

Affinity 601

Chapter 601 - To The Blue Wind Empire

"How did you find out about this?" The Principal turned to Grey anxiously.

"Old man Gerald told me about it a few minutes ago. I have a communication device that I use in talking to him," Grey replied.

"Damn it!" Klaus clenched his fists angrily.

"Can you confirm when they were caught?" The Principal asked calmly.

They couldn't rush into making any decisions since it might be a trap for them. Information is a valuable asset in their current situation, a simple misinformation could easily lead them into a trap.

He didn't doubt the credibility of the Lenz organization, but there's also a chance that the Blue Wind Empire found a way to spread false information, and old man Gerald only told Grey out of his worry for him.

"Alright," Grey nodded before communicating with old man Gerald.

After a few minutes of silence, he told the Principal what old man Gerald said. When the Principal heard the location of where the duo was caught, his calm expression changed. If he was previously scared because of misinformation, now he was a hundred percent certain that they were caught.

He originally sent the duo on an errand to meet up with a friend of his around the borders of the Blue Wind Empire. That was their destination.

"That bastard, to think that he would betray me," The Principal said angrily.

"What do we do now?" Grey asked the Principal.

"I'm going to save them. They were caught last night, so there's still hope for us before they are taken to the Capital. And since the Blue Wind Empire aren't sure if any of you is in possession of the Great Earth Essence Liquid, they wouldn't be too hard on them. They also know that Blake and Delia aren't their targets. The only reason they were caught was their connection with me," The Principal said.

"You can't go alone father, we can help," Klaus rejected the idea of his father going alone.

"Stay here and keep still, I can't take the risk of taking you along. You're the reason they were captured, you going there will put you in danger," The Principal looked at Klaus sternly.

"That's all the more reason I have to go. I can't just stay here and watch as you head into a trap," Klaus said.

"We might be of some use, sir," Grey stepped up as well.

"No, you four will stay here and continue your training. Once I've settled things there, I'll come back," The Principal said.

"Staying close to you is safer, also, we can also render assistance if you need any. I have a special method of traveling, but I'll have to set up an array first," Grey tried persuading.

The Principal didn't know of his space element, he could hide it under the guise of an array. The array used in entering the trial land will make things easier for him.

After continuous persuasion from the group, the Principal finally agreed to let them come with him, only under the condition that they did exactly as he said.

The group agreed to his condition, and they started their journey towards the border of the Qilin Empire, just by the Blue Wind Empire.

Before they left, Grey made a teleportation array by the waterfall, so that they could use it in escaping at a desperate time.

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Later that day.

The group got to the border separating the Qilin and Blue Wind Empire. Since they could all fly, it didn't take them too long. After four hours of constant flight, they got to their destination.

When they got there, there were warriors from the Qilin Empire, walking around the woods, trying to locate spies from the Blue Wind Empire that were trying to cross into the empire.

The Principal was able to easily hide his aura from the warriors, Grey and Void followed suit. The other three had a little difficulty with it, but the Principal waved his hands, and the problem was solved.

Grey was in the midst of creating an array to help with hiding their aura, when he saw the Principal had already helped out, he stopped.

With everything prepared, the group sneaked through the woods, entering into the Blue Wind Empire with no fuss. The Principal's plan was for them to kidnap a warrior, then extract information from the said warrior.

It didn't take long before they found their first target, but it was unsuccessful. This person had no clue about Blake and Delia's capture.

The Principal quickly knocked out the warrior, before using his superior spiritual energy to try to manipulate the memories of the warrior.

He couldn't get information from it, he only wanted to erase the meeting between them. Killing the warrior would've been the easier option, but if this warrior were to be killed, it would alert the others that there was a threat in the woods. Since this wouldn't be the only person they would interrogate, they couldn't kill everyone they encountered.

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Thirty minutes later.

"We need to head deeper into the empire, I think only those at the Overlord Plane might have a clue about the whereabouts of the Instructors," Grey suggested after over thirty minutes of fruitless interrogations.

The Principal agreed to his suggestion, and they started to head deep into the empire.

According to the message they received, Instructor Blake and Delia were caught at the border of the Blue Wind Empire, and the Principal's friend was also staying around there.

The only reason they didn't head to that spot immediately was the fear of it being crowded with people. Normally, he would have to go and search for Blake and Delia if they didn't return soon, and his friend's place was where he would go since that was where he sent them to.

The only advantage they currently have is that no one knew he had broken through to the Sage Plane. When he helped Klaus the last time, he made sure to kill the person who captured him.. The only reason the news of the battle spread out was that some passersby were around.

Chapter 602 - To The Blue Wind Empire II

The group went further into the Blue Wind Empire, and before long, they left the woods, entering the normal road with a town not too far from it.

It was naturally occupied by mostly warriors since it was close to the borders.

The Principal went close to the town and spread out his spiritual senses, after thoroughly sweeping the place, he found the location of three different Overlord Plane Elementalists. One was in the Late stage, with the other two in the Mid stages.

"I'll take down the one in the Late stage, Grey, you and Klaus will take on one of those in the Mid stages, while Reynolds and Alice will take care of the other one," The Principal quickly divided them.

Klaus and Reynolds were about to refute when they heard the Principal's stern warning.

"This is not a joke, it's a matter of life and death. If any of you is caught, the consequences will be fatal to the rest of us," He said.

"Don't worry, father, I can take care of this person on my own, with Grey's help, it's a piece of cake," Klaus said.

Alice reassured the Principal that she could keep Reynolds in check. After the Principal finished speaking with them, he left, heading towards the western part of the town.

All three Overlord Plane Elementalists were positioned in three different parts of the town, and they were all at the edges. The Principal told the group that if they could, they should take down the warriors without making any fuss.

With the element of surprise on their side, they shouldn't have any problems with taking out someone who doesn't even know they are coming.

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In the southern part of the town.

Grey and Klaus were sneaking through the road, hiding in plain sight. They hid their appearance and aura, so they weren't recognized by the few townspeople they encountered.

A few minutes later, they soon got to a small house that had the biggest courtyard they had seen in the town so far.

"The expert should be here," Klaus whispered.

"Yeah," Grey nodded while staring at the building, trying to pick out the exact location of the Overlord Plane Elementalist.

There were almost six guards or so outside the building, ready to alarm the expert in case someone they couldn't handle appeared.

"Tell me once you get his location, I can immobilize him from here," Klaus said.

He wasn't interested in the four guards standing outside the building.

Grey nodded, and a few seconds later, he gave Klaus the exact location and where to hit if he was going to attack.

Klaus nodded before taking in a deep breath, "It's been a while I used this,"

He placed his hand in front of him and a tiny needle made of ice started to form. The temperature around the ice needle was so low that the air seemed like it wanted to freeze. Even Grey who was standing close to Klaus couldn't help but take a step back.

'His ice ability is beyond compare,' Grey praised. He didn't dare to speak it out loud given Klaus' personality, he would brag about it for months.

The ice needle stayed above Klaus' palm for almost thirty seconds before it suddenly disappeared from view. Unlike Grey and Void's space element, the ice needle disappeared as a result of its amazing speed, and its small size.

Whoosh!

The ice needle pierced through a small spot on the wall. It was so tiny that even if someone was standing there, they wouldn't notice it.

"Let's go, the person's immobilized," Klaus urged.

Grey nodded before flickering, a few seconds later, a middle-aged lady was on his shoulder. Her body was completely white, and one could see chilled smoke coming from her body.

With the lady on his shoulder, Grey and Klaus returned to the location they planned to meet up with the Principal. They were the first set to get there.

A few minutes later, the Principal appeared with a lady tied on his arms, she was knocked out, but in a better situation compared to Grey and Klaus' victim.

When the Principal saw the duo already waiting for him, he was slightly taken aback.

"How long have you been here?" He asked.

"A few minutes ago," Grey replied.

The Principal didn't say anything further. Touching the lady on the ground, he realized she was out cold, like literally cold. He didn't need anyone to tell him it was Klaus' doing.

They stayed for almost five minutes before Alice and Reynolds came back with a short man on their shoulder. The man was slightly black, which indicated that he had been zapped by lightning.

"Alright, time to wake them up," The Principal said.

After he sealed the cultivation of the trio, he woke them up.

When the trio opened their eyes, their initial reaction was to try to move, but unfortunately, they realized they had been bound to a chair. They stared at the group and Grey and his friend's face soon came into view.

They looked at the faces with a sense of familiarity, seemingly trying to recall where they had seen the faces before. It didn't take long before one of them recalled it.

"To think you four would be so bold," The short man said coldly.

"Saying this is quite funny when coming from you, have you seen your situation?" Klaus mocked.

The Principal stepped forward to take control, "Where are the duo you people caught last night?"

"What duo? We've captured a lot of people these past days," The man asked, feigning ignorance.

"You can't activate the array if that's what you're trying to do," The Principal's aura went cold.

When they went over to catch them, he found out about the array placed around the town. Now he understood why all three individuals were in their given locations, it was so they could activate a powerful killing array.. If a Peak stage Overlord Plane Elementalist were to be caught in it, then that person would surely meet their end.

Chapter 603 - Destination, Blue Wind Empire's Capital

"You have only one option right now, either you talk, or I forcefully read your minds," The Principal said.

The trio looked at each other, all knowing the risk that came with what the Principal wanted to do. If there was so little as a simple mistake, then they might lose their minds.

"Isn't that a little too excessive?" The Late stage Overlord Plane Elementalist asked.

"Tell me what I want, and I'll let you three go," The Principal said.

"Who are you talking about?" The Late stage Overlord Plane asked in defeat.

He just couldn't take the risk of having the Principal forcibly go through his memories. It was not an easy skill, and he had heard of countless people losing their minds after this was done on them. Some even become brain dead.

The Principal nodded after seeing them agree, he told them of Blake and Delia, and the expression of the trio showed that they had a clue of their whereabouts.

"So it's you people from the Qilin Empire, I should've guessed," One of the Mid stage Overlord Plane Elementalists said.

"Yes, now, tell us where they are if you want to keep your lives," The Principal didn't hide their identity since asking for the whereabouts of Instructor Blake and Delia had already given them away.

"Wait, that means you four are the youngsters the Emperors are all searching for?" The Late stage Overlord Plane Elementalist pointed at Grey and his friends.

"Tell us what we need to know," The Principal didn't allow the youths to speak. It was unnecessary.

"They are being taken to the Capital. If I'm not wrong, they should be there by now," The man in the Late stage said.

"Alright," The Principal nodded before quickly tapping on the shoulders of all three men.

They suddenly felt the strength leave their bodies as they collapsed to the ground.

Just as they were about to leave, Grey gave them another piece of information.

"The Emperor just sent out Sage Plane Elementalists after us. They have also heard of the capture of the Instructors and are on their way there now," Grey said, expecting this from the Emperor.

Since he crippled the princes and princesses, he had been waiting for the reaction of the Emperor, and he finally got it. The only issue they have now is that there is only one Sage Plane Elementalist on their side, and he is only in the First stage whereas the Emperor has people in the Second or even the Third stage.

"Hmph! They're lucky I didn't kill the princes and princesses," Alice snorted coldly.

"This might be to our advantage," Klaus suddenly said.

"Huh?"

Everyone turned to look at him.

He went on to explain, "Since my elder brother has already been taken to the Capital, it would be extremely difficult for us to retrieve him, unless there's a way Void or Grey can easily sneak in and out. But if the Sage Plane Plane Elementals from the Qilin Empire were to get in a brawl with the Sage Plane Elementals from the Blue Wind Empire, it would make things easy for us,"

"Grey and Void's ability thrive in chaotic situations, and a battle on that scale is the best thing," He added.

The Principal still didn't know of Grey and Void's space element, but he knew Klaus wouldn't carelessly send his friends to die.

"Hmm, we should get there first. Once we see the situation, we'll decide if to use that method or I'll take the risk of going in," The Principal said.

"Alright," The youngsters all nodded in agreement.

The Principal stared at the three men, before tying them to a tree. He promised to let them live if they told him the whereabouts of Blake and Delia, but they never told him in what condition.

With their cultivation crippled, it would take a miracle for them to untie themselves.

They left the woods, heading into the main empire. They quickly got a map to know their destination and hurried there.

The Principal hoped the group taking Blake and Delia to the Capital was a little slow, so they could catch up with them. He made a route from his friend's place, and the path he felt the people would take.

Since they were all flying, they traveled thousands of kilometers in a matter of seconds. After what seemed like ages, they finally got to the city before the Capital.

From the map, and the Principal's route, the group taking Blake and Delia to the Capital will most likely go through this city.

"I'll ask around if they stopped by, you four should stay put," The Principal said before vanishing into the crowd that was heading into the city.

Unlike Grey and his friends, he didn't have his poster hung all over. And since he was in the Sage Plane, he had a better chance of escaping.

"Damn it, these people are annoying," Klaus complained.

"I still don't understand why they are doing this," Reynolds said.

"They see us as potential threats, people who can endanger their present reign. As you can see, they are all trying to take control of all four empires, and we four are an anomaly that can't be trusted," Alice explained.

"Well, I'm not in any way interested in their power scuffle," Reynolds said.

"Yeah, but do you think the Emperors will believe you?" Klaus asked.

"Even if we vow not to get involved in anything they do, they will always see us as threats. Haven't you heard of how they kill any person that has elemental grades higher than blue?" Alice rubbed her head.

"The Emperor is a moron, he should've treated us kindly, I mean, that is what I would've done," Reynolds cursed the thinking of the Emperor.

"I can't really say what's going through the Emperor's head, but I believe he did this because he felt we're already at a level he couldn't control any longer.. Especially given what has been going on with my Teacher," Grey said.

Chapter 604 - Preparations For War

The group waited for the Principal in the woods for about thirty minutes or so before he returned.

"They passed through not too long ago," The Principal said with a resigned look.

If it was possible, he wanted to avoid a confrontation with any of the Sage Plane Elementalists, nor did he want to endanger Grey or Void since sneaking into where Blake and Delia were kept would be a little dangerous.

"They must've already gotten to the Capital by now," Alice said.

"Most likely," The Principal said before turning to Grey, "Is there a way we can track the movements of those old bones coming from the empire?"

"I'm not too sure, I'll ask old man Gerald," Grey brought out the communication device old man Gerald gave him and sent a message to him.

He waited for almost fifteen minutes before he got a reply, and even though they didn't get the accurate location, they knew the Sage Plane experts were already close to the Blue Wind Empire, and from what they heard, the Qilin Empire seems to be launching an all-out attack on the Blue Wind Empire.

From what old man Gerald said, not just the Qilin Empire, but all four empires were preparing for a major battle, and it seems like the capture of Instructor Blake and Delia was the catalyst.

The war has been going on for months now, and the empires are looking to resolve it once and for all. One of the factors pushing this battle was the acquisition of Blake and Delia, whoever has them has a high chance of capturing Klaus or any of the other trio.

"What now?" Reynolds asked.

"Since they're preparing for a battle, it means we can't act rashly. The Azure Empire will most likely be with the Blue Wind Empire on this,"?? The Principal said.

"Who do you think will take us if captured, the Blue Wind Empire, or the Azure Empire?" Klaus asked.

"What are you saying?" Alice questioned, not happy with Klaus' question.

His question drew the attention of everyone.

"I mean, think about it, the Blue Wind Empire is currently allied with the Azure Empire, but we all know there's a catch to it. If there's truly a way for them to extract our elemental cores, that means they will want to use it for themselves," Klaus went on to explain.

"Given the ambition of the Azure Empire, if they obtain them, then they would also wipe out the Blue Wind Empire as well," Grey completed Klaus' analysis.

"Correct, and the Blue Wind Empire is also aware of this," Klaus said.

After hearing Klaus and Grey's words, the others nodded in agreement. Things will get even more chaotic since the Blue Wind Empire already has the advantage thanks to the capture of Blake and Delia.

"We should head to the Capital for now, if there's an opportunity for us to take back the duo, we will," The Principal said.

Just as they were about to leave, Grey's communication amulet given to him by old man Gerald vibrated. He brought it out of his spatial ring and sent his spiritual senses inside.

When he heard the content of the message, he stared at the people in front of him wide-eyed.

Seeing his reaction, the others couldn't help but feel a sense of worry.

"What's wrong?" Alice asked.

"The Instructors," Grey said slowly.

The hearts of everyone sank when they realized what he wanted to say had to do with the Instructors.

"Yes, what happened to Blake and Delia?" The Principal asked anxiously.

"They... escaped," Grey said, still unsure of what to feel.

"Haha, that's good news. Why are you acting like this if that's the news?" Reynolds laughed before lightly hitting Grey on his shoulder for scaring them.

"You don't get it, if the Instructors were captured, it meant people stronger than they were present there. These people will naturally be the ones to take them back to the Capital, so escaping is not going to be easy, especially when they were already within a few hundred meters of the Capital," Grey explained his worries.

"Do you think it's false information?" The Principal asked.

"Old man Gerald would not tell me about this if the source isn't at least seventy percent accurate. Of course I don't fully trust him, it's best we head to the Capital to find out for ourselves. According to what he said, a battle broke out just before the Capital and the Instructors used the chance to escape," Grey replied.

"Alright, it's not like we have any other choices anyway," The Principal and the others nodded.

Grey found the escape of the Instructors somewhat suspicious. If these people were as valuable as they make them be, there's no way the people taking them back to the Capital will get careless.

'There's something fishy about their escape,' Grey said to Void telepathically.

'What do you plan to do?' Void asked.

'If possible, we'll question the Instructors when we find them,' Grey answered.

'Okay,' Void replied, 'Oh Grey,'

'Hmm?' Grey looked at Void.

'Did you know that I love fish?' Void asked.

'Uhhmm... no,' Grey thought for a while before responding.

'Okay, now you do. Once we're done with this, it'll be nice if we had fish,' Void licked his lips as he said.

Grey shook his head, at a time like this, Void was still thinking about food.

The group soon started their journey to the Capital. That's the only place they could get confirmation of the Instructors' escape. The risk has gone up a notch since people would be searching all over for the Instructors.

This meant that the chances of them being found were also high. Their only chance of escaping is that the person who finds them is not in the Sage Plane, so the Principal could take care of them.

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Presently, all four empires were preparing for war, and there was unrest in the cities of all empires, especially the Blue Wind Empire. The main battle would be taking place around the Blue Wind Empire due to them having Instructor Blake and Delia.

According to reports, the warriors of the Qilin Empire would get to the borders of the Blue Wind Empire in a few hours.

Chapter 605 - Locating Blake And Delia

Blue Wind Empire.

Outside the Capital.

The Principal and the group just got there after only about thirty minutes or so. They could've gotten here sooner, but the number of Elementalists in the Overlord Plane they encountered was far greater than their expectations.

The increase meant that the report of Blake and Delia escaping was accurate. The Principal was beside himself with joy. Now he didn't have to worry about their well-being.

"Should we join in the search for them?" Klaus asked.

"I'll be able to find them soon, I just need to get a general overview of this area. Pass me the map," The Principal said confidently.

Klaus gave him the map that was in his possession.

The Principal looked at the map for almost five minutes before finally making a move.

"I know where they are, follow me," He said to youngsters.

Grey and the others exchanged glances before following the Principal.

The Principal was currently headed in the other direction, contrary to where most of the Elementalists were searching.

They soon got to where the Capital was located, going past it. Just like most of the cities in the Azure Continent, the Capital of the Blue Wind Empire was also surrounded by forests. The Principal headed to the forest behind the Capital, when he got there, he did a quick sweep of the place.

"Got them, let's go," The Principal said before rushing into the forest.

The youngsters followed behind him, impressed at how quickly he was able to find the duo. They've escaped for over thirty minutes now, and the Blue Wind Empire has called out an array of people to search for them, yet it took the Principal only a few minutes of looking at a map, and he has already found them.

There were a few people searching this area, but the group didn't have any issues with putting them down. They were only in the Early and Mid stages of the Overlord Plane, their job was to signal the others in case the duo was found in this area.

Going up against an enraged Sage Plane Elementalist, of course they stood no chance.

A cave deep in the forest behind the Capital.

The Principal and the group could be seen walking into the cave.

After multiple twists and turns, the Principal stopped in front of a dead-end, he lightly tapped on the wall, and it came crashing down.

When the wall crashed down, a tunnel was revealed to the group.

"Always so cautious," The Principal chuckled as they walked into the tunnel.

The group followed behind him and they encountered three more places like this before an attack came crashing in their direction when the fourth wall was destroyed.

The Principal was already prepared for this, he stretched out his hands, and clamped onto the lightning spear coming their way.

"Is this how you greet your Teacher?" He asked after the dust settled.

"Teacher, it's you!" Blake's voice could be heard from inside the cave.

"Who else?" The Principal asked with a smile finally appearing on his face since hearing about the capture of the duo.

"The Principal?" Delia's soft voice resonated from the cave.

"Yes, it's me, how are you doing?" The Principal stepped into the cave to welcome the sight of the duo in each other's embrace.

"I'm okay, he made sure nothing happened to me," Delia replied.

Cough! Cough!

Klaus coughed as he walked into the cave, grinning from ear to ear, beside him was Reynolds who was also smiling widely. Alice had a soft smile on her face, while Grey was the only one who had his usual blank expression.

When Delia saw Klaus and the others coming in, she quickly left Blake's embrace, her face red from embarrassment.

She was already used to Klaus' teasing, but this was the first time she was with Blake while other youngsters were present. Of everyone, Grey's poker face made her feel a little odd.

"For someone who has such a handsome face, you rarely smile," Delia commented on Grey's facial expression.

"Hello, Instructors," Grey greeted the duo with a soft smile.

Even though he was acquainted with the duo, he still wasn't a hundred percent free around them.

"How are you?" Blake asked.

"I'm okay," Grey replied gently.

Alice and the others shook their heads when they saw how quiet Grey was.

"How did you escape?" The Principal asked after they were done with greetings.

"Someone attacked the carriage taking us to the Capital, and we used the opportunity to escape. The binds they used in holding us weren't strong from the start. Although they sealed our cultivation, I've learned a thing or two from you over the years," Blake explained calmly.

"Haha, that's my boy," The Principal laughed happily.

"Teacher, how did you find us?" Blake asked.

"You're my student, of course finding you will be easy," The Principal said.

Klaus went on to tell Blake of how his father managed to locate them just from looking at the map.

Blake wasn't too surprised since the Principal was the one who taught him almost everything he knew in life.

"What's happening now?" The Principal turned to Grey.

Grey brought out the amulet old man Gerald gave to him. After a few minutes, he was given the news of the warriors from the Qilin Empire already getting close to the borders of the Blue Wind Empire. The Emperor of the Blue Wind Empire had already called all the experts from the empire to head to the borders.

When the group heard of what was happening, they couldn't help but gasp in shock, especially Blake and Delia.

"What the hell is going on?" Blake asked, stunned.

"A war, that's what's going on," Klaus replied.

"But I never thought it had gotten to that stage yet," Blake said.

Klaus used the opportunity to explain to them, telling them how their capture was the cause of the current all-out war.

"Are they that desperate?" Delia asked.

"So it seems," Grey replied.

Chapter 606 - Unknown Danger

'We should head back to the Qilin Empire, it is the safest place for us now,' The Principal said.

The others agreed to his words, after all, staying in the Blue Wind Empire was a little bit too risky.

"Alright, we'll be going straight to the waterfall in that town," Grey stood up to say.

"There's a way we can get there instantly?" The Principal asked.

Even though he heard of Grey and the others speaking about it, he still found it to be absurd. How could one just appear in another location instantaneously? It just doesn't seem plausible.

"Yeah, stand back," Grey nodded before he stepped forward.

He soon started to make an array, quickly drawing the lines in the cave. Within a few minutes, he was done.

Given their numbers, it would take quite a lot of stones to teleport them back to the Qilin Empire.

Grey brought out hundreds of essence stones before placing around fifty in eight different positions in the array•

he was done with that, he told the others to stand in the array. Klaus and his friends stepped in without hesitation, the Principal, Blake, and Delia had some doubts in their hearts but still stepped in any way.

Grey did some hand seals and the array lit up, the group was covered by a bright white light before they suddenly vanished from the position.

The lights of the array died down, as well as the array lines. Whenever Grey makes these arrays, he always makes sure that only when they are under use can they be seen.

Qilin Empire.

In a town close to the borders.

At the waterfall.

An array suddenly appeared on the ground, before lighting up. Grey and his friends soon appeared after the light died down

"Wow! Impressive!" Klaus and Alice exclaimed.

This was the first time they were using this array, and seeing how fast it made traveling seem, they couldn't hide their excitement,

The Principal exchanged glances with Blake and Delia, completely blown away.

Reynolds was the only one who had a normal expression, he even stared at Klaus as if he was looking at a villager.

"How's this possible?" The Principal couldn't hold in his curiosity any longer.

"It's the same as the array used in going into the trail land. I picked up a thing or two about it while I was there," Grey hid the existence of the space element from the Principal.

"That's something else, learning something like this just from using the array once. You're truly a genius," The Principal praised.

Grey smiled softly without replying.

After staying at the place for a while, they decided to head back to the town. There was an apartment the Principal was staying in when he was here.

Blue Wind Empire.

The Capital City, in the castle.

The moment Grey and the others teleported from the cave to the Qilin Empire, some figures sitting in a dark room stood up in shock,

"How's this possible?" One of the figures covered with a cloak asked as he stared at the light dot on the table which was on the other end of the table.

The dot went from one place to another in a matter of seconds, and given the distance, it was impossible for anyone, even those in the Sage Plane to move that quickly.

"Is this for real?" Another person asked.

After the sudden quick movement, the current movement of the light dot showed that it was still working perfectly.

"There's a way they moved from our empire to the Qilin Empire in an instant. This will be a problem if they can do it again when surrounded," An old croaked voice said.

*'Let's find a way to get there first," Someone else said.

"The Qilin Empire is really pushing it, once we get those boys, they will all be sorry," A young voice said with gritted teeth.

The people finally agreed on what to do before leaving the secret room. The light dot they were monitoring was something like a tracking device Grey made, but it was a little bit different.

From their conversation, it was easy to see that the person they were tracking was none other than Instructor Blake and Delia.

Qilin Empire.

Back at the town.

The group had gotten to the house the Principal brought them to. According to their plan, they would hide here for now, getting information from old man Gerald.

Once things settle down, then they would head to the Aurora Continent. Given the present growth of the youths, in a year or two, they should be able to break through to the Sage Plane. As long as they don't die, then they would be able to

move freely in the continent without fear of being attacked by anyone. If they wanted, they could even get revenge on all the people that caused trouble for them.

The next day.

Grey and the Principal were still inside the house, getting updates from old man Gerald. According to him, a small-scale battle broke out yesterday, but it was quickly stopped.

But from how things were going, a greater battle will take place today or tomorrow. There was no way for them to sit and talk about the situation.

The Qilin Empire demanded the Instructors, but the Blue Wind Empire told them they didn't know the whereabouts of the Instructors. Even after getting confirmation, the Qilin Empire refused to accept it.

They felt since the Blue Wind Empire could capture them, then of course they could easily keep them hostage. Their escape might just be a pretense to get the others off their backs, making them feel as if they didn't have them, whereas,

they already have them locked in a dungeon.

The group all felt relaxed, thankful for Grey's splendid work. Being able to take them from the Blue Wind Empire without a hitch, they didn't even have to worry about encountering anyone.

As things stand, all they had to do was wait out the war before going to a more secluded place and living for a few years there.

Alice suggested they leave now, but the Principal felt given the movements of the troops, they might be noticed. After all, they were at the borders of the empire, not too far away from where the battle would take place.

There was no way anyone would believe that they were this close to where the battle was taking place.

Two days went by in a flash.

The battle had already started, with casualties on all sides. The Stellar Empire had also sent troops to the other side of the Blue Wind Empire, trying to make a pincer attack with the aid of the Qilin Empire. However, the Azure Empire

stepped out as welli rushing to the aid of the Blue Wind Empire.

The battle was currently in a stalemate, but this was because the Sage Plane Elementalists hadn't gotten involved yet, In respects to Sage Plane Elementalists, the Azure Empire is said to have more given their old history.

The Qilin Empire is said to be on almost the same level as them, but only when the battles start will they know who is stronger.

Old man Gerald was constantly giving the group updates on the battlefield which has helped them. The Principal knew old man Gerald, but he wasn't really close to him. After asking about the relationship between the duo, he found out it

was all because of Chris who was still missing

The whereabouts of Chris has been giving him a headache for a while now. It has been over a year now since he left, yet there has been no news from him whatsoever. Even with the war going on, there was still no news of him.

The thought of Chris actually being in the Aurora Continent started to dawn on him.

It would not be a bad idea to go there since according to Grey it was a good place for them to grow stronger. It is said to be even faster than the trial land, and the Principal was tempted by it.

The battlefield.

The Blue Wind Empire's camp.

In one of the tents.

Eight figures could be seen sitting in a round table. Five of them were wearing black cloaks that covered their faces, while the other three wore white clothes. Of the three, one of them was a youth in his early twenties, one was in his mid

thirties, while the last was a well built middle-aged man with long beards.

"How are things going?" The middle-aged man asked.

"We've been unable to get into the Qilin Empire. Their Sage Plane Elementalists are vigilant, and we've not been given the chance to go through," One of the cloaked men replied.

"It's okay, just keep monitoring their positions. And make sure you don't alert the others, we can't have the Azure Empire finding out about this," The middle-aged man ordered.

The cloaked men bowed before leaving the tent, leaving the other three alone..

Chapter 607 - The Emperor Of The Blue Wind Empire

After the departure of the cloaked men.

"Father, do you think we can trust these people?" The youngest amongst the trio asked.

"There's no need to worry. Although they are mysterious, I have a hundred percent confidence in them. Over the past years, they've been helping me out with the issues of the kingdom," The middle-aged man replied calmly.

understand, it's just that, I tend to get this eerie feeling just by looking at them," The youngest said.

"It's because this is your first time speaking with them. Take your brother for example, he's not bothered by their presence. If you're going to be an important figure in the empire's future, then you have to know them, their strength is not something to joke with," The middle-aged man advised.

"Alright, father," The young man bowed his head before leaving

This was the first time he was seeing his father's special guards, and to be honest, he was quite frightened by them. For someone his age, he never once thought he would be scared of someone he hadn't even seen fight before.

With the young man gone, two people were left in the tent.

"Father, do you know where they are from?" The man in his mid-thirties spoke up.

"I've asked a couple of times, but they've never given me a clear answer. The only good news is that since I helped them when they were in danger, they felt indebted to me. With their help, we should be able to take control of this war, even without those youths. Also, they are the people who suggested the method of removing the cores," The middle-aged man said.

"Alright father, but they're a risk factor as well. Given their knowledge, they should have a high cultivation stage, but they are still at the Peak of the Overlord Plane," The man asked suspiciously.

"Don't dwell too much on this, it might cause you more harm than good," The middle-aged man warned.

"Alright, father," The man in his thirties bowed before leaving the tent as well.

When everyone left, the eyes of the middle-aged man suddenly went dark and it seemed as if he had lost all intelligence. Dark lines started to crawl all across his body.

Black smoke rose up from the side before a man who looked exactly like the middle-aged man appeared from the ground, his figure was dried up, and he couldn't stand straight.

"Kekeke, this technique is impressive, who would've thought there's such a miraculous thing in this world?" The man walked around his other self, examining the figure.

The five men appeared soon after from a fog of black smoke as well.

"You said you'll give us a large number of Sage Plane Elementalists, where are they?" One of the cloaked men asked.

"Don't be in a hurry my friends, you've already taken down all the Sage Plane Elementalists from my empire. With your strength, you can also take down the ones from the other three empires," The middle-aged man said.

"It's not as easy as you think. Without your help, the ambush wouldn't have gone as planned. Also, I think I've found out how that person left your empire to the Qilin Empire instantaneously," One of the figures said.

"Oh, do tell then," The middle-aged man said.

"There's a Space Elementalist amongst them who is also good at arrays. You might not know of this, but from where we're from, these people are the most difficult to deal with. The reason I didn't think of it at first was that it never crossed my mind that someone like that would also be here," The cloaked figure explained.

"A Space Elementalist?" The middle-aged man asked in shock.

"Yes, they have the ability to manipulate the space around them and travel thousands of kilometers with nothing more than a blink. If they can create an array, then they can easily travel through all these empires in a matter of minutes," The cloaked figure explained,

"That's extraordinary, how come you don't have any?" The middle-aged man was impressed by their description of a Space Elementalist.

"If they want to escape, then it is almost impossible to hold them back. All Space Elementalists can be said to be first rated escape specialists," The cloaked figure said.

The middle-aged man went silent for a while, accessing his options, "Either way, we don't have to worry too much. I'll think of a way to draw over one or two of the Sage Plane Elementalists from the Azure Empire, you guys should be able to deal with them then, right?"

"That's easy. We already have over five Sage Plane corpses, they can quickly take down a single person," One of the cloaked figures said.

"Alright, that will be all for now. The battle is still ongoing, and I need to feed off the death essence spreading across the battlefield. In a few days, I should be able to break through to the Sage Plane myself,"

The middle-aged man said with sharp eyes.

"It is good that you've grown this much," One of the figures placed his hand on the shoulder of the middle-aged man.

"It's all thanks to your help, Teacher," The middle-aged man bowed respectfully.

"Alright, we should get going now. I believe the duo should be with their friends right now. The cores of those youths will be very tasty,"

The middle-aged man bowed respectfully as the group faded into the fog, disappearing,

His eyes turned cold after their departure.

'I'll kill you all for killing uncle, just you wait until I get to the Sage Plane,' He thought with gritted teeth,

With the figures gone, he too started to fade away.

The figure that looked exactly like him started to regain life once again, before walking to the bed in the tent to take a nap.

In the entire Azure Continent, only a few people have encountered these five cloaked men and survived, this middle-aged man was one of them. Surprisingly, he is also the Emperor of the Blue Wind Empire, taking control after the untimely death of his father..

Chapter 608 - Get Out Of There!

Grey and his friends were still staying in the town close to the borders. It has been five days now since the war started, and things had started to heat up.

Even though they weren't too close to the battlefield, they could feel the vibrations from the impact caused by the attacks.

"Father, don't you think it will be best for us if we leave this place? Some of the townspeople are already moving out," Klaus suggested.

"No, from what I know, the Qilin Empire has the upper hand and is slowly forcing the forces of the Blue Wind Empire back. If any of us is seen, it would be disastrous for us," The Principal rejected Klaus' idea.

"Hmm, alright father," Klaus replied with a dull expression.

Honestly, the more he has to hide, the more hatred he develops for all four empires searching for them. Out of boredom, they've even pressured Grey to ask old man Gerald about the identity of the young man who exposed Grey having the Great Earth Essence Liquid.

It didn't take a day before the report was given to them. Klaus and Reynolds planned on giving this person a slow death, making sure he suffers for all their present sufferings.

Grey had been working on his arrays lately, for some reason, he had been getting an uneasy feeling, it was as if he could sense something bad wanted to happen, but he didn't know what it was. He wasn't the only one getting this feeling, even Void was feeling the same.

At first, he thought it might be as a result of their connection, but Void said he could sense an eerie aura, something vile. Grey on the other hand couldn't sense it.

Grey told the others of his feelings, and they brushed it to the side, saying it was a result of the current war going on, and them being so close to it. Even the Principal didn't think too much of it, only somewhat increasing his vigilance, Grey finally decided it was best to send Void out, this was the best thing to do. With Void's abilities and his size, it would be impossible for anyone to notice him, As long as no one notices him, he could give Grey all the latest updates happening on the battlefield.

With Void gone, Grey decided it would be best to make a teleportation array in the house they were staying in. This will help them in case of any mishaps. There are multiple places they could go within seconds, so it was better to be prepared.

more days went by.

The vibrations from the battlefield were getting stronger by the day: Void had been keeping Grey updated about the battle while the others were lazing around or training.

The Principal was trying to see if he could make any advances in his cultivation while they were here. Klaus and Reynolds were lazing around as expected, with Alice mostly training.

Instructor Blake and Delia were mostly out of sight, although whenever they were seen, they were training as well. They could all feel pressure on their shoulders as if things might escalate at any given moment.

A week of constant battle and the Qilin Empire is said to have advanced considerably into the territory of the Blue Wind Empire. From what old man Gerald said, things were not going too well for the Blue Wind Empire.

On the same day, Grey got a piece of news that surprised him, and he was forced to call on the others.

"The Azure Empire has joined the Stellar and Qilin Empire in attacking the Blue Wind Empire's troops," Grey reported to the others.

"What?" The Principal and the others exclaimed in disbelief.

"According to Void, the forces of the Blue Wind Empire at the borders close to the Qilin Empire had started retreating the previous day, this was as a result of the Azure Empire suddenly attacking them..." Grey went on to explain the situation to them.

There was a misunderstanding between the Azure Empire and the Blue Wind Empire and it caused a rift between the partnership of the two empires. According to old man Gerald, the Azure Empire demanded for the Instructors, but the Blue Wind Empire said they didn't have them. Of course the Azure Empire thought the Blue Wind Empire only said this because they wanted to be the ones to capture Grey and his friends.

"Isn'tt this a little bit too risky for the Azure Empire? If they were to eliminate the Blue Wind Empire, then they would lose their only ally. The Qilin and Stellar Empires would be able to easily take them down with a pincer attack," Blake said after Grey finished with his report.

"That's what everyone is saying, but the Azure Empire is acting strangely, as if possessed by something," Grey replied.

"Hmm, this is getting a little complicated. Do you think it's a plan from both empires to confuse the others?" The Principal asked.

"It might be, but there have been some heavy casualties on the side of the Blue Wind Empire as a result of this. If this truly is a plan between the two empires, then I feel sorry for those pawns who had to die unnecessary deaths," Grey replied.

The fighters of the Blue Wind Empire were dying from being overwhelmed by the numbers, there was no way the Emperor of the empire would be that selfish and evil.

"You're right, even the Qilin Empire wouldn't carelessly fall for this. They will exercise caution as they advance," The Principal said.

The group was still in the middle of their conversation when Grey suddenly felt a surge of uneasiness. It was like a dark, eerie feeling overwhelmed him.

Everyone sensed his sudden change and turned to him.

"Is everything alright?" Klaus was the first to ask

'Grey, get out of there now! Some terrifying people are coming,' Grey received a panicked message from Void at the same moment.

'What... what are you saying?' He asked.

'Leave that place, go anywhere else, I'll find a way to come to you,' Void urged.

Grey didn't think about it anymore and instantly tried to activate the teleportation array in the building. He had already placed all the stones needed just for a scenario like this.

But his expression changed drastically when it didn't work..

Chapter 609 - Spatial Lockdown

"It's not working," Grey muttered as he tried activating the array again.

Just like the first time, it didn't work as well.

"Damn it!" Grey exclaimed in frustration.

"Grey, what's going on?" The Principal was the first to notice something was wrong before Grey's sudden show of annoyance.

"The spatial array in the building is not working," Grey answered.

"Is that bad?" The Principal asked with a downcast expression.

He didn't really know what Grey was speaking about, but before he reacted this way, it meant it was probably a bad thing.

"Very, someone must've thought of a way to stop us," Grey as he tried to sense the area around them.

He was unable to notice anyone. But he knew for a fact that someone or even some people were around the building.

"What do we do now?" Klaus asked.

"We'll have to think of a way to stop whoever blocked this spatial array thingy Grey's speaking about. Once we're done, we'll leave this place since it's been compromised," The Principal didn't take long before coming to a decision.

"I don't think things will be that easy since they could successfully stop us from teleporting out of here, it means they're not people we can take lightly. In fact, I'm at least ninety percent sure that they are from the Aurora Continent since they know of the space element," Grey replied after giving it some thought.

The only people who knew of the space element, and ways to counter it are from the Aurora Continent.

"Hmm, what do you mean by the space element?" Blake asked.

Grey didn't hide the existence of the space element from the trio any longer.

After his explanation, the faces of the Principal, Instructor Blake, and Delia were one of incredible shock.

"Wait, what?" The Principal as well as Instructor Blake and Delia asked in surprise.

This was their first time hearing of the space element.

"I'll explain more about it later. But all you should know is that it's the only reason we were able to leave the Blue Wind Empire without any hassle. Naturally, I made another array here in case any unforeseen issues arise," Grey responded.

"Let's go out and see our visitors," The Principal said to the others.

They nodded before following the Principal outside.

As soon as the Principal stepped outside, he sensed something that made him stop to look around.

"There's an eerie feeling around the entire town," He murmured while staring around.

"Something's wrong," Klaus said when he didn't hear the voice of any of the townspeople.

"Yes, I can't sense any living thing within a kilometer," The Principal said with furrowed brows.

This was a strange situation. Even though the war was happening thousands of kilometers away, there have been a few people who decided to leave early. When the others heard the news that the Qilin Empire had started to enter the territory of the Blue Wine Empire, they felt reassured that the war wouldn't reach this town, so they decided to stay.

But for some reason, no living person could be sensed by anyone from the group.

'Void, where are you?' Grey asked.

'I'm on my way there, at least in three minutes time or so I should be there,' Void replied.

'Why did you urge me to leave?' Grey tried to see if Void knew the people they were about to face.

'Unfortunately, no. I only had a terrible feeling. Also, I sensed an aura that I've sensed in the Aurora Continent before, I just can't figure it out,' Void replied.

'It's alright. The spatial zone here has been locked, so there's no way to use the space element here. I don't know how far it covers. Try to figure it out before coming,' Grey said.

'Alright,' Void replied.

They were going against an enemy they knew nothing about, but this enemy seems to have a good technique to stop them from leaving. Now, all they could do was rely on the Principal.

"What's this dark fog circulating around?" Alice asked when she noticed the faint dark fog.

"Huh?"

Her question brought everyone's attention to the faint black fog around. If one didn't look properly, they wouldn't notice it.

The Principal studied it for only a second before his expression changed, "Don't inhale it. It's extremely toxic. Luckily, Alice noticed it sooner, if we took in any more, then we would've died without even fighting against whoever our opponent is,"

"Doesn't that mean all the townspeople are dead?" Delia asked with a sad expression.

"Unfortunately, yes. Given the strength of their bodies, it's impossible for them to survive after inhaling this fog for a minute," The Principal replied.

"We should get going," He added.

"Sir," Grey called on the Principal to stop. Seeing that he had stopped, he continued, "Can we wait for a minute longer? Void's trying to see how far this restriction is. Knowing the limitations of this lockdown will at least give us a certain amount of precautionary measure,"

"Hmm, alright. Once he's done, we'll leave," The Principal said.

He still didn't know how Grey was communicating with Void who was nowhere to be seen, but he trusted Grey. Although Grey tends to hide things from him, when he saw the expressions of Grey's friends when he was speaking of the space element, he could tell that they knew of it.

When thinking of this, a thought suddenly came to his head. Since Grey knew so much about this space element, it only means that he has it as well. If he recalled properly, Grey already had three elements he knew of, lightning, earth, and the fire element he somehow managed to acquire back at the trial land. Now with the addition of this space element, it meant Grey had four elements.

That was insane!

A few minutes later.

'Hey, so I've got the exact range of the lockdown. It's around two and a half kilometers. However, it's weaker once you go past the one-and-a-half-kilometer mark. You can find a way to escape once you've gone past there,' Void explained.

"Okay, we can go now," Grey said.

Chapter 610 - The Big Guns

The group stepped out of the compound where they were staying, and they got the shock of their lives. Well, everyone except Grey since he has had a somewhat similar experience.

In front of them stood a multitude of people, but they all had black lines across their bodies and were all pale. It was evident that there was no life in them, however, they were walking.

"What the hell is this?!" Klaus and Reynolds exclaimed simultaneously.

"Necromancers," Grey said as he stared at the walking dead.

"Necromancers?" The Principal asked.

"Yes, they're a group of people who can basically control dead people. This is a tricky situation," Grey explained.

He had already told his friends about necromancers, so when they heard him say the word, they already knew what they could do, but the Principal, Instructor Blake, and Instructor Delia were left stunned.

Grey was introducing them to a world they never even knew existed. Almost every single time they speak to him, they are learning or hearing about something entirely new to them.

"So you mean after they killed all the townspeople, they started to control them?" The Principal asked.

"Yes, but we shouldn't have too much difficulty in dealing with them since the strength of the townspeople is only meager. Besides, their numbers can't really affect us," Grey elucidated.

"They don't seem to have noticed us," Blake said.

"Yeah, but it wouldn't be for long. The main thing now is to locate the necromancer behind this. I never thought they would be here as well. Looks like they managed to come here by accident," Grey muttered.

'And since they aren't the ones ruling the empires, it means they're not that powerful. At least not stronger than the Sage Plane Elementalists around,' He thought to himself.

It's easy for him to assume this since he knew if a necromancer was here, and given how they seem to be active, they would naturally want to be well feared. The only thing that might stop them is the lack of strength on their part.

Just after Grey finished replying to Instructor Blake's words, one of the seemingly walking dead noticed them. As soon as it did, it screeched loudly which alerted the others as well.

"We've been noticed. Try to destroy them, they're already dead so no need to hold back," Grey said.

"How could someone be this evil? Going as far as killing all these innocent people," Alice said with clenched fists.

"Necromancers are hated generally, so I can understand how you feel. Just a reminder, they also rob graves as well. If there's a strong powerhouse who died, they would rob the grave, stealing the corpse," Grey added.

"That's going too far," Klaus said.

Everyone present found the act disgusting.

The walking dead close to them was the first to attack, charging at the group.

Grey sent out a blue fireball that first sent the corpse flying into the other ones around it, before exploding on impact. A single attack destroyed at least ten corpses at a time.

"Attack, we don't have time for any delays," Grey said.

The others nodded as they attacked the corpses as well. Destroying over one hundred in a matter of seconds.

Bang! Boom!

They continued attacking before the Principal suddenly started to notice a change. Due to his strength, he was more sensitive. He could sense that after they started destroying the corpses, they seemed to be getting weaker.

He threw an attack at one of the corpses in front of him to verify his thoughts, and after doing so, he studied it properly. He realized that the corpse was releasing a fragrance after it was destroyed.

"Don't destroy the corpse, Klaus, freeze them," The Principal stopped the others from attacking.

When the corpses are frozen, they don't realize the fragrance since they were trapped.

"Why?" Reynolds asked.

"They're making us weak," Grey was the one who replied.

The Principal nodded when he heard Grey's words. He was a little shocked that Grey was able to also quickly notice this as well.

"Damn these people! How are they even doing it?" Reynolds asked.

Grey raised his shoulder, signifying he had no idea.

Klaus and Instructor Delia took in a deep breath before placing both hands in front of them. They started to emit ice chills from their bodies that they sprayed in front of them.

Within a few seconds, they had started to freeze all the corpses that were coming in their direction.

But just when they were halfway through, they noticed the ice around the corpses started to explode.

"Of course they wouldn't make it easy for us," Grey said.

He tapped his feet on the ground, and as soon as Klaus or Instructor Delia froze any of the corpses, they would sink into the ground.

The process was quick and in a synergy that nobody expected it. The duo freezing the corpses wanted to stop, but the Principal stopped them, telling them it was the work of Grey.

Before long, the front of the group was already almost empty, with only eight corpses standing. No matter how they tried to freeze these corpses, the ice would melt even before it got close to them.

"These ones are the real problem. We were lucky we didn't get in a prolonged battle with those cannon fodder, else it would've been difficult for us to notice these guys," Grey said.

"What are they?" The Principal asked.

Grey explained a little more about necromancers. Their abilities to make sure the strength of the corpse they were controlling was around the same stage, or even more powerful than when the person died.

"Does that mean if these guys were Sage Plane Elementalists when they were dead, they would also be the same way after these guys start controlling them?" Instructor Blake asked.

"I'm not too familiar with their ways, but that's how it should be. Well, that was what I was told," Grey explained.

"How about the real necromancers, how powerful are they?" The Principal asked.

"They are not that strong, even when placed in a place like this, they would still be weaker than those in the same stage," Grey said.