down the spines of all the people there, even the man at the Peak of the Overlord Plane, he couldn't help but look at the youth who did this again. What he still couldn't wrap his head around was how the hell was Grey in the Origin Plane?!

With the strength he was displaying, he didn't dare to believe he was in the Origin Plane.

"He's not in the Origin Plane. Quick, surround him before he escapes," The man said.

He was the only Peak Overlord Plane Elementalist left on this side of the battlefield.

Chapter 553 - Fierce Fight Against The Bandits Of Suyin Canyon

The bandits rushed to encircle Grey, making sure they didn't get close enough for him to attack them with his insane physical strength.

After surrounding him, they didn't hold back and attacked together. What happened next left them all in shock.

Grey also used his inscriptions to attack his position, then he waited for a few seconds, just when the attacks were about to get to him, he vanished, and the last Peak Overlord Plane Elementalist in this side of the battlefield appeared in the center of all the attacks.

Boom! Bam! Bang!

The attacks rang out as they connected with the man. Unlike the first person Grey used this skill against, he was vigilant, so as soon as he noticed the sudden change in his surroundings, he set up a wind screen around him. Alas, it wasn't enough to protect him from the multiple attacks.

Crack! Bang!

The screen cracked, before exploding under the impact of another attack. The attacks continued to rain down, slamming into the defenseless man who screamed in horror.

While this was taking place, Grey had started killing those close to the man he switched places with. They never expected someone so close to suddenly attack, so he was able to kill three people instantaneously, with two in the Mid stages of the Overlord Plane, while the last was in the Early stages.

The others around soon realized what was happening, and started to attack Grey, forcing him back.

Grey vanished from that spot, switching position with someone who was in the midst of at least ten Early stages Overlord Plane Elementalist. When he appeared, he exploded out with blue flames, mixed with red lightning.

Boom!

It was like he was a bomb, covering a range of over one hundred meters. The blast didn't only affect those close to him, it almost destroyed the place, causing the walls to crack, and rocks soon started to fall from above.

The place would collapse at the rate the battle was going.

Swoosh! Boom! Bang!

The battle continued fiercely, with Grey moving around like a fish in water. Regrettably, he couldn't dodge all the attacks of the bandits, after all, they were just too many for a single individual.

On Ellis' end.

With Void's involvement, things started to take a turn once again, in the space of five minutes, he had killed two of the people there.

The leader of the bandits couldn't believe what was happening. This wasn't the first time they were attacked, but their numbers have always seemed to be able to pull them through. In this case, a single individual in a lower Plane is actually stopping an army of over two hundred from moving.

What could be more annoying than that he wondered? Then, from nowhere, a black cat was killing his men who came to aid him, a fucking black cat! When he first saw Void, he thought his eyes were playing tricks on him, only after Void killed the next person did he realize it was really happening.

'A Sage Plane kid, a Peak Origin Plane kid, and a fucking cat, great, just great,' He lamented while seeking an opportunity to kill Void. Compared to Ellis, he felt Void was more of a threat.

Swoosh! Boom!

He moved quickly, trying to figure out where Void was going to appear next, while also attacking Ellis who was dealing with the two Peak Overlord Plane and the other Late stage bandits in front of him.

The bandit leader ensured that he didn't get the chance to kill any of them.

Ellis couldn't help but thank the stars that he met up with Grey before he got here, else given the synergy of the bandits, he wouldn't have been able to kill them. Looking at Grey's side, he was stunned by the greatness of Grey's battle prowess.

He could clearly see that Grey was at a disadvantage due to not only numbers but cultivation level disadvantage, yet, he was sensibly avoiding those at the Late stage of the Overlord Plane while picking out all the weaker ones.

He would occasionally kill one Late stage Overlord Plane bandit whenever the opportunity presented itself.

Ellis didn't watch long since he also had people to deal with.

Void was trying his best to distract them while also making sure he didn't get caught by the sneaky bandit leader.

Boom! Bang!

Just when he appeared to attack someone, the bandit leader who had already predicted his next appearance attacked with his full strength.

Void didn't see the attack on time because he was just leaving a space tunnel. Before he could disappear, the attack appeared in front of his eyes.

Bam!

An ice wall rose in front of him, blocking the attack.

Void didn't even think twice, he attacked the person who made him appear here before disappearing once again.

Ellis had been studying the bandit leader, so when he saw him attack, he knew he had to help.

The battle erupted on both sides, and the cracks on the walls continued spreading, getting wider and wider as larger rocks started to fall from above.

As time went on, light started to pass through one of the holes into the dimly lit cave.

The battle still hadn't stopped. Grey and Ellis were already injured, with blood covering their bodies. However, they had done significant damage to the bandit group as the body count had gone over a hundred.

Grey was a beast, and Ellis was left short of words concerning his performance. He wasn't the only one who regarded Grey as a beast, the surviving bandits all see him as a beast, even worse than one.

Even though they could see that he was injured from their attacks, they didn't feel any sense of pride in it, too many of them had fallen to the hands of this youth who is still in the Origin Plane.

Crash! Boom!

After almost thirty minutes of battle, the place soon gave in, and the top of the place came crumbling down.

Grey and Void were the first to escape, followed by Ellis and the bandit leader.. The others rushed as well, with a few unfortunate ones being trapped inside, crushed by the large rocks.

Chapter 554 - I'm Motivated By Loot!

Boom!

A huge dust cloud rose into the sky from the place where the bandit's hideout caved in.

Grey and Void were already at a safe location and seeing the men rushing out of the place, they exchanged looks before attacking them viciously.

Swoosh! Bam! Bang! Boom!

The men who were dashing out of the place found it difficult to block the sudden attacks of Void and Grey.

Grey used one of his most powerful wide-range attacks, meteor descent, while Void was changing between the lightning, fire, and darkness element.

In a matter of seconds, the duo had killed no less than ten people.

After their first flurry of attacks, the other bandits were already aware of their attacks and managed to block them. Although, not all of them were able to successfully do so thanks to the cooperation of Grey and Void.

By the time the surviving bandits appeared outside, none of the Peak Overlord Plane bandits were left alive. The remaining two who were on Ellis' side of the battle had managed to survive under Void's attacks until now, but they met their unfortunate end thanks to the duo's viciousness.

When Ellis saw what they were doing, he couldn't help but shake his head in amazement.

'They truly are fit to travel together, truly vicious,' He thought while staring at the bandit leader with regret.

Had he known, he would've attacked him when he was escaping as well, this would've made killing him easier.

"How can you be so shameless?!" The bandit leader yelled in dejection when he saw what Grey and Void did.

He wasn't expecting anyone to make any moves until everyone came out of the collapsing hideout, who would've thought that Grey and Void were so vicious? It was one thing for an animal to be this vicious, but for a human as well? That was something people rarely see.

"We're not friends, why would I wait until they come out? I saw my chance, of course I'll take it," Grey replied coldly.

Grey disappeared after he finished his words, attacking the unsuspecting bandits who were watching the exchange between him and their leader.

Boom!

By the time they realized what was happening, one of their comrades had been sent flying, blood spilling from his mouth. Even before the body touched the ground, he was already dead.

"Ah! Kill him! Kill him!" The bandit leader yelled in frustration and rushed towards Grey.

Bang!

An attack exploded in front of him, pushing him back.

"I'm your opponent, don't worry, you'll join your underlings soon enough," Ellis said with a smirk before attacking once again.

With the bandit leader's state of mind in disarray, it would be easier to kill him now.

The bandit leader attacked frivolously, however, Ellis had no problems with dealing with a distracted and frustrated opponent.

Swoosh! Boom! Bam!

They continued fighting wildly in the sky with attacks covering some parts of it. Grey and Void were also fighting valiantly on the ground, although pressured by the number of their enemies, they continued fighting.

The duo was built differently when it came to fighting against crowds, it was like the number doesn't even affect them at all.

A group of almost two hundred bandits when the battle started had reduced to just over eighty plus people, this showed how clinical the duo was. One has to take note that Ellis hadn't been given the freedom to attack anyone other than the bandit leader, so the killing of over fifty percent of their

opponents was solely done by Grey and Void, and the centipede as well. It did take out a few people before its quick death.

The huge canyon walls on the side were destroyed from the battle. Some of the bandits were already making their escape when they saw that victory didn't seem to favor them today. Especially after seeing their leader sent flying more than once.

Ellis already had the upper hand when the battle started, so he used that momentum, as well as Grey's present dismantling of the bandits which seems to have destabilized the bandit leader.

Boom! Bang!

Half an hour more went by, and the fighting in the canyon had stopped. Three figures were standing on top of one side of the wall which had been slightly destroyed, staring at the havoc that was on the ground. Multiple corpses were on the ground which had large crevices from the powerful attacks.

Void was perched on Grey's shoulder like usual, while Ellis looked around with a solemn look, by his side, was a man who looked half beaten to death. It was none other than the bandit's leader. But, he was almost unrecognizable.

"*Sigh* How did you two do it?" Ellis sighed before turning to Grey and Void.

He just couldn't believe that two fighters could cause this much chaos on a battlefield. If the duo were thrown into a real battlefield, they are bound to be hated by their opponents.

A mission that seemed like a death sentence was cleared just like.

Grey and Void looked at the ground before replying simultaneously.

"Pressure,"

"Loot,"

Although the duo spoke at the same time, Ellis had no issues differentiating what Grey said and what Void said.

"I tend to thrive under pressure," Grey added.

"I'm motivated by loot," Void didn't want to be left out so he explained as well.

Grey rolled his eyes when he heard Void's words. He sat down on the ground, winded from the battle. He couldn't deny it, he truly outdid himself this time.

"I think I'll need to rest for a while before we can continue," He said to Ellis.

"Yeah, me too, I'm feeling sleepy already," Void said.

"It's okay, you two can rest up, I'll keep guard. Also, thank you for your help," Ellis thanked the duo.

If not for them, he wasn't even fifteen percent sure he would make it back alive.

Grey nodded before closing his eyes, entering a meditation state, while Void appeared on his crossed legs and started to sleep.

"You, what do you want with me?" The bandit's leader asked Ellis after the duo were out.

Chapter 555 - Dragon Insignia

"To complete my mission," Ellis replied before knocking out the bandit's leader.

After knocking him out, he removed the spatial ring on his finger.

"*Sigh* This collapse has made us lose a lot of things," He sighed while looking at where the hideout was previously located.

Thanks to the collapse, there was no way to get in, unless he wanted to destroy the place even more.

He waved his hand, and tentacles made of water sprouted out from the ground just in front of him. The tentacles stretched into the battlefield, removing the rings on the corpses of the dead bandits.

Although Ellis helped the duo after defeating the bandit leader, he still found their strength astonishing.

Later that day.

Grey and Void were back to normal. Seeing that they were awake, Ellis handed all the spatial rings to them.

"What's this?" Grey asked with a confused expression.

"The loot, this is all the rings I could salvage," Ellis replied, he separated one of the rings, "This is the one the leader wore, so it should have more items in it,"

Void was about to rush the rings when Grey stopped him, "We did this together, there's no way we would take all the loot,"

"That's nice of you, but I don't need it, you two can share them," Ellis said, refusing Grey's offer.

"Destroy them then, since you don't want a share of them, then there's no use in keeping it," Grey said resolutely.

Even though he was slightly interested in the loot since he was already almost out of essence stones, he wouldn't take all the rewards when Ellis also helped in the battle.

"Fine, sheesh! We'll share them," Ellis gave up, before taking the rings.

The best way to share them is by taking out all the items from each storage ring and evaluating their value.

Grey was short on stones, so he needed more of that. Void, well, all he wanted were shiny things. Ellis wasn't interested in the loot, so he wasn't really expecting to take anything of importance from them.

He planned to take the less useful things and give rest to the duo.

There was a total of twenty-three rings, and other than the one owned by the bandit's leader, the rest didn't have any owners, so it could be easily accessed by anyone.

Ellis brought out all the items from those rings, and there were multiple elemental weapons, techniques, a few books about arrays, thousands of essence stones, some herbs, fruits, and plants. There was even a book on forge mastering.

Ellis, recalling Grey's love for arrays, handed him the book about arrays, and forge mastering. Void, as he wanted, got first picks on the shiny things. He picked up a shiny bright pearl which seemed to be able to light up even the darkest nights.

Ellis randomly picked up an elemental sword, keeping it in his spatial ring. They continued sharing the loot, with Grey going for the essence stones right after getting the array and forge mastering books. Void like before went for shiny things, but this time, it was an elemental weapon that was in the shape of a star.

They continued in this fashion until they picked up all the items from the storage ring, now, it was time to take out the items that were in the spatial ring of the bandit's leader.

Grey and Void looked on expectantly, being someone who had robbed a lot of people, the bandit's leader is bound to have great items stored in his storage ring.

"Come on, open it," Void urged.

"It'll take some time since the owner is still alive, it will take some time to alter it," Ellis explained while closing his eyes, sending his spiritual senses into the ring.

He used his spiritual sense to locate where the bandit's leader's consciousness was on the ring, before forcibly destroying it.

Thud! Splat!

The bandit's leader fell on his knees, before spitting out a mouthful of blood as his face turned paler than it previously was.

"Why didn't you just tell me to remove it myself?!" He yelled in pain while clutching his aching head.

"If I did that, we wouldn't be able to see you in this state, now would we?" Ellis asked with a smirk.

The bandit's leader gritted his teeth angrily, with veins popping up on the side of his head. If looks could kill, then Ellis and the duo would've been dead already.

"You're crazy, all of you! You'll die young!" The bandit's leader continued swearing at the trio.

Grey couldn't help but wish Klaus were here. With Klaus' vile tongue, he might curse this man to the stage of wanting to commit suicide. Especially since he couldn't move.

Ellis and Grey didn't bother to reply to him, as they stared at the items they brought out from the ring. Ellis couldn't deny it, he was a little tempted by the things he was seeing.

There were high-grade elemental weapons, tonics, rare rocks, beast cores, beast corpses, rare techniques, there was even a space and light element technique in the items, thousands of high-grade essence stones, herbs, fruits with powerful effects, plants.

The things they were all seeing were worth a fortune. Ellis' eyes were spread wide open because he couldn't believe how wealthy the bandit's leader was.

"Who did you rob?" He turned to ask in shock.

Even for someone in a big family like his, he still found it difficult not to feel shocked by the items he was seeing.

"Go f**k yourself!" The bandit's leader spat on the ground in disgust.

"Fine, since you're not saying, Void," Ellis sneered while stepping back.

On hearing his name, Void knew it was his time to shine.

"Hehehe, prepare yourself for a world of pain," He laughed evilly while walking towards the man and swinging his tail from side to side.

Grey shook his head as he saw Void's reaction.

'He just loves torturing people,' He thought wryly.

The bandit's leader's scream soon started to echo in the silent Suyin Canyons.

Grey and Ellis were watching as Void tortured him. It didn't take long for him to crack before spilling out everything.

"A special carriage?" Ellis asked.

"Yes, it had an insignia in the shape of a dragon," The bandit leader nodded obediently.

"Crap! When did you rob them?" Ellis asked, evidently worried.

"A few days back," The bandit's leader replied.

"We're leaving, now! " Ellis roared while picking up the bandit's leader and running.

Chapter 556 - The Vaergahl Family

"Oh, Grey, destroy the corpses," Ellis' voice came from afar.

Grey sent out a wide-range fire attack that quickly burned the corpses to ashes before running after Ellis. He didn't know why Ellis reacted the way he did, but he was certain that this family with the dragon insignia wasn't anything good.

The next morning.

A group of over thirty people arrived, two old men with white and black hair respectively, a few middle-aged men and some young men and girls in their teens. Looking at the destruction in the area, they knew a battle occurred not too long ago, and seeing how there was no one here, the bandits were most likely wiped out.

"Do you know who might've done this?" The old man with black hair asked.

"No, but I believe if the bandits were wiped out, we'll hear of it soon enough," A middle-aged man replied.

"Okay, send scouts to the towns, villages, and cities nearby, we must get back that vial of blood," The old man said with clenched fists before disappearing.

The other one with white hair disappeared as well.

"How could you be so careless, didn't you tell them the name of our family?" The middle-aged man turned to one of the young men in the group.

It was a boy who looked to be around fifteen to seventeen years old. He had the same features as the middle-aged man who was scolding him, only younger looking.

"I told them, father, but they threatened to kill us, while also saying that we were lying," The young man said apologetically.

"*Sigh* Whoever defeated them shouldn't be too far away. If my guess is correct, this battle took place at least two days ago. Spread out, we must recover the item," The middle-aged man said, turning to look at everyone present.

"Yes, My Lord!" Everyone answered in unison before going in different directions, leaving only five people left in the canyon.

The middle-aged man, two middle-aged ladies, the young man who was his son, and another youth who was older than the young man.

"We should search this place, maybe they might mistake it for something meaningless and leave it in their hideout," The middle-aged man said.

With a snap of his hand, all the destroyed rocks flew into the air, floating in the sky as if held by a powerful force.

The group walked into the destroyed hideout, combing through every part of it.

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While all these were happening, Ellis and Grey were already at the gate of the Mostar City.

"Finally, we're back," Ellis breathed out a sigh of relief when he saw the gates of the city.

"Can you try to at least tell me why we're running?" Grey asked.

They've been running since the previous night, well, he was the one who did the running, Ellis could fly so he wasn't too bothered.

"Oh right, the Vaergahl family. They believe they're a family related to dragons, weird right?" Ellis explained as they walked into the city.

Ellis was from a well known family, and being someone who is regarded as one of the most talented individuals to ever grace the city, he had quite a high status here, even amongst his peers.

The guards at the city gates welcomed him with smiles, while occasionally waving at him. They didn't even ask who the man on his shoulder was, it was none of their business.

Grey continued to listen to Ellis' explanation about the Vaergahl family. According to him, the family was said to have come after a human and a Dragon that was able to turn human got together. The child they gave birth to was said to be the greatest genius of his time. But the Dragons didn't want their bloodline to be contaminated by humans, so they forcibly took the child, but the parents managed to escape later on and start up a family once again.

But the purity of the second child's bloodline wasn't as strong as the first, and since they were in hiding, the Dragons were unable to locate them. They managed to grow to a powerful extent before finally coming out after hundreds of years in hiding. It didn't take long before they laid a stronghold for themselves.

Some people didn't believe the story, but because they didn't want to make the mistake of offending people related to Dragons, they let them be. One thing was also certain though, they were powerful in their own rights as well, and even the biggest families in the continent wouldn't want to go head to head against them.

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When Ellis made mention of the Vaergahl family name, the bandit leader who he was carrying on his shoulder started to shake uncontrollably from fear. He knew this name, but when the youths told him about it, he thought they were only using it as a means of protection and didn't think much of it, only now did he understand the severity of his crimes.

Now, he was actually grateful that Ellis and Grey defeated them, if not, he would've seen far worse things at the hands of the Vaergahl family.

"Hmm, well, it has nothing to do with us, it's not like we were the ones who robbed them," Grey said.

Although the story was quite intriguing, he didn't want to think much about it for now. The main thing is to get to the O'Brien family compound and see if he could help out Ellis' father.

"As long as we're in my family compound, they can't do anything to us," Ellis led the group further into the city.

They headed towards the eastern part of the city.

Given the size of the city, it took them almost one hour before they got to their destination. It was a luxurious-looking mansion that gave off an ancient aura. This goes to show just how old the building was.

This was the O'Brien family, one of the oldest and most powerful families in Mostar City and the entire Southern Continent.

Chapter 557 - O'Brien Mansion

"Welcome back, Young Lord," The guards at the mansion's gate bowed respectfully when they saw Ellis.

Ellis smiled at them before walking in with Grey and Void. The bandit's leader was still on his shoulder.

After they went in.

The guards looked at each other before sighing in pity. Everyone in the city knew what was going on in the O'Brien family. The guards in particular are aware of the hard tasks the Elders are sending Ellis out to accomplish.

Every time they see him head out, they would always pray for his safe return, and it looks like their prayer worked once again.

Grey walked into the compound, staring around curiously. Void was the same, only, the moment he sensed some terrifying auras, he hid his aura, making it seem as if he was a regular cat. The people he sensed were people who could kill him with a sneeze.

He was certain that even with his elemental mastery of the space element, he still wouldn't be able to escape before he died.

'Grey, be careful here, there are powerful people here,' Void warned.

'I know, this is one of the most powerful families in the entire Southern Continent, and in the Aurora Continent as well, you don't expect them to be weak, do you?' Grey already knew what he was getting himself into.

His only worry is how Ellis would be able to sneak him into his father's room without being noticed by the people around. From what is happening with Ellis in the family, it is easy to tell that he wasn't welcomed by the Elders since they're trying so hard to kill him.

They didn't get too far before a young man around the same age as Ellis walked out from the west wing of the mansion. When he saw Ellis, a look of surprise appeared on his face momentarily, before quickly changing to a smile.

"You're back, I knew you would make it back," The young man flashed a bright smile before walking towards Ellis.

"I survived by fluke," Ellis said, putting on a fake smile.

"It doesn't matter, the important thing is that you're back. Father would be proud," The young man said while approaching Ellis.

"Yeah, I bet he will," Ellis said sarcastically.

"Come on, don't be like that, you know Father is only doing this to test your strength, you were gone for so long that everyone thought you were dead. Even the Family Head as well," The young man smiled before staring at Grey and the bandit's leader curiously.

"I suppose this is the bandit leader, but who is he?" He asked while pointing at Grey.

"A friend," Ellis said before he continued moving.

"Oh, it's nice to meet you. I'm Keal, Ellis' cousin," Keal stretched out his hands.

"Grey," Grey shook his hand before following Ellis' lead.

"Where's Uncle?" Ellis stopped to ask.

"Father's in the hall, he's discussing some matters with the Elders and some guests," Keal replied.

Ellis continued moving once again.

Grey already sensed the hostility between the two, so he didn't even bother to ask. All that was important to him in the O'Brien family was Ellis, his friend, nothing else.

They walked into the main building, after going through the hallway, they stopped in front of a huge door.

"Wait here," Ellis said to Grey before pushing the door open and walking in.

After getting in, his facial expression changed when he saw the sitting position of the people gathered here.

There were around fifteen people here, three of them were not from his family, but he was familiar with them, while the other twelve were from his family. What he found annoying was that a certain middle-aged man was seated on the middle seat, which was reserved for only the Family Head.

"Uncle, my father is still alive," Ellis said coldly, trying to reign in his anger.

"Boy, speak with respect when talking to me. I'm the acting Family Head since that terrible illness happened to your father, I have every right to sit here," The middle-aged man said coolly.

He didn't raise his voice or scold Ellis even though Ellis sort of provoked him.

"I can see that you're back from your mission, good. If you want to take over from your father someday, then you have to be the very best of your generation," The middle-aged man said.

Everyone in the hall kept quiet, looking at Ellis and his uncle.

"Hmph!" Ellis snorted coldly but didn't say a word.

"Here's the bandit's leader who terrorized travelers in the Suyin Canyon," He dropped the man on his shoulder.

"I'm amazed by your strength since you were able to single-handedly deal with this powerful group. Tell me, how did you do it?" The middle-aged man asked.

"I was lucky," Ellis replied, not willing to speak any further.

"Hmm, and who's the young man standing outside?" The middle-aged man let the matter slide before asking about Grey who was standing outside.

"A friend," Ellis replied.

"And why would you bring a friend of yours into the mansion when you know how things are?" The middle-aged man squinted his eyes.

"It's none of your business," Ellis turned around and left decisively.

"Hmm, youths, so feisty," The middle-aged man laughed softly with a cold light flashing through his eyes. He turned to the people in the hall, "Alright, where were we?"

"What do you plan to do with me?" The bandit's leader suddenly spoke up.

Swoosh! Thud!

"Continue," The middle-aged man didn't even look at the bandit's leader.

On the head of the bandit's leader was a hole the size of a finger. He was dead.

The people in the hall didn't take him for much and continued their conversation. A guard was summoned to dispose of the body.

After Ellis came out of the hall, he took Grey towards the right-wing of the mansion.

"My father is kept in the main building, but my uncle ensured that the security around is very tight. It will be almost impossible to sneak you in. And the use of the space element would be difficult since there's a powerful Space Elementalist in the building, my third Uncle," Ellis explained the situation of the mansion to Grey.

Grey nodded attentively while taking a good note of everywhere in the mansion.

Chapter 558 - Dragon Blood

"So, how do we get in?" Grey asked after they walked into Ellis' room.

"We'll walk there. I'll try to distract the guards there. It shouldn't be too difficult," Ellis replied, he added after a while, "The only problem now is getting my father to trust you since he doesn't know you, and I can't go in with you, well, not immediately though,"

"Hmm, okay. But can't you see him whenever you want?" Grey asked, he found all these strange.

"My uncle doesn't allow it, he uses the excuse of my father needing rest to stop me from going," Ellis gritted his teeth angrily.

Grey shook his head when he heard this.

'I've always hated big families, they always fight against each other for control over the family.' He thought.

For some reason, he felt grateful that he wasn't from such a big family. He didn't even know anyone else other than his parents.

"Okay, so when are we going?" He asked.

"We should wait for a while, I believe my uncle will be leaving the mansion soon to attend to some things. Since those three are here, then there's a chance that he would leave," Ellis replied.

Grey nodded and didn't say anything more, since there was nothing to do for now, he decided to study the items they got from the bandit leader's storage ring. It was worth mentioning that there were some good books on arrays, and he still hasn't been able to remove the mark the necromancer placed on him.

Luckily, he hadn't encountered any other necromancers since the last one he met at the ruin.

While he was going through the book on arrays, the O'Brien family had made the announcement of Ellis successfully eliminating the bandits of the Suyin Canyon. These bandits were pretty famous, and given how they've terrorized the people who travel through that road, especially merchants, they couldn't help but be excited and feel grateful towards the O'Brien family.

This was all the doing of Ellis' uncle, according to his words, it would make more people trust them, thereby giving them more power in the region.

Ellis wasn't aware of all this, as he too was going through the items he collected from the bandit leader's ring. There were some things he was interested in, and Grey willingly gave them to him.

Void was mostly interested in shiny things, and one small rock in particular. He even wanted to trade all the items he got for that rock. Grey and Ellis tried to study the rock, but they noticed there was nothing abnormal about it. But Grey knew otherwise, Void wouldn't be so worked up over something normal.

For someone who has a high taste in things, with the exception of shiny things, it was strange to see him wanting an ordinary rock so badly.

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Ellis' room.

'Oh Void, what's in that rock that you wanted so badly?' Grey suddenly recalled it while in the middle of his study and asked.

'Hehehe, blood,' Void laughed sinisterly as he replied.

'Eh? Blood? What the hell do you need blood for? And who's blood is in it?' Grey's head went blank for a moment as he never expected an answer like this.

'A Dragon's blood. I shouldn't be mistaken, this is one hundred percent a Dragon's blood, and here it is, in my hands. Hehehe,' Void laughed as he showed off the rock to Grey.

Knowing what was inside, Grey was astonished. He couldn't help but recall a certain Ice Dragon he encountered in the trial land.

'What do you plan to do with it?' He asked.

'Refine it of course, it'll help enhance my abilities greatly. Although a Dragon's bloodline is nowhere near mine, I will manage it,' Void said proudly.

Grey chuckled when he heard this, he still didn't know what Void truly was. He had never heard of a cat hatching from an egg before, but he saw it with his eyes so he couldn't deny it. It was also common knowledge that Dragons were at the top of the al Beasts' world, but Void said he was just as powerful as Dragons.

'Are you sure it's safe for you to use?' He asked worriedly.

'Of course, I can also lend you some as well. Dragons have one of the strongest bodies and bones in the world, if you can refine even a tiny bit of their blood, then your physical strength will improve tremendously!' Void said.

He knew Grey's physical strength was not like other Elementalists, he was far stronger than them when it came to this, almost on the same level as al Beasts.

'Really? Isn't this going to be harmful to me?' Grey asked. If what Void said was true, then he wouldn't even think twice before using it.

'Would I give you anything that would harm you?' Void rolled his eyes before keeping the rock.

Grey shook his head, 'Since that's the case, fine.'

'We can't use it here, once I remove the seal from this rock, then everyone around will sense it. We'll have to wait until we get to somewhere safe, alone,' Void explained.

Grey thought about it for a while before nodding. He wasn't in a hurry anyway. He checked his ring, seeing all the essence stones inside, he thought of how he was going to be able to go back to the Azure Continent.

"Hey, how did you go to the Azure Continent?" He turned to Ellis.

"It was accidentally, so I can't really be sure if you can use it as well. But I can take you to the teleportation array I used," Ellis replied.

"Alright, once we're done here, you'll take me there. I need to go back to the Azure Continent," Grey said.

....

Some kilometers away from Mortar City.

Outside a small town.

A group could be seen walking out of the town. It was the same group who went to the Suyin Canyon after Grey and Ellis left.

A figure suddenly appeared before them.

"My Lord, there's news about who wiped out the bandits," The person bowed before speaking.

"Where?" The old man asked.

"Mortar City, a young genius from the O'Brien family," The person replied.

"Fine, it's been a while since we visited our friends in Mortar City, let's go,"

Chapter 559 - Sneaking Around In The O'Brien Mansion

Mortar City.

Later that day.

Grey was still going through the book on arrays when Ellis suddenly approached him.

"Come on, let's go," Ellis said.

"Hmm," Grey raised his head to stare at the figure of Ellis. He could sense anxiety in his friend's demeanor, "I'm not fully certain that it will work, so don't get your hopes up, yet,"

"I know, but no one has said they could help with this, so even if you're not successful with what you want to try, I won't blame you," Ellis nodded.

"It's good you understand," Grey said before following Ellis out of the room. On their way out, Ellis started to tell him about his family and the problem with his uncle.

Ellis' uncle was out of the mansion, just as he predicted, and this was the best time he had to take Grey over to his father. Even though his father and uncle are brothers, because of who would lead the family, they started to drift apart.

The drift became more apparent when Ellis was born, he was on a whole new level when compared to his uncle's son who was a year older. Even as a child, everyone could tell that he would be more talented than his brother. The only consolation he got was Ellis somewhat feminine voice, but it didn't change anything. In the end, it was just as everyone predicted, Ellis was well ahead of his cousin in terms of strength and talent.

Ellis had an elder brother and sister, but they were both killed when they went out for a mission a few years after he was born. It was a strange event in the family, but at that time, they were dealing with an enemy, and they knew the chances of them being killed by the said enemy was very high.

The O'Brien family isn't the most loved family across the Aurora Continent, it was evident from how Ellis told Grey not to ask of them in other continents apart from the Southern.

According to Ellis, one of his family's ancestors made a mistake during the great war of the gods, causing heavy casualties to the other families. Even though he rectified it at the cost of his own life, it still wasn't enough to dispel the hatred and doubt that grew in the minds of the other families.

Some of the families thought it was a plot to weaken their strength, even to this day they still speak ill of the O'Brien family. The Southern Continent is the home of the O'Brien family, but if they go out of the continent, they're mindful of their actions since they weren't really on the good side of the other families.

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Grey was both shocked and astounded by what he was hearing, it was only after hearing this did he realize why Ellis told him not to speak of the O'Brien family outside of the Southern Continent. If he had made the mistake, then he might've been attacked by some people who still held a grudge against them.

They continued speaking as Ellis took him through the long hallway, going through a series of doors before getting to a larger hallway.

"Wait," Ellis stopped, peeping ahead of them to see what was ahead of them.

Grey could hear at least three voices, but he was still behind so he didn't know which people were there, nor if they had gotten to where they were going.

"Alright, I'll try to see if I can distract the guards. I'll take them to the next hallway, but you will only have a timeframe of a few seconds or a minute at least to enter the room," Ellis said.

Grey nodded, before preparing himself for his task.

"Oh, before I forget, there's an array that would notify the Elders once someone new enters the room. It's made to sense the essence of the person going in, so you can't escape it," Ellis added.

Grey paused, staring at Ellis with a long face.

"What? I forgot about it since I'm part of the family. You're lucky I remembered now, what if you went in without knowing this?" Ellis raised a brow.

Grey shook his head before dragging Ellis back and taking his position.

"I'll try to study the array from here and see how I can maneuver through it," Grey said.

"Okay, but try to be fast. Time's not something we have right now," Ellis looked behind them warily.

Grey gently sent out his spiritual senses, slowly taking it over to where the room was located. He made sure to avoid the guards who were standing at the front of the door. If his spiritual sense was to touch them, they would definitely sense it, given their strength.

As soon as his spiritual senses got close to the room, he started to feel the array in the room. The array almost gave off the alarm, luckily, he called back his spiritual senses quickly.

'Hmm, I'll still need to probe it a few more times before trying to block it,' Grey thought while running multiple simulations of arrays in his head before he tried to probe the array once again.

Just like the first time, the array almost gave off the alarm, but he quickly called back his spiritual senses. After a minute-plus of probing repeatedly, Grey managed to think of a way to slightly escape the array. But only after trying will he know if it would work.

"Aren't you ready yet?" Ellis asked while looking around.

"I'm not too confident about it. Although I don't like doing things I'm not certain of, we have no choice. Come on, let's go," Grey said.

Ellis nodded before jokingly saying, "Even if you were caught, I'll come out to take the blame. At most my uncle will kick me out of the family, he has been searching for an opportunity since I returned,"

"Let's hope it doesn't get to that stage," Grey said before taking in a deep breath.

Seeing that Grey was ready, Ellis walked out, heading towards the three guards at the door.

"Three of you, come with me, I noticed something a few rooms away," Ellis ordered.

"I'm sorry Young Lord, but we can't leave our position, you can call the other guards," One of the guards said.

"I wonder what my uncle will say when he finds out that because of you three, a thief infiltrated the mansion," Ellis sneered before turning around decisively.

Now, it was time to see if his plan will work or not.

Chapter 560 - A Visit From The Vaergahl Family

The guards exchanged glances, after thinking about it properly, they knew they couldn't afford to leave the matter as it is.

"You two, go with the Young Lord, I'll stay behind," One of the guards said.

Since they were three, it wasn't really necessary for all three of them to leave the place, two should be enough.

"I said all three of you, are you defying my orders now just because my father is ill?" Ellis asked coldly while giving off a chill aura.

Chilled smoke started to circulate across the hallway, spreading around.

Grey and Void who were at the side felt as if they wanted to freeze to death.

The guards gritted their teeth, with no other option, they agreed to follow Ellis. Since Ellis said the place wasn't far from here, they could come back quickly in case of anything. Then there's also the array that was set by one of the oldest Elders in the family. He was an array master, so it was almost impossible for anyone to go through it without alarming him.

Most people won't even sense the presence of an array in the room until it's too late.

Ellis took the guards to the other side of the hallway, disappearing in the corner. Grey and Void who were hiding came out from their spot, walking towards the room cautiously.

'Can you hide from it?' Grey asked.

'No, the sensing system of this one is different from the one in that city, so there's no way I can,' Void replied.

'Hmm, alright. Guess I'll have to take the risk then,' Grey steeled his mind, praying for the best while preparing for the worst.

If things don't go as planned, he will hastily move towards Ellis' father and try to see if he could help him before he would be captured by the people in the mansion.

He held the doorknob, while preparing an array that he would use to slightly alter the array in the room. His plan wasn't to disable the array but to create a loophole in it so he can easily access it without being sensed. If it works, then he can stay here for as long as he wants and no one will know he was there.

Creak...

He opened the door slowly, and soon as a small space opened up, he sent the array he created into the room, hoping it might be able to work.

With fingers crossed, and a calm expression, he waited for the outcome of his experiment.

'Hmm,' He raised his head slightly as a smile appeared on his face.

He soon opened the door to the room and disappeared into it.

Ellis and the guards came back the same moment he just closed the door, but no one noticed this.

"Looks like I made a mistake," Ellis shook his head.

The guards smiled awkwardly but didn't speak any further. Opting to stay in their positions.

Ellis didn't stay any longer, he walked towards the spot Grey and Void were hiding, seeing the place empty, he heaved a sigh of relief.

He muttered some words as he walked towards his room. Now, all he had to do was wait for Grey. He felt leaving the room should be easier than going in, but just to be on the safe side, Grey gave him one of the communication devices he made so they could communicate without speaking out, unlike the ones they have here.

....

Outside the O'Brien mansion.

At the time Grey was stepping into Ellis' father's room, an uninvited guest appeared in front of the compound's gate. With the Dragon insignia boldly crested on their clothes, it was easy for the guards to identify the group. It was the Vaergahl family.

The facial expressions of the guards changed slightly.

"Is Thoma in?" The old man with white hair asked.

The guards nodded. They could feel an oppressive aura radiating from the old man, not just him, but every other person standing here. It was just like the oppressive aura high-ranked al beasts give off. It was suffocating.

"Your Young Lord defeated the bandits in Suyin Canyon, correct?" The old man raised a brow.

"Yes," One of the guards nodded.

"Alright, tell him and Thoma to come out, we have things to discuss," The old man said.

"Sir... you... see... the family..."

"Whatever you want to discuss with my brother, you can speak with me," A voice suddenly resounded, not too loud, but everyone heard it perfectly.

A figure soon appeared close to the Vaergahl family group. It was Ellis' uncle, he was back.

"Claude, it's been a while," The old man said.

"I can say the same for you old man, who would've thought that you were still alive," Claude laughed as he spoke.

"You're still alive, why would you think I'll be dead?" The old man sneered.

From their exchange, it was evident that they've encountered each other in the past.

"Where are my manners, please, come inside. It's an honor to be visited by the prestigious Vaergahl family," Claude welcomed the group in.

"Hmph! Mannerless as always," A middle-aged man in the group snorted coldly.

"Still feeling angry about our little bout?" Claude asked with a smirk as he walked into the compound.

"You were lucky, nothing more," The middle-aged man said coldly.

"A win is a win, take it or leave it," Claude said with a grin as he directed the group into the main building, taking them to the hall.

....

In the hall.

Everyone took their seats, and Claude sitting in the chair designated for the family head didn't escape the eyes of the people seated here.

"Now, what can my family do for you?" Claude went straight to the point.

"Your nephew wiped out the bandits in Suyin Canyon, correct?" The old man asked.

"Oh, you've heard of his exploits as well, how wonderful," Claude smiled, "Don't tell me you're here to congratulate us for raising another prodigy?"

"He has something that belongs to us, we want it back," The old man said.

"Hmm, something of yours?" Claude's expression turned serious.

"Yes," The old man nodded.

Claude looked around the hall for a while before summoning the guard outside, "Tell Ellis he's needed here,"