

Affinity 571

Chapter 571 - Refining The Dragon Blood Essence

"This should be safe," Void said standing in front of a cave.

Grey looked around before nodding his head, this place was relatively quiet, and all the beasts he could sense around them were still in the Arcane Plane. It's been a while since he encountered anything in the Arcane Plane, and it was kind of weird for him.

'Looks like this isn't the al Beasts' forest,' He thought before setting up an array around the cave. He made two arrays actually, one to protect them, and the other to not only conceal their aura but the aura of the Dragon's blood essence as well.

A high leveled beast's blood essence was a great tonic for low leveled beasts, so even if they caught a little whiff of it, they would go crazy trying to consume it.

'*Sigh* If only I could conceal this mark,' Grey thought to himself while touching his shoulder.

Even with his new knowledge of arrays, he had still been unable to hide it. He even asked for help from the Elder in the O'Brien family, but they were unable to bring up something tangible. All their efforts failed in the end, and he couldn't help but give up.

Instead of wasting his time on it, he would take the opportunity to learn other things from the old man. The old man was very nice since he willingly taught him a lot about arrays that he had learned over the years.

Grey and Void entered the cave and Void took out the rock. He tapped on it lightly and the rock started to crack.

Just from the small crack that appeared on it, an alarming energy leaked out, shocking Grey to his core. He couldn't believe something like this could be concealed so well.

The thought of it amazed him, if the person who concealed this helped him out, then he should be able to conceal the mark.

The rock soon disappeared, and a single drop of blood could be seen floating mid-air.

"Normally, it shouldn't be possible for a human to be able to use this, but you're different, so you shouldn't have any problems, at most you'll die," Void said.

Grey almost fell on the ground when he heard the last part of Void's statement.

What the hell did he mean by at most he'll die? Does he look like someone who would want to risk his life unnecessarily?

"You should be fine, just try it," Void shared the blood essence into two before taking half to one end of the cave and refining it.

Grey stared at the blood essence for a few seconds, unsure of what to do.

"Forget it, I'll take the risk. With the help of the orb, I should be fine," He said before grabbing the other half of the blood essence.

As soon as he held onto it, a massive wave of pressure descended on him, but it soon subsided thanks to the orb which started rotating at full speed. This further gave Grey the confidence that he should be fine with absorbing it.

With everything set, he sat in a crossed leg position and slowly started to refine the blood essence. He wasn't transferring the energy to his core, instead, he was using it to improve the strength of his physical body.

Dragons are known for their strong body and immense physical strength, if this could help him attain something like that, he would be happy.

The blood essence slowly entered his body, before running through his blood vessels. He experienced excruciating pain as the blood entered his blood vessel. The force was so much that it actually destroyed

his blood vessel. He healed almost instantly, but it destroyed it once again, not just that, but his skin was also being broken as well from the force of the blood.

The speed at which it was moving increased as time went on. The pain continued, but he gritted his teeth and endured it.

Time slowly passed and day soon turned night.

Even with so many hours going by, he still hadn't completely absorbed the blood essence.

Void's blood essence was already more than halfway used up.

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The next day.

Boom!

A powerful aura spread out with Grey in the middle, cracks appeared on the wall of the cave, and the arrays he made outside shattered.

"Oh, you're awake," Void said when sensed the aura Grey was giving off.

"Hmm, how long has it been?" Grey asked while looking around.

There was a difference in his aura, he was like a Dragon that was concealing itself, waiting to show off its magnificence.

"A day, I think," Void replied.

"How did it go?" He asked.

He already knew the answer, but he also wanted to hear it from Grey's mouth.

"Very well, I'm already almost on the brink of breaking through to the Overlord Plane, all I need is to crack the last bead," Grey replied.

Unlike other people who needed to crack their beads once, he had to slowly crack his beads then integrate the power into his body. This was why he had been unable to break through to the Overlord Plane even after trying so hard previously.

After finding out the technique, he started breaking his beads. His strength increases every time he breaks a bead. From his estimation, even after breaking through to the Overlord Plane, his strength wouldn't increase by too much.

"You're like a beast right now. You can easily hide in the midst of beasts and not be noticed, well not if they look at you," Void commented.

Grey retracted the aura he was releasing, "It's not bad. It should come in handy later in the future,"

"Do you plan on infiltrating a beast's abode? Cause if you do, I'm up for it too," Void asked excitedly.

"No one's infiltrating anywhere, come on, let's see how things have been in this place," Grey stepped out of the cave, ready to search for his friends.

Locating them wasn't a problem for him though, thanks to the tracking device they all had with them.

Chapter 572 - First Time In The Azure Empire

Grey and Void left the woods, heading towards the town close to them.

He decided to bring out his communication device to see how many times his friends had tried to contact him, and the moment he sent in his senses, he was flooded with so many messages that he had to remove it immediately. He could barely hear a word.

'Hmm, is it broken?' He thought to himself as he stared at it.

Well, it's been over seven months since he left, and his friends must have tried to contact him countless times. He recalled the situation before he left wasn't too friendly since the Emperor was trying to capture them. He still didn't know the motive of the Emperor, but he didn't really care.

With the world he had been introduced to in the Aurora Continent, staying here was just limiting himself.

If his friends weren't here, he was almost a hundred percent certain he wouldn't return, unless he didn't find his parents in the Aurora Continent.

They soon got to the town closest to the woods, and Grey was stumped when he found people dressed in warriors' uniforms mounting the place. He was a little shocked by it, but then again, he didn't think too much of it.

He had forgotten about the war which was said to be looming across the Continent.

"This should be a good place to get information, I want to know where we are," Grey muttered as he walked towards the town.

Where he was going to appear wasn't fixed, Void only knew the coordinates back to the Azure Continent. So when they returned, they were transported back randomly. The only thing Void made sure of was that they didn't appear anywhere near the al Beasts' forest.

The only time he's been there, he sensed some powerful auras that even with his proud personality, he didn't want to offend, well, for now.

Grey and Void got to the gate that led into the town within a few minutes. His mask was still on his face, and since he couldn't sense the aura of anyone over the Early stages of the Overlord Plane, he didn't bother to hide Void.

Unlike when he left for the Aurora Continent, presently, he could easily kill someone in the Early stages of the Overlord Plane, so he didn't need to fear. Void was already almost a Peak Rank Five al beast, that was the same as being at the Peak of the Overlord Plane. There are few people who could threaten him here.

On getting to the town's gate, Grey was surprised by what he saw. Four wanted posters were placed on the wall of the gate, three were images of his friends, while the last one was of him, with a cat on his shoulder.

He exchanged looks with Void before turning around, even though he was stronger than the people here, he didn't want to attract their attention. Unfortunately for him, someone already caught sight of him.

"You, stop there!" One of the warriors yelled.

They have been staring at the posters for so long that the images of Grey and his friends had already been etched in their heads.

"Call the leader, tell him we've captured Grey," The warrior said to the one beside him as he rushed towards Grey.

"Can I help you?" Grey asked, trying to act normal.

"Yes, I have some questions for you," The warrior said, as he and the others surrounded Grey.

"Go ahead, I'm all ears," Grey folded his hands when he saw what was happening.

"You're Grey, right?" The warrior asked.

"Nope," Grey shook his head.

There was no way he was going to answer the question honestly. Besides, there's a chance that they might let him go if he said no.

"Stop lying, we can identify you with that cat on your shoulder," The warrior pointed at Void.

"Whoever you're searching for can't possibly be the only person with a black cat," Grey refuted.

While he was speaking with the warriors, the leader of the group arrived. He was the only person in the Overlord Plane, and he was in the Second stage.

"Grey, submit yourself freely or I will have to force you," The leader said, he looked to be in his mid-thirties, an arrogant look on his face.

For someone like him, anyone below the Overlord Plane was nothing more than an insect. He could already sense Grey's stage since Grey wasn't doing anything to hide it, so he knew he was stronger than he was. Well, so he thought.

"Heh? Do you think I'll be scared by the likes of you?" Grey scoffed, not bothered by what the leader was saying.

"Take him down," The leader ordered, his lips curved upwards to form a grin.

"Wait, first of all, where is this?" Grey spread out his hands to stop the warriors from coming any closer.

He still didn't know where he was, and since he just returned, he wasn't too inclined to entertain these people.

"This is the Azure empire, haha, who would've thought that your Emperor would chase you here. I heard that one of your friends is also on his way here as well. Good, we'll round up all four of you and extract your cores," The leader of the warriors laughed out as he said.

"Hmm, this is my first time visiting the Azure empire, no wonder I couldn't recognize the insignia on their uniforms," Grey muttered lightly.

'As if you'll recognize the insignia of the warriors from the Qilin empire,' Void rolled his eyes when he heard Grey's words.

Grey chuckled before staring at the leader, "Since this is my first time here, and I don't have any enmity with the Azure empire, I'll let you all go,"

The leader, as well as the over one hundred warriors, were at a loss of words when they heard Grey's words. There were at least fifteen people at the Peak of the Origin Plane here, and none of them had the guts to say something like this.

"Such boldness, hahaha, I haven't seen anyone that made me laugh this much in a long time," The leader of the warriors burst out laughing.

Grey shook his head when he saw this, before taking a step. He was around fifty meters away from the leader of the warriors, but with a single step, he arrived in front of him.

He raised his right hand and flicked the forehead of the leader.

Swoosh! Bang!

Chapter 573 - Reynolds' Location

Swoosh! Bang!

The leader of the warriors was sent flying, crashing into the gate to the town, destroying it in the process. Only after he crashed into three buildings did he stop moving.

Everything happened so fast that some of the warriors were still in the midst of laughing. From Grey taking a step, to the leader crashing into multiple buildings didn't take more than three seconds.

Given their speed, they should be able to keep up with a Peak Origin Plane Elementalist, but even their leader who was in the Overlord Plane could not.

"Hmm, how come he's so weak?" Grey asked with a thoughtful expression.

His words stunned the warriors close to him.

What did he mean weak? The leader was a bonafide Overlord Plane Elementalist, and he sent him flying with a flick of his finger and he was calling him weak?

He was the one who was freakishly strong!

Grey had completely forgotten that the strength of those Overlord Plane Elementalists in the Aurora Continent was well above that of those here. Although not all Overlord Plane Elementalists here were weak, most of them couldn't fight against someone in the same stage from the Aurora Continent.

The warriors all stared at Grey, not daring to take a single step.

"Well, looks like it's time to go. Oh, where did you say my friend was again?" Grey turned to the warrior nearest to him.

The warrior wanted to speak out, but he was still too frightened from what just happened. He pointed in the direction of the border.

Grey nodded before taking out the tracking device, and just like they said, a light was very close to him.

'I wonder which of them it is,' He thought to himself before disappearing.

Unfortunately for him, he still couldn't fly. Which was annoying given how powerful he already is. Other than when he's in the Fusion State, or when he's using the technique Meteor Descent, he couldn't keep himself afloat without the help of the wind element.

If he uses that, it would slow him down, so he just opted for running away. Of course the warriors didn't see him running because he used the space element to teleport a good distance away. He just created a powerful image of himself in the heads of these people, how embarrassing would it be that they would have to see him running on foot?

After he left.

The warriors finally breathed out a sigh of relief, some of them even held their breaths all through the time he was still there after he sent their leader flying, they were afraid that their breaths might provoke him.

They hurriedly rushed towards where their leader crashed, and their eyes nearly popped out of their heads. The forehead of their leader caved inside, and there was not a single sign of life in him. They all gulped down their saliva as they stared at each other in fear.

The second in command quickly came out, "Quick, send words back to the Capital, Grey has appeared, and his strength is unprecedented,"

Everyone had been searching for Grey for so long that some people had even concluded that he was dead. Now, he didn't only appear sound and healthy, but he was powerful beyond words.

The second in command didn't even know how to rate Grey's strength since all he needed to kill their leader was nothing more than a flick.

The warriors nodded before one of them ran towards a horse, after mounting it, he charged towards the Capital.

Grey and his friends were said to have refined the Great Earth Essence Liquid, and someone in the Capital had a way of extracting the cores of these geniuses. According to what was said, Grey and his friends were geniuses, with the addition of the Great Earth Essence Liquid, they would be far above their peers.

Grey's performance not too long ago was already a testament to how far he had improved thanks to the Great Earth Essence Liquid.

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At the border of the Azure Empire.

Reynolds was currently hiding in a cave, tending to his injuries.

He had been on the run for a while now, and a Fifth stage Overlord Plane Elementalist had been after him for a while now. He was just in the First stage of the Overlord Plane, while his Elemental Warrior had reached the Fifth stage as well.

It is stronger than the Elementalist that was chasing after him, but the Elementalist wasn't alone. With the help of two other Overlord Plane Elementalists, it was difficult for him to escape.

He was already very lucky since he had managed to run away from their encirclement a few times, but he was injured during the last escape. Because of this, he hadn't been able to advance.

If he had a few weeks, then he would be able to break through to the Second stage of the Overlord Plane, and his Elemental Warrior getting to the Sixth stage of the Overlord Plane. Without his Elemental Warrior, he could take on someone in the Third stage of the Overlord Plane while still being in the First stage. He was regarded as a genius who could fight across stages after all.

From the rumors he heard, Alice and Klaus were already in the Second and Third stages of the Overlord Plane. Klaus was the one who had the highest stage, and he could even fight against a Fifth stage Overlord Plane Elementalist.

The time he was caught, it was said that he fought against a Sixth stage Overlord Plane Elementalist for hours, before he was finally defeated. But just as he was being transported to the Capital, a powerful Elementalist appeared, wiping out all the people who caught him.

Reynolds was certain that this powerful Elementalist was none other than the Principal, but he wasn't too sure since the person was said to have wiped out the entire group with nothing more than a simple glance.

An Overlord Plane Elementalist shouldn't be able to do that.

While Reynolds was still healing, he sensed three auras approaching quickly and his expression turned sour.

Chapter 574 - Reynolds' Plan

"Damn it, can't they just let me recover?" Reynolds complained while gulping down a bottle of tonic.

"Crap! Why don't they make these things sweet?" He complained before tossing the vial away, irritated by his current situation.

He prepared himself while wiping the blood that was on the side of his mouth from the previous battle.

He stayed in the cave for as long as he could so he could recover some more before stepping out. Staying inside the cave wouldn't be good for him.

When he stepped outside, he saw three men standing mid-air.

"Hmph! Just come with us calmly," The man in the middle said coldly. His hands were behind him.

"Why don't you fight me one on one if you know you're powerful?" Reynolds demanded coldly, annoyed by the people standing in front of him.

"Heh! I'm not a child, boy, surrender peacefully, and I'll plead with the Emperor to make sure it doesn't hurt when you're being killed," The man smirked.

He knew the strength of Reynolds' Elemental Warrior, if he dared to fight against it on his own, he would lose without a shadow of a doubt. Not just that, but he might be killed as well.

"This is the Azure Empire's territory, if you dare make any moves, we'll kill you," A yell was heard from behind Reynolds.

Reynolds heaved a sigh when he heard this. The reason he made sure his escape route wasn't hidden was so that he could use the people from the Azure Empire to stop the group chasing after him.

His relief soon turned to disbelief when he sensed the stages of the people who came forward. Only one of them was in the Overlord Plane, and he was even in the Early stages.

"Are you for real? You couldn't come with someone more powerful?" Reynolds yelled at the group as they came closer.

Before they could reply, the group from the Qilin empire attacked, not giving them any chances.

Reynolds was forced to help them defend against the group from the Azure Empire.

Even though these people came here for the same purpose as those who chased him, he couldn't let them die, they were currently his only hope of survival. Joining them to fight against this group was better than fighting against the group alone.

Boom! Bang! Bam!

The battle raged on, with the people in the Origin Plane being quickly killed off from the ranks of the Elementarists from the Azure Empire. Now, only the man in the Overlord Plane was left alive. If not for Reynolds' intervention, he would've been killed on numerous occasions.

Reynolds was at a loss for words, he didn't know if these people came to help him, or if they came to cause him more harm. Technically, they did come to cause him harm, but in the current situation, they were more like a drag to him.

In order to keep the man alive, he had been injured again, further weakening him. His Elemental Warrior was keeping the man in the Fifth stage at bay, while he and the man from the Azure Empire were fighting against the two men in the Early stages of the Overlord Plane.

He was not at his best, so he couldn't handle one of them on his own like he previously did, and the man from the Azure Empire was making things a little bit more difficult. However, he still helped on some occasions, else Reynolds would've found an opportunity to kill him.

"Why are you even here?" Reynolds asked angrily when he saw how things were going.

"To take you to our Emperor," The man replied, even though he was being pushed back.

"Well you're doing a really shitty job I must say," Reynolds commented, frustrated by the man's lack of strength.

How could someone in the Overlord Plane be so weak?

"Haha, is this the reason you came all this way, to get help from these fools?" The man fighting against the Elemental Warrior soon realized why Reynolds had been running in this direction.

They had been on Reynolds' trail for over a month now, and it was only until recently that he started to move in this direction. And unlike how he previously hid, this time, he came out in the open so people could know his whereabouts. It was only after these people came out did he finally understand his reasoning.

"Seems like you're not so dumb after all," The man commented.

"Thank you, I can almost say the same for you," Reynolds replied.

The man was stunned by Reynolds' reply, but he quickly kept his temper in check. He had traded blows with Reynolds for a while now, and he knew just how annoying he could be.

According to what he heard, compared to Klaus, Reynolds was a little bit better. Klaus had been said to make one of his pursuers so furious that the man was prepared to forgo the Emperor's order and kill him there and then. Unfortunately for him, it was the cause of his downfall as Klaus capitalized on it.

Boom! Bam!

The man focused on the Elemental Warrior once again, not daring to slack.

Reynolds was fighting hard, protecting himself, as well as the man from the Azure Empire, but his injuries were worsening as time went on.

If things continued like this, then he would truly be captured.

Swoosh!

A wind blade slashed the man from the Azure Empire, sending him flying.

The man crashed into the ground heavily while coughing out a mouthful of blood, on his stomach was a large gash with blood rushing out of it.

Reynolds turned to look at the man, but he quickly covered his body with lightning as he tried to dash into the woods.

Things had gone from bad to worse, he couldn't stay there any longer.

"Heh! You think you can escape from us?" One of the duo fighting against him smirked as they ran towards him.

Reynolds suddenly made a quick turn mid-air, attacking the person closest to him with a powerful lightning spear.

Chapter 575 - Monster! Monster! Monster!

Buzz! Whoosh!

The lightning spear buzzed as it shot through the air, slicing through the wind.

The man who just started to give chase after Reynolds was a Wind Elementalist, but even he wasn't as fast as the lightning spear that was coming at him, and the distance between him and Reynolds was close, so the chances of him escaping were small.

He hastily moved to the side, hoping to make sure the spear didn't hit his vitals. Reynolds could care less about where the spear hit.

As soon as sent the spear towards the man, he braced himself because the other man just sent out an attack on him. He couldn't dodge since he was just turning around, so he was pretty much in the same position as the man he attacked.

Boom! Bang!

Both attacks struck their targets at the same time, sending them flying. The spear stabbed the man on his chest, pinning him to the ground as he was electrocuted by the lightning.

Reynolds on the other hand was slammed into the ground by the brutal attack of the earth hammer his opponent used to strike him down.

A pit was created on the ground where he landed, and just like the man his spear hit, he wasn't moving as well, and blood was running down from his head, ear, as well as his nose, and mouth. He could barely hear what was happening around clearly, and other than a ringing sound, he wasn't really hearing anything else.

The Earth Elementalist who was standing mid-air rushed towards his partner who started to twitch slightly from the shock of the lightning.

Since Reynolds wasn't moving, he thought he was dead, or at least close to it since he was already hurt from their previous battles.

The Wind Elementalist slowly opened his eyes, and mustering all the strength he could, he used the wind element to push his partner to the side.

Buzz! Bang!

A lightning bolt struck from above, hitting the place where the Earth Elementalist was previously standing. The Wind Elementalist was struck by the attack, once again suffering the brunt of a lightning attack.

The lightning spear which was on him was still there and acting like a receptor, it absorbed all the lightning that hit the ground, making sure the Wind Elementalist took a hundred percent of the attack.

"Ah..."

The gruesome scream, followed by the charred body of the Wind Elementalist, as well as the smell of burnt scream sent chills down the spine of the Earth Elementalist.

He turned to look in the direction Reynolds was lying in, and he saw him standing, although he could see that he was barely standing properly.

"You scoundrel! I'll make sure you feel as much pain as he is feeling right now. First of all, I'll break all your bones," The Earth Elementalist grinned evilly as he advanced towards Reynolds.

"Come on, hit me with your best shot," Reynolds said as he staggered while trying to stand properly.

A hammer made from the earth element appeared above Reynolds, but he was too weak to even stand properly, much less defend against this attack.

The hammer swung in his direction.

But just as it was about to hit him, it disintegrated.

"Huh?"

Both Reynolds and the Earth Elementalist exclaimed simultaneously.

"Hey bud, you're in such bad shape, I almost didn't recognize you," A figure appeared beside Reynolds like a ghost.

Who else was it if not Grey?

"What do you mean? I look great," Reynolds refuted, with blood slowly dripping down the side of his mouth.

"Well, that's not your regular appearance, but since you like it, I can make sure you keep it, we good?" Grey joked as he rested on his friend's body.

Reynolds almost fell when Grey rested on his body, but he forced himself to stand properly.

"How I want to look is none of your concern. Besides, where have you been all this while?" Reynolds asked, his expression one of anger.

"Here and there, you know, moving around," Grey replied with a nonchalant look.

"Nice, nice, prepare for a group beating when we reunite," Reynolds nodded as he announced.

"Haha, I don't think that will be possible," Grey laughed as he poked Reynolds on his shoulder.

Reynolds grimaced in pain with his eyes closed.

"You, you're Grey? Haha, looks like the Emperor will reward us richly. You fool, why are you staring at them, take down that brat as well," The man fighting against the Elemental Warrior managed to see Grey and couldn't contain his happiness.

The man who was still standing looked at Grey, a little worried given how Grey not only easily destroyed his attack but also appeared out of thin air.

Void appeared on Reynolds' other shoulder, almost making him faint from the pain.

'Do this two plan on killing me?' He complained inside.

Grey looked at his friend before flashing a smile, "You're hurt, why don't I take it from here,"

After saying that, he took a step forward, but he turned around to hand a vial to Reynolds. It was one of the vials containing a healing tonic they collected from the Blooming Viper.

"Don't drink it all, a drop will be enough," He reminded Reynolds.

"You don't need to make a move, everything is under control," Reynolds took the vial.

"Haha, with your current condition, I'm impressed that you're still standing after I rested on your shoulder," Grey laughed out.

Just as he was about to make a move, Reynolds noticed something that stunned him, Grey was still in the Origin Plane. How could he still be in the Origin Plane?

This question repeated itself in his head over a hundred times in the space of a second.

"Grey, they're in the Overlord Plane you can't de..." Reynolds paused mid-sentence because something unbelievable happened in front of him.

No matter how highly he thought of Grey, never in a thousand years did he think he would be able to easily beat someone in the Second stage of the Overlord Plane, while still being at the Peak stage of the Origin Plane, with nothing more than a finger. But it was happening right before him.

The Earth Elementalist was sent flying with a single flick from Grey.

'Monster! Monster! Monster!' He exclaimed repeatedly in his head.

Chapter 576 - Breaking The Norm

"Show off," Void muttered when he saw how Grey chose to deal with the Earth Elementalist.

He could easily kill him with a powerful attack or even a flashy one, but he picked the simplest method that would leave anyone who didn't know him in awe.

"Hmm, I should do this more often," Grey said to himself as he turned to look at Reynolds.

Reynolds continued staring at him, at a loss for words.

What did he just see? An Origin Plane Elementalist beating an Overlord Plane Elementalist with a finger.

Grey didn't even use any elemental powers, he just outright bullied the man with his immense monstrous physical strength.

What the hell?!

Just when Reynolds felt he was a little better than Grey, this happened.

He couldn't help but shake his head, however, he was beyond happy for his friend. With Grey's current strength, they could run amok in the Azure Empire. If those people in the Sage Plane didn't show up, then they were good.

"You can call back your Elemental Warrior now, I can deal with that guy as well," Grey suggested.

Reynolds snorted, but still quickly called back his Elemental Warrior. He was already almost on the verge of running out of elemental essence, he wasn't going to foolishly keep it active when he could try to recover.

"You, you're not in the Origin Plane," The man who was fighting against the Elemental Warrior said, pointing at Grey.

"Oh, I'm very much still in the Origin Plane, but compared to the Overlord Plane Elementalists I've fought, you're not in the top five hundred, that's plus those in the Early stages," Grey said.

His words sent the hysteric with anger. What did Grey mean by he was not in the top five hundred of Overlord Plane Elementalists he had fought against?

One has to know that he was a high and respected individual in the Qilin Empire, he was only forced into chasing after a youth by the Emperor, and the greed of obtaining a good reward that might help him advance further. He could already open an Academy in the Empire if he wanted, and it wouldn't be regarded as a small Academy given his strength. However, he was being undermined by a small brat in the Origin Plane.

Even if said brat was powerful, he was afraid of him. Besides, it was unheard of that an Origin Plane Elementalist could defeat an Overlord Plane that is already in the Mid stages.

Grey shook his head when he saw the man's behavior, "Hey Rey, how long do you think he will last?"

Reynolds thought for a few seconds before replying with a doubtful expression, "Five minutes?"

"If it was a few months ago, yeah, he might even be able to escape with his life. Hehe, but now," Grey grinned as he turned to look at his opponent, "He doesn't stand a chance,"

If it was before he fought against Lucan, then this man might have had a chance of escaping, but now, he was certain that he could kill him, very quickly for that matter. He was already far more powerful than he was at the time he fought against Lucan.

The man was once again infuriated by Grey's words, and he attacked without holding back.

A stream of fire came crashing down on Grey and Reynolds.

Grey's expression was still its usual nonchalant one, as he threw a fireball that exploded in front of them, blocking the attack of the man easily.

The man was mid-air, so striking him was a little difficult for Grey. Unlike the Aurora Continent where only a selected few Overlord Plane Elementalists could fly, here, Overlord Plane Elementalists had the freedom of flight.

"*Sigh* Such a headache," Grey muttered as he used the wind element to push himself into the air, rushing towards the man as he attacked aggressively.

Boom! Bang!

They exchanged blows, with the man being forced back from the impact of the attack.

His eyes widened as he stared at Grey who was using the wind element to keep himself afloat.

"Impossible! It must be a mistake," He refused to believe that Grey was more powerful than he was.

How could an Origin Plane Elementalist be more powerful than he is? It was unacceptable, even in his grave he will never believe it.

Bam! Boom! Bang!

They continued exchanging blows, and the more blows they traded, the more he was being forced back.

Grey was systematically forcing him down since he couldn't stay mid-air for long.

He suddenly disappeared, appearing in front of the man. He covered his right hand with the fire element, before sending out a powerful punch.

Although the man was caught by surprise, he still acted accordingly, setting a defensive fire screen in front of him. But to his surprise. It broke apart as soon as Grey's hand made contact with it.

Bam! Crash!

He came crashing down, slamming into the ground hard.

Blood dripped from the side of his mouth as he hurried to his feet. His hands were shaking as he tried to use them to block Grey's attack after his fire screen was broken.

'What sort of monster is this?' He questioned in fear.

The appearance of Grey had shaken him to the core. How could an Origin Plane Elementalist be this powerful? No, how could someone so young be this powerful?

Multiple questions were running through his head, but he was certain of one thing, he was no match for the youth standing in front of him. He had to escape.

Grey threw a fire snake his way, and the man smiled, he suddenly recalled one special ability an Overlord Plane Elementalist has that Origin Plane Elementalists will never have, being able to forcibly take control of a weaker Elementalist's elemental attack.

He raised both hands and tried to take control of Grey's attack that was only a few meters away from Grey. But he was in for a greater surprise because the moment he tried to take control of the fire snake, something smacked away his connection with it.

It was a simple smack, but the backlash made him cough up a mouthful of blood.

He was once again forced to defend against Grey's attack.

Chapter 577 - Powerful Fire Elementalist

Bang! Boom!

The man was once again sent flying, crashing into three trees, breaking through them in the process before finally stopping after hitting a boulder.

Grey took a step and appeared in front of the weakened man.

The man stared at Grey in dread, it was as if he was looking at his death.

"Don't take it personal, we were just on different sides. You'd do the same if you were in my shoes," Grey said as a ball of darkness appeared above his hand that was raised above him.

As he brought his hand down, the ball of darkness engulfed the man.

"Ah..." The man screamed in horror as the darkness element started to eat away his flesh.

Swoosh! Bang!

A powerful force suddenly rotated around the man before the darkness element that was covering him was forcefully pushed aside.

Grey, who had already turned around, was taken aback before turning to look at the position where the man was standing.

'Gone? Not on my watch,' He sneered before vanishing.

....

Three kilometers away from where the fight was previously ongoing.

A dark figure could be seen flying through the air with unprecedented speed. It was the man who was fighting against Grey. He used a special technique that greatly boosted his strength and speed, but he didn't dare to stay and fight, instead, he opted to escape.

To him, this was the best course of action. First of all, he didn't know the true extent of Grey's strength, and from what he had experienced, he didn't want to.

While he was flying, a fire covered boulder suddenly appeared in front of him, crashing in his direction. He evaded it easily, but his expression changed when he saw more rain down from the sky.

It was then that he heard the voice that he dreaded so much.

"You're quite impressive," Grey said while standing mid-air.

Being complimented by a youth he could easily give birth to someone his age infuriated and embarrassed him.

"What do you want?" He asked.

Presently, he was even willing to beg, as long as Grey let him go alive.

"Your life," Grey's answer was short and concise.

"Damn you! If you think you can kill me, then you have something else coming," The man exclaimed angrily before burning in anger.

His strength suddenly increased tremendously, and Grey's expression turned serious for the first time. The man's current state was different from how he previously was. He was burning his life force to increase his strength.

With an increase in his strength, the man quickly destroyed Grey's Meteor Descent, breaking apart all the rocks as he charged towards Grey.

Grey readied himself as he attacked once again with the fire element.

Boom! Bang!

They traded blows, and it was a tie. Unlike how Grey had been having the upper hand, now, they were standing on equal footing.

The man was exhilarated when he noticed this and he quickly increased the intensity of his attacks, attacking more fiercely and widely.

Grey was pushed back for the first time, but he was still as calm as usual, not making any careless moves.

The man continued attacking fiercely, but unfortunately for him, even with his advantage, he still hasn't been able to even touch a hair on Grey's body.

His expression suddenly changed when Grey disappeared and he attacked his right, but his eyes widened even further when he didn't find anyone there.

The reason he attacked his right was that after Grey disappeared, he sensed some energy here, however, he was wrong, Grey was standing in front of him.

Bam!

Grey's fist connected to his chest, sending him crashing towards the ground as his internal injuries were aggravated once again by the person who caused them.

Bang!

He slammed into the ground, with the shockwave from when he slammed into the ground spreading across a five hundred meters mark around them, destroying most of the trees.

This goes to show how powerful Grey's punch was.

Grey appeared in front of the man, and without even waiting, he attacked with a huge fireball that caused a massive explosion.

When the explosion died down, there was no sign of the man. Grey was certain that the man was there when he attacked, so there was almost no chance of him escaping from the attack.

With a small nod, he headed back to where Reynolds and Void were resting.

....

Boom!

Reynolds and Void felt a powerful wind brush against them from the direction Grey and the man were fighting, and they could even see the large explosion Grey's attack caused.

"Wow! I can't believe he has already grown so powerful. I need to step up," Reynolds commented when he saw the explosion.

"No worries, if you went to the place he had been, you would've grown stronger than your current state," Void consoled him.

"Huh? Where did he go?" Reynolds couldn't help but ask.

"He'll tell you when he comes back," Void replied.

Grey soon appeared before them, "That took longer than expected,"

"Is he dead?" Reynolds asked.

"Most likely," Grey replied.

Reynolds was sitting in a crossed leg position, trying to recover from the battle.

"Okay, we should find a good spot for you to recover," Grey said before walking into the forest.

Reynolds stood up from his sitting position and followed behind him.

A few hours after they left.

Six men appeared mid-air, staring at the effect of Grey's battle with the man.

"Who do you think did this?" One of the men asked.

"It must've been someone from the Qilin Empire, to think one of their strongest individuals came out,"
Another one deduced.

"A powerful Fire Elementalist, we need to increase our vigilance," The first man said.

The six men went to the first place the battle started and seeing the corpses there, they felt it was most likely done by powerful Elementalists.

"I heard one of those youths was coming in this direction, do you think he has been caught?" Someone asked.

"With the appearance of a powerful figure like this, that's most likely the case," One of the men said.

Chapter 578 - A Weird One

Azure Empire.

In a cave in the forest.

Grey could be seen making a meal while Reynolds had his eyes closed, trying to recover with the help of the healing tonic Grey gave to him. He forgot Grey's instructions and drank it all, to the dismay of Grey.

Over the months, he had used a lot, and like all consumables, it would naturally run out. If not for Ellis telling him that a small amount will be enough, he would've almost finished it by now given how much he had been hurt.

The smell of the meat he was cooking wafted through the cave, drawing the attention of Reynolds who couldn't help but take a peek. He had been resting for a while now, so he was pretty much almost healed up thanks to the healing tonic.

"I've missed your cooking so much," Reynolds commented as he walked towards Grey.

"Oh, I got something for you," Grey recalled he had a gift for his friends before taking out a ring.

When they were looting the bandits, he made sure to take at least ten storage rings. He would give them to his friends, his Teacher, and his parents when he finds them. Now that he was with Reynolds, he wanted to give him his own.

"Wow! You made one for me?" Reynolds exclaimed.

"Well, not exactly. I took one from someone for you," Grey corrected his statement.

"Oh, well, I've always wanted one. Thanks to whoever gave you this," Reynolds said while taking the ring happily.

"You should probably wash that before putting it on," Void commented from the side.

"Huh? Why?" Reynolds asked, confused.

"It was taken from a dead guy," Void said bluntly.

"Oh, not bad. Is there anything inside? I mean the loot inside," Reynolds asked.

"Forget what I said, just put it on," Void said before trying to steal a piece of meat.

Grey caught him, smacking his paw away before using the water element to wash the ring, "There, you can put it on now,"

Reynolds sighed at the thought of not being able to get the loot inside the ring, but still wore the ring anyway. He had always wanted one since he knew about it, so getting one was better than not having any.

Grey taught him how to use the ring and within a couple of tries he was already good with it. The first thing he did was to contact Klaus with the communication device, to show off, of course.

Unfortunately, Klaus was unable to reply immediately.

"So, what's the plan for now?" Reynolds asked after not being able to reach Klaus.

"We'll find the others, I heard you guys have been having it tough since I left," Grey passed a piece of meat to Reynolds.

Void rushed over to grab a piece of meat that was at least two times his size before running away with it on his hindlegs.

Grey couldn't help but chuckle when he saw this. Even though food wasn't too useful to them given their current strength, they still enjoyed eating, Void in particular loved it. There had been occasions where he would give Grey a shiny object so Grey could cook for them to eat.

"Yeah, it's been quite rough. Luckily, we have this so we've been in contact with each other. Unlike you who ghosted us for months," Reynolds said after chewing down a big portion of meat.

"If I recall correctly, I told you guys I'd be leaving for six months," Grey defended.

"Well, it doesn't mean we weren't worried. Especially after the order to apprehend us became known by everyone. We were literally hiding," Reynolds said as he bit onto the meat angrily, "We thought you were captured when we tried to contact you,"

Reynolds spoke with meat in his mouth, and bits flew out.

Grey quickly created what seemed like a force field that stopped the bits of meat from getting close to him. Once they were around three inches, they would stop as if they hit something before falling to the ground.

"Hmm, I'm sorry for my prolonged absence, but I assure you, it was for our good," Grey finally agreed to apologize for leaving his friends.

"I'm not angry, I was just worried. Seeing you now, I'm happy you're okay, and better," Reynolds said quietly.

Grey rarely got to see this emotional side of Reynolds, so he knew he was truly worried about him.

"I can see you've broken through to the Overlord Plane," He said.

"Of course, what do you take me for?" Reynolds said proudly.

For someone to break through to the Overlord Plane before reaching twenty was something that rarely happened in the Azure Continent. The number of geniuses who have done this in the history of the continent could be counted by hand. But in this generation, almost that same amount has been recorded.

Grey's friends took up half of the number, with three others being recorded.

"A clown?" Grey answered Reynolds' question with a question.

"Haha, not funny," Reynolds said sarcastically.

He suddenly thought of something before looking at Grey, " Oh bud,"

"Hmm," Grey raised his head to look at Reynolds.

"Do you remember that guy that came from the same city as you. What's his name again... uhmm... J... Jo..." Reynolds paused, trying to recall the name.

"Jonas?" Grey asked.

"Yeah, that one. He was the first person amongst those who left the trial land to break through to the Overlord Plane," Reynolds replied.

"Oh, it's not unexpected," Grey shrugged, not surprised by the news.

The others still didn't know that he was the one who inherited the expert's legacy in the trial land.

"Why are you so calm about it?" Reynolds asked, surprised by Grey's reaction.

Grey went on to tell him about how he saw him receiving the expert's legacy back at the trial land.

Reynolds was shocked when he found out that Grey actually encountered the legacy, but left it to someone he wasn't even friends with.

"You're a weird one," Reynolds replied.

To be honest, if he were the one in that position, he would definitely take the power, especially from someone in the Starlight Academy, given the conflict between both Academies at that time.

Chapter 579 - Return To Frost City

Grey laughed at Reynolds' words, not offended by it.

"Who's closer to us?" He asked after they finished speaking about the matter.

"According to what I know, Klaus is on the other side of the Qilin Empire, so getting to him would take a bit of time, Alice should be closer," Reynolds replied after thinking for a while.

"Alright, we'll head over to the light closer to us then. It should be hers if your deduction is correct," Grey brought out the tracking device, and just as Reynolds said, one light was close to them while the other was a long distance away from their light.

Reynolds stared at the device, this was the first time he was seeing it. Unlike the one they had, Grey's own was different, and it seemed to have more functions too.

They stayed in the cave for the rest of the night speaking about their experiences since they separated. Well, it was mostly Reynolds who did most of the talking, Grey just listened.

He still hasn't told him about the Aurora Continent. When Reynolds asked about his whereabouts, he said he would tell him when the others were around.

Reynolds was curious, but he decided to wait till they reunited with the others. Given the strength Grey showed, it meant they shouldn't have too many problems if they were accidentally found.

Before leaving, Grey did a rough estimation and he realized that teleporting to Frost City will take them closer to the light closest to them which was most likely Alice's.

Grey actually hoped it was since the Principal was with Klaus, so Klaus had someone powerful to protect him. Alice left her family, so she was pretty much all alone right now. If she was caught, that was it for her.

Within a few minutes, Grey finished preparing a teleportation array. He had become quite efficient when making it, and now it even took less essence stones to travel.

They took quite a bit of stones from the bandits, and he didn't get to use anyone in the teleportation array when he was leaving Mortar City thanks to the influence of the O'Brien family.

Reynolds happily stepped into the teleportation array, this was the first time he would be using it since the trial land and he was pretty excited about it.

"It's all done, let's go," Grey said as he placed the last essence stone in the array.

....

Frost City.

Since the warrant for Alice was publicly announced, the Reiss family had been going through a tough time. They were under the constant supervision of the Emperor, and every inch of the mansion had been checked, even the family's treasury.

According to the Emperor's order, if the Reiss family were hiding Alice, then they would be regarded as an enemy of the empire and be attacked ruthlessly.

Luckily for the Reiss family, thanks to Grey, their greatest rival the Smith family were not in a good position, so they couldn't capitalize on it.

....

In the forest beside Frost City.

A silhouette of a young lady could be seen staring at the city from the trees, she was repeatedly punching the tree, and it would shake vigorously after each blow.

It was none other than Alice, she heard her family was being oppressed by the Emperor's people since they came and she rushed here. All she wanted to do right now was to rip apart all of them.

Her sister was captured since she was not there, and according to what she heard, she was being forced to marry one of the princes. Her father couldn't object to it since it might actually be a way for Sasha to escape their current fate. At least if she was married to a prince, she wouldn't be under so much scrutiny like all of them.

Even though they were a big family, there was nothing they could do, after all, they were alone. One family couldn't go against the entire empire, it was just undoable.

The marriage would be taking place today, and she was very certain her sister didn't approve of it.

"I'll kill him," She muttered repeatedly as she punched the tree fiercely.

Just as she was about to lose her control and jump into the city, a familiar voice came from behind.

"I don't think the tree did anything to deserve such beating,"

She paused when she heard it, it was a voice she had gotten used to for some years now. Even after not hearing it for over six months, she still knew it.

"You scoundrel! Where did you go?" She turned around, her face angrier than how it previously was.

Grey hurriedly hid behind Reynolds when he saw Alice charging towards him.

"Get out of the way! I need to pummel him," She hollered at Reynolds.

Reynolds tried to move, he really did, unfortunately, Grey held onto him tightly that it was impossible for him to take a step to the side.

"Alice, wait, I can explain," Grey peeked from the side as he said.

"Do you know how worried we were about you? You left for months, we couldn't even contact you," Alice said as she tried to get a hold of Grey.

Reynolds was unfortunately the one who got the short end of the stick being stuck in between them. After a few tries and multiple apologies from Grey, Alice finally calmed down.

Grey heaved a sigh of relief, but his expression changed when he heard Alice's next statement.

"Don't think you're off the hook, I'm just waiting for the best time," Alice snorted coldly.

"I'm sorry," Grey apologized again.

"Hmph! I'll deal with you later. And you, why did you show others your whereabouts?" Alice turned to Reynolds.

Reynolds quickly explained his situation to Alice before she snapped. When she heard how he was saved by Grey at the last minute, she couldn't help but heave a sigh of relief.

"And you, why are you here?" Grey asked, still hiding behind Reynolds.

When Alice heard his question, her face turned sour once again as she explained what was happening.

Chapter 580 - You're Still The Same

"Sasha's getting married? Wow! That's nice," Grey exclaimed.

Alice stared at him with vicious eyes before he tucked his head in.

"I mean, such impudence! We will not allow it!" Grey corrected himself.

"Getting in there would be a problem since there are definitely multiple Overlord Plane Elementalists there," Reynolds commented.

"I know, that's why I'm still here," Alice lowered her head with fists clenched.

"Don't worry, we'll definitely stop this marriage," Grey comforted her.

"Oh, by chance do you know if any high officials will be coming?" He asked.

"A few, and some Teachers from all the Academies. Even though the Fifth Prince's status isn't that high, he's still a prince nonetheless," Alice replied.

"Hmm, difficult, but not impossible. The only issue is how your family's going to get through the disruption of the marriage. From what you said, they're already facing a lot because of you, if we were to stop this marriage and take Sasha away, how will they cope?" Grey voiced his concerns.

With his space element, he had no problems with taking Sasha away from the marriage, but the issue now was how the Emperor was going to treat the Reiss family. They were already in a rough position because of Alice's whereabouts, if this was added, it would make things more difficult.

"Honestly, I don't know. My father will never agree to run with the family, nor will the Elders. But if we take Sasha away, they will have no other option," Alice speculated.

"So, will there be a big battle or not?" Reynolds chimed in.

If there was going to be a big battle, then he would definitely like to get involved in it. Beating up a few of the Instructors from the Starlight Academy would be fun.

"Unfortunately, no. For the sake of the Reiss family, we can't afford to cause a scene. If we are taking her out, it will be so fast that none of them notices," Grey replied, sadly.

He too would like to teach a few of the Instructors from the Starlight Academy a lesson, especially after what happened the last time he was at the Capital.

"A shame, I really wanted to beat some of them up," Reynolds shook his head dejectedly.

"Me too," Grey added.

"Me three," Void added.

"What's the best course of action now? No matter how I see it, it ends in a bad way for your family," Grey turned to Alice.

"What if the Prince goes missing?" Reynolds suggested.

"It will end the same way for my family as well. The Emperor could easily accuse us of kidnapping the Prince since most of us didn't want the marriage to happen in the first place," Alice replied.

"Hmm, a big ruckus then. Your father will have to think of what to do, either he takes his family into hiding, or he gets captured by the Emperor, I'm not really too bothered with what happens to him," Grey concluded.

He didn't really have too good of an impression of Alice's father, so he didn't care about what happens to him, or the rest of the family.

"Yes, we can finally cause some damage!" Void yelled happily.

Alice sighed when she heard their conclusions, even though she knew it wasn't a nice choice, they didn't have much of a choice, and time wasn't on their side.

The longer they waited, the closer Sasha was to getting married to the Fifth Prince.

"Hey, so I have an uhmm... unpopular opinion," Reynolds suddenly raised his hand.

"Oh, what's it?" Alice and Grey turned to look at him.

"What if," Reynolds paused while taking a few steps back, after getting to a position he deemed was safe enough he continued, "Sasha isn't really against this marriage?"

"Oh, you do have a point there," Grey nodded after hearing Reynolds' words.

Although the Emperor is a bad person, well, according to their point of view, it didn't mean everyone related to him was bad. There's probably a chance that Sasha fell in love with the Fifth Prince, so the feelings between the duo might just be mutual.

Alice stared at the duo, a little tongue tied as she tried to speak up.

She wanted to rebuke Reynolds' words, but she couldn't since she knew there might be a possibility of this actually being possible.

"Grey, is there a way you can get me to her without being noticed?" She turned to Grey.

"Void can deal with that," Grey said.

Void nodded before disappearing, appearing on Alice's shoulder, "Should I go first, or are we going together?"

Alice was about to speak when she paused, "Wait, he can talk?"

Grey never told her of Void's ability to speak after he woke up, only telling her that he was fine and he was going on a long journey. She didn't even take note of the few times Void spoke because of her anxious state.

"Yeah, after he regained consciousness, he started talking, amazing right?" Reynolds said.

Klaus was the first amongst the trio to speak with Void, and he forgot to tell them when they spoke.

"You're one hell of a cat. Great, I think you should check out the situation first, then come back to get me," Alice suggested.

Void nodded before disappearing.

"Wait," Alice called out, unfortunately, Void was gone.

"Does he know my place?" She asked Grey.

"Yeah, he's been there a couple of times," Grey nodded.

Alice heaved a sigh before turning to Grey. She finally took the time to look at him from top to bottom, "You've not changed much,"

"And you got slightly taller," Grey commented.

"Huh? How come you're still at the Peak of the Origin Plane?" Alice asked, surprised by Grey's cultivation stage.

Given his freakish nature, she expected him to at least be in the Third stage of the Overlord Plane, just like Klaus.

"Long story," Grey shook his head.

For a while now, he hadn't been hiding his cultivation stage from others, so they could easily sense it.. Of course, it wasn't his original strength so he wasn't too bothered about it.