

## Affinity: Chaos #Chapter 61 - Fourth Round - Read Affinity: Chaos Chapter 61 - Fourth Round

### *Chapter 61:Fourth Round*

The next day...

Grey and his friends were discussing the upcoming battles.

"If you are not confident about any battle, you should admit defeat immediately, so you can save your strength for the next battles," Grey said looking at both Reynolds and Klaus.

"I know, I'm not that dumb to waste my energy in a lost battle" Klaus was the first to reply.

"There are only eleven spots, the students in the Eighth stage will all qualify, leaving only four spots left," Reynolds said.

"Make that three spots left since I will definitely qualify" Grey said calmly.

"Okay fine, three spots left. Since..." Reynolds continued but was interrupted mid-sentence.

"Make that two spots, since Damian is also likely to qualify" Klaus interjected.

"Fine, two spots. That leaves us with four students at the Seventh stage, and you" Reynolds looked at Klaus.

"My chances of defeating the other three are pretty high, so I should be able to grab a spot. How confident are you in grabbing the last one?" Reynolds asked Klaus. magic

"Not too confident" Klaus shook his head after some thoughts.

"You should be able to defeat two out of the three" Grey said.

"Yeah, I should. But it's not going to be easy" Klaus clenched his fist tightly. Among the group, he was the weakest. Being friends with Grey, Reynolds, and Alice had pushed him to work harder in his training. It's just..., sometimes he feels like it's still not enough.

He was already in the First stage of the Arcane Plane when Grey entered the Academy, now Grey was already one stage ahead of him. And even if they were in the same stage, he knew he had no chance of defeating Grey.

Luckily, this didn't make him depressed, it only pushed him harder to train more than he usually does. He has advanced quicker than his expectations over the year since he became friends with Grey.

"You can do it" Alice encouraged from the side.

"As long as you cheer for me, I will win," Klaus said with a smile.

"Of course, just make sure you win whenever I cheer you on," Alice said with a cute smile.

'Sometimes I wonder if they're the same person' Klaus thought after seeing Alice's smile. It's hard to associate the cute girl in front of him with the one who beats the hell out of her opponents at the yearly tournament.

"Okay. I think I should be among the first fighters" Klaus said. His plaque number was thirteen, if the battles follow the same patterns as the first ones, he should be among the first fighters.

"Me too" Reynolds's plaque number was one, so he would be the first participant who would be called out.

While they were still discussing, an instructor climbed onto the platform.

"Since each student will get to battle four times today, after each battle, you will be given thirty minutes to rest before you start the next battle" The instructor spoke calmly.

"Now, students with plaque number one to four and number fourteen to eleven should step into the respective platforms assigned to them" After speaking, the instructor stepped down from the platform since the battles would begin immediately.

"Wish me luck," Klaus said before heading towards the platform.

"Good luck"

Grey and Alice said at the same time. They both wanted Klaus to grab a spot, so they could all participate in the competition.

Reynolds headed towards the first platform, while Klaus headed towards the second one. When Reynolds got to the platform, on seeing his opponent, he shook his head with a wry smile.

His opponent was none other than Damian. Although he wasn't confident in defeating him, it didn't mean he shouldn't try. He wants to at least know the difference in strength between them.

Klaus' situation was even less hopeful, his opponent was a girl called Sheila. She was one of the two stronger ones in the Eighth stage, Klaus was familiar with her since she was also from the Water Hall.

"Hey, Sheila" Klaus waved a hand with a smile.

"Hey Klaus, truthfully, I'm quite surprised you made it this far. I never knew you were this strong until your battle with Mike," Sheila said truthfully.

Klaus smiled in response. He knew Sheila wasn't trying to look down on him, she was only saying what she thought. They couldn't be said to be close friends, acquaintances at best.

They spoke for some time since all the students haven't gotten to the platform yet.

"Begin," The instructor said after the other students arrived.

Klaus knew this battle was lost, so he didn't plan on wasting his energy. And he caught sight of the battle between Reynolds and Damian, so after sending out some series of attacks, he yielded.

He spoke with Sheila as they descended the platform together. Sheila was happy Klaus admitted defeat quickly since it would save her the energy of battling. Although she would win even if he didn't admit defeat quickly, it wasn't like Klaus wouldn't be able to fight back.

The instructor nodded at Klaus's wise decision, he felt Klaus had a chance against those in the Seventh stage. From his point of view, Klaus shouldn't bother with those in the Eighth stage and just save his strength for those in the Seventh stage.

Klaus returned to his seat to watch the battle between Reynolds and Damian.

"Rey is strong" Klaus said after watching the battle for a while. He knew although Reynolds said he wasn't too confident in defeating Damian, there was no way Damian could defeat him easily.

"Yeah, but Damian already has the upper hand in this battle. It would be pretty hard for him to reverse the situation, but it's not impossible" Grey said what he thought about the battle.

"Yeah"

The battle continued and Reynolds was able to reverse the situation for some time, only Damian quickly took control of the battle once again. He lost by a narrow margin, but he wasn't disappointed. The difference between them wasn't much so with a little more training, he should be able to catch up.

Besides, it hasn't been long since he broke through, while Damian had already been in the Seventh stage for longer now.

When he returned to his friends, they all commended his effort in the battle.

The first set finished and Grey went up in the second set, his opponent was someone in the Seventh stage. He was victorious after a couple of exchanges with him.

The day went by quickly, and they finished the four battles for today. Among Grey's four battles, he fought with only one student who was in the Eighth stage which he won comfortably.

Grey won all four of his battles, Klaus won one of them, and Reynolds won two. Klaus and Reynolds met two opponents in the Eighth stage today, with Reynolds getting a surprise victory over one of them.

They all went home to prepare for the battles of the next day.

*Chapter 62:Fourth Round II*

Grey headed to the valley, with the success he had the previous day, he wanted to use the momentum to at least send out a single attack with the symbol.

After they were done eating, he started his training. Chris was slightly taken aback when he first saw the symbol appear.

'This is faster than I expected'

Grey's learning speed was incredible, he remembered it took him over two months before he was able to inscribe. But Grey has already made the symbol appear just within a week, and with the way it's going, he should be able to successfully use it to attack within the next two days.

Chris started pointing out some of the mistakes he was making. With this help, Grey was able to make the symbol appear more frequently, although he still sometimes failed, his success rate is well over sixty percent. His only problem now was attacking with it, if he could do that, then he could be called an inscriber.

He wasn't far from success though, within a day or two he should be able to make it. Once he's comfortable attacking with it, he would then focus on reducing the time needed to inscribe the symbol mid-air. He didn't forget to practice his arrays.

Practicing both at the same time had increased his experience in them. Grey stayed till after sunset before he headed home, today he wanted to focus fully on comprehending the wind element. If he could increase its grade to orange, it would boost his strength once more.

He was currently stuck in a bottleneck in his comprehension of the earth element, so he hasn't been able to improve the grade to purple. Hopefully, he would get enlightenment on it soon.

After getting home, he entered into the chaos space immediately and started comprehending the wind element.

The next day...

Grey went for his physical training after waking up, although the time spent was short, it was still better than not going at all.

He had already battled with four of the other thirteen students. From the remaining nine students, six were in the Eighth stage, Reynolds, Klaus, and Damian were the other three. It can be said his upcoming battles should be interesting, although he was only interested in two of the six students in the Eighth stage, the others won't be that easy.

The student he was most interested in among the two was a Dual Elementalist, he is the strongest among the other participants. All his battles have been simple and quick, he hasn't had any eye-catching fight. But Grey could feel he would be his biggest challenge in the tournament.

The battles started and his first opponent was one of the six Eighth stage students. The battle lasted for about seven minutes before Grey defeated him. This victory drew the attention of Sheila and the Dual Elementalist in the Eighth stage.

Even the instructors and students had taken note of him. Grey had already defeated three students in the Eighth stage since the tournament began. He defeated the first one in the third round, before defeating one the previous day. The addition of this student made it three.

Reynolds and Damian are the only other students who have defeated a student in the Eighth stage while being a stage behind. Reynolds has defeated one, the same as Damian. Damian lost both of the battles he fought with students in the Eighth stage yesterday.

Reynolds also won his first match of the day, while Klaus unfortunately lost. It wasn't unexpected, but he gave his opponent a tough time before losing. Getting another victory would increase his chances of grabbing a spot, but he knew it wouldn't be easy.

One more win and he should be able to grab a spot, hopefully. His next battle was against a student at the Eighth stage, which he didn't waste his time on and quickly admitted defeat.

Grey and three other students at the Eighth stage are the only ones who have won all five of their battles. His next battle was also against a student in the Eighth stage which he also won. With this win, apart from the Dual Elementalist, no one else has defeated more students in the Eighth stage as much as he has.

Reynolds lost his second match, with three victories, he should be able to get a spot since there's a student who still hasn't had a single win.

Reynolds next match was against Klaus.

They both walked side by side towards the platform, laughing on the way. On seeing them, the instructor knew there was no way both of them would fight, given how close their friendship seems.

"Begin," He said anyway.

"Hey Rey, who do you think will win in the battle on the next platform?" Klaus asked with a curious look.

"I think Alan will win, although Sheila is strong, Alan is a Dual Elementalist and that gives him more attacking options," Reynolds said.

Currently, Sheila and Alan were in a heated battle. None have been able to gain the upper hand, but the battle just started, so it's still too early to judge.

"You know one of you can just admit defeat and watch the battle in your seats right?" The instructor said with a long face, he can't chase them out of the platform since, technically, their battle was ongoing.

"We'll watch for some time here before going back to our seats, watching the battle here is more thrilling, right Rey?" Klaus walked over to Reynolds and threw a hand across his shoulder.

"Yeah" Reynolds nodded.

The instructor sighed, 'Forget it, even if they leave the platform now, it's not like another battle would start immediately'.

He also turned his attention to the fight between Sheila and Alan.

"Bang"

A fire snake clashed heavily into a wall made of ice. The wall immediately started cracking, but it managed to hold on.

As soon as the fire snake was blocked, Sheila sent out ice arrows towards her opponent. Alan utilized the wind element to quickly dodge the attack.

They exchanged some more moves. This had been the most exciting battle since the tournament started. It got everyone's attention, the few who were still battling even took peeks at it.

"Lotus," Alan said calmly.

A three-petaled lotus appeared in the air, it was entirely made of scorching flames.

"Look, he has been able to make three petals appear"

"Wow"

Different conversations started when the lotus appeared. This was a powerful technique that both the Fire and Water Elementalists could use, if used by a water Elementalist, it would be made entirely of ice.

The more petals the lotus has, the stronger it is. Only after reaching the fifth petal can one make another lotus appear, but it wasn't that easy since congealing the petals increases in difficulty after each petal.

"How many petals can you make?" Grey asked Alice who was sitting beside him.

"Same as him, but I should be able to make the fourth petal soon" Alice replied.

Grey nodded before he continued watching the battle.

"Let's see who has the strongest lotus," Sheila said seriously.

"Ice lotus"

A chilling wind came with the appearance of an ice lotus floating at the front of Sheila. Just like Alan, her lotus also had three petals.

"Go"

"Go" magic

They both sent their lotus towards their opponent.

\*BOOM\*

Both lotuses crashed against each other and exploded, one part of the platform was covered in ice while the other side was covered in fire. It was a spectacular sight. A war of ice and fire has always been a spectacular sight.

They were clearly in a stalemate, none was able to get the advantage.



"Hurricane" Alan's calm voice was heard once again.

The flames immediately started raging with the boost it got from the wind. Alan ingeniously used the wind element to increase the intensity of his flames thereby giving it the advantage in the war between ice and fire.

The fire soon started gaining the upper hand.

"Alan wins"

*Chapter 63:Fourth Round III*

Alan looked at the instructor calmly before walking off the platform.

"What an exciting battle," Klaus said.

"Yeah, this was absolutely a top-notch performance from both fighters" Reynolds added.

The instructor in charge of their platform looked at the two commentators and couldn't help but roll his eyes.

Klaus and Reynolds spoke all through the fight between Alan and Sheila, there were times they made him laugh with their commentary.

"Are you two done?"

Klaus and Reynolds shifted their gazes back to him.

"Oh sorry, we forgot our battle was still ongoing," Klaus said.

"Rey,"

"What?"

"Admit defeat"

"Why?"

"Well, because I need this victory,"

"Why don't you admit defeat instead?"

"You idiot, don't you want me to participate in the competition?"

"Hmm, you have a point there"

The two continued bickering some more.

The instructor felt like beating both of them up, 'Why was I the one sent here?' He almost couldn't hold back anymore.

Luckily, Reynolds admitted defeat before his anger exploded. The instructor knew Klaus and has always known him for being playful, so he just let it slide.

When they both got back to their seat, one more battle was still ongoing. So Grey was still there.

"Why did you two take so long?" Grey asked.

Because of the fight between Alan and Sheila, he didn't check on his friends. He knew they weren't going to fight anyway, so there was no need, the only thing that is puzzling him was why they took so long.

"You didn't see our fight? We had an epic battle" Klaus started exaggerating the nonexistent fight he had with Reynolds.

Reynolds just looked at him with a confused look, the only thing in his mind was, 'When did we have such an epic battle?'

"...and after I dodged that attack, I was able to immediately send him flying off the stage." Klaus smiled after he finished his story.

"So in short, Reynolds admitted defeat after you were done watching the battle?"

"Yeah, that's pretty much the summary of the entire battle" Klaus nodded continuously as he replied.

Alice laughed when she saw this, Klaus came up with such a great battle that even she hoped to see something like that.

"You currently have two wins, adding my battle would make it three" Grey surmised.

"Yeah, I've already defeated that one guy who I don't know his name, Reynolds, and I don't think you'll be much of a challenge. So yeah, I already have three wins in the bag" Klaus shrugged.

Grey looked at him and declined to reply, it was best to let a man dream. If someone who didn't know them heard what Klaus said, they would think Klaus would be able to comfortably defeat both Reynolds and Grey.

It soon got to Grey's turn. When he stepped onto the platform, he was surprised by his opponent.

'Damian' Grey was slightly taken aback.

"Hello," Grey greeted with a smile.

Damian looked at him for some time before speaking.

"I know I'm not your opponent, but I really do want to fight you"

"Well, here we are" Grey spread his arms.

"Begin"

"Let's fight," Damian roared.

"Hope you don't disappoint me" Grey smiled before charging towards Damian.

Three pillar-like rocks shot towards Grey, he sidestepped to avoid it before sending out an attack which took the shape of a fist, only it was made of lightning.

On seeing the attack, Damian set up two protective walls in front of him in a bid to stop the attack.

"Boom"

The strike easily shattered the first wall before crashing into the second one. After holding out for some time, the second one crumbled as well, it was able to reduce the power of the attack significantly before it crumbled.

Damian was able to block the weakened attack but was pushed back a couple of steps. magic

'He's this strong?'

The strength of Grey's attack exceeded his expectations. He thought very highly of Grey, that was why when he saw the attack, instead of using just one wall, he made two. But it seems like it still isn't high enough.

He once again increased how highly he thought of Grey. Since he took notice of Grey, he decided he would go all out for this battle. Even if it means he would lose the next due to fatigue, as long as the battle was great, he didn't care.

They continued exchanging moves but Grey got the upper hand in the entire battle. He had been able to counter every move Damian used.

While the battle was still on, Grey sent out an attack that stunned the crowd.

"Fu\*k, that attack is too overpowered" Klaus shouted out.

"I still haven't been able to master it yet, but he unexpectedly has" Alice opened her mouth in amazement.

This technique was the hardest technique he has mastered so far.

"Lightning Rain"

The entire arena was completely covered with bolts of lightning falling from the sky.

Damian had a tough time defending against it, he was able to block some, but they were just too many. He was hit multiple times, but even after this attack, he was still standing.

'His ability to take a beating is amazing' Grey clicked his tongue when he saw Damian was still on his feet.

The crowd was also surprised by it, most of the students felt the battle was already over with that attack from Grey.

He stamped his foot strongly on the platform, and it shook strongly.

"Crack"

Cracks started appearing on the platform.

"Thump, Thump"

Grey felt like something was pounding the platform, the sound almost resembled the sound of a heartbeat. Not just him, everyone in the arena heard it.

"What is that?"

They all started asking the same question, what was making that sound.

"It's like a heartbeat," Klaus said.

"Where is it coming from?" Reynolds asked.

Klaus shook his head, he had no idea where the sound was coming from.

"I think it's from the platform Grey's on" Alice said.

The instructor looked at Damian with eyes filled with shock.

'It shouldn't be....' He tried to dispel the thoughts coming to his head.

The sound got louder and the crack on the platform started increasing, it was like something wanted to break free from underneath the earth.

The shaking in the platform increased, Grey subconsciously took a step back. He didn't expect something like this to happen, from what he saw, he knew this was definitely related to Damian.

All the battles in the other platforms ceased, and they all looked in the direction of Grey and Damian.

Everyone looked intently at the platform, they all waited patiently. The sound kept on growing louder and soon.

**\*BOOM\***

The middle of the platform exploded out and dust immediately covered the place, small pieces of rocks flew everywhere and Grey easily destroyed the ones that came his way.

The entire arena went silent, they all looked at the platform with eyes filled with curiosity.

"RAWR....."

The roar shook the arena.

Those who were weaker and were closer to the platform felt intense fear.

"Oh my God!"

*Chapter 64:Fourth Round IV*

Grey looked at the creature that appeared in front of him. It was a stone golem that stood at a height of over five meters.

"He's a summoner" One of the instructors exclaimed.

"Summoner?" Grey looked at Damian closely.

This was not the first time he had come across this word, he had read about it in some books. Summoners are even rarer than Dual Elementalist, they have the special ability to summon a creature made entirely of their elements.

Not all summoners were born with the gift, some had resonance with their said elements which in turn gives them this special ability. The chance of a summoner appearing in a hundred thousand Elementalist is meager.

These summons are always at least a stage above their summoner, and their strength is always at the peak of said stage. For example, since Damian is at the Seventh stage of the Arcane Plane, his summon would be at the Eighth stage of the Arcane Plane. Its strength could rival the weaker ones in the Ninth stage.

The downside to this is that, after the summon disappears, the summoner will enter into a weakened state. There is no free meal in this world, everything has a price. In the case of summoners, the price they pay is their elemental essence.

As long as the summoner's elemental essence is still available, the summon will last till it's dismissed. But since it runs entirely on the elemental essence of the summoner, the consumption rate is quite high.

With Damian's current abilities, he can keep the summon for about six minutes tops. If he were battling any other person, he was confident five

minutes would be enough to give him victory. But he knew Grey still hadn't shown his full strength yet.

Grey looked at his new opponent with excited eyes, he had already changed the previous thought he had, now Damian was his strongest challenge in the tournament.

"It seems sentient. Amazing!" Grey was awed by the wonders of the world.

The crowd looked at the golem in shock.

"That's a golem from the legends"

Most of the students were excited when they found out what it was. It was something they never thought to appear in the tournament, not even the competition. They never even had the thought to start with, so this was a fairly pleasant surprise. And they loved it.

The golem looked at Damian, before switching his gaze to Grey. It can't really be said to be looking at Grey since there weren't any eyes on its face. It only had a mouth, which is clearly used for scaring the shit out of people with its roars.

If any other student were to be in Grey's position, they would have been scared senseless when they heard the roar. To be honest, Grey slightly felt fear when he heard it. But his curiosity got the better of him.

Grey sent a lightning bolt towards it, he wanted to test how strong its defense was before planning on what next to do.

"Bang" magic

The lightning crashed into it, but it did not affect it. Apart from making some marks as a result of the strike, nothing else happened, it didn't even flinch on getting hit.

This was within Grey's expectations, the attack didn't have the strength to deal strong damage to it. But still, it should have at least broken some rocks on its body.

It roared again angrily and charged at Grey.

'Oops, I think my attack angered it' Grey thought and quickly tried to dodge the attack of the golem.

But to his surprise, the golem was able to keep up with his movement and was even able to put him in a difficult position. He expected the size of the golem to affect its speed, but his thoughts were dead wrong.

The golem was as fast as he was, which wasn't supposed to happen given its size.

It sent a fist towards Grey, the power behind it was unbelievable. The instructor by the side was already prepared to charge in once he notices Grey couldn't hang on.

Lightning covered Grey's hands completely, and he struck a fist towards the fist of the golem. When the instructor saw this his heart nearly jumped out of his throat.

"Is he mad?!"

The students all had similar reactions, Grey's idea of using his fists against the golem was idiotic from their point of view.

"Bang"

Both fists slammed into each other and Grey was pushed back. He clearly lost in the battle of strength, but he managed to destroy some parts of the golem's fist.

"How's this possible?" The students and the instructors felt like their view of life had shattered.

Grey attacked the golem with his fist covered only in lightning but was alright. After some thought, they all attributed it to the lightning he used.

'This isn't so bad' Grey looked at his fist with a smile. Although the lightning did most of the work, his physical strength still came up with about forty percent in that attack.

No one would dare to replicate what he just did. He sent an orb towards the golem, the golem tried to slap it away, but before it could do that, it exploded right in front of it.



Some parts of the golem broke off. Just as Grey was about to make another attack, he saw the golem's body was repairing itself.

"It heals?" Grey was dumbstruck.

First of all, he didn't know how long Damian could keep the summon. Coupled with its ability to self-repair, it can be said to be almost undefeatable. It has only been around one minute since the golem appeared.

Grey didn't feel discouraged, he once again charged towards the summon and attacked. After attacking for almost thirty seconds, he was able to successfully break off some other parts of the golem's body.

But just like before, it repaired itself. Only this time, Grey noticed a difference. The speed at which it used in repairing itself was much slower compared to the first time.

"Hmm, seems like I found a way" Grey came up with a plan, that was to beat the golem so much that its repair speed won't be able to keep up with the damage it would be taking.

He charged at the golem, but this time, the golem sent him flying with a punch. Luckily he was able to keep himself on the platform, else he would have lost this fight.

Grey had already used earth armor, which was able to limit the damages he took from the golem.

During the course of the next minute, Grey had been sent flying two more times, but he had been able to make some major damages to the golem.

Currently, one of the golem's hands was in the process of repairing itself. Grey managed to completely destroy one of its hands with a lightning blade he sent towards it when he found an opening.

The battle has been exciting all through, the students were all watching the fight animatedly. Since this was something they were seeing for the first time, they wanted to see just how strong the summon was. And it hasn't disappointed them so far.

The surprise they got from the battle was the fact that Grey was able to still battle with the golem even after the times it had sent him flying. He not only was still battling, but he had been able to destroy one of the golem's hands.

Grey was already starting to worry, his insides were already not in the right spots from all the attacks he had received from the golem. Although the golem is healing at a slower pace, it hasn't shown any signs of crumbling yet.

He sent out an attack that took the shape of a fist made from lightning towards the golem. Since one of its hands was still under repair, it was left with only one hand. Grey attacked the side of its body where it would be hard for it to use its only hand to block the attack.

Another minute went by and Grey had already successfully destroyed more than half of its head, with multiple holes in its body.

Grey was about to send out another attack when the golem slowly started crumbling. He turned his gaze to Damian and only saw him lying unconscious on the floor.

The instructor went over to check on him.

"He's fine, he only passed out from overexertion"

Grey nodded before he turned to leave the platform.

"Grey wins" The instructor announced the result before taking the unconscious Damian out of the platform.

The students all applauded Grey's strength. For him to be able to battle the golem for as long as he did without suffering a defeat was just amazing.

Sheila felt she wouldn't stand a chance against the golem if she were in Grey's position.

Grey walked over to his friends and sat down to rest. He still had one more battle for today, so he needs to recover as much strength as he possibly can.

Reynolds won his next battle which was against a student at the Seventh stage of the Arcane Plane.

But the most shocking thing happened at Klaus's battle, his opponent was Damian.

Damian was still unconscious and would only be able to battle the next day. So Klaus won the battle as a result of a forfeit.

He immediately started one of his legendary bragging sessions once again, which Grey showed no interest in, but Reynolds was completely hooked to what he was saying...

*Chapter 65:Fourth Round V*

Grey's last battle was against a student in the Eighth stage. Although he won, he was worn out from the after-effects of the battle he had with Damian. It took Grey almost ten minutes before he was able to defeat his opponent, and he was mostly on the defensive, trying to save as much energy as he possibly could.

One clean strike was all it took to defeat his opponent at the end. This was the first time Grey was this exhausted from the battles, the upside about the whole event was that his last opponent wasn't either Sheila or Alan. He would have definitely lost if he had battled any of them.

After the battles, Grey went home directly. There was no way he could train in this condition, he needed rest.

He woke up just before sunset, the exhaustion had died down a little. Since he couldn't train, he decided to try comprehending the elements. Damian's use of the earth element gave him more understanding of it.

Compared to him, Damian was more adept in the earth element, hence he has more understanding and depth of it. Grey was able to learn some things in the battle, so he wanted to use his newfound knowledge and see if he could break through the bottleneck and successfully advance the grade to purple.

The next day...

Grey went for his morning training as usual, after returning he felt more energetic compared to the previous day. The battle with Damian nearly drained him, the other battle, did the job. Luckily, he won both.

As it stands, out of thirteen battles, he had already won eight. He had five battles left, Reynolds and Klaus were two of the five, while the other three were Sheila, Alan, and another student at the Eighth stage.

"How are you feeling today?" Alice asked on seeing Grey.

They all saw how exhausted he was after the last battle he had yesterday, he was barely able to walk home.

"I'm much better, I shouldn't have a problem with battling today" Grey smiled. He appreciated the support and care his friends always showed him.

When the group heard this, they all smiled. Grey's situation could almost be said to be the same as Damian's, the only difference was that Grey managed to struggle home, while Damian didn't even know how he left the arena.

"Who would have thought Damian was a summoner?" Klaus asked.

"I was taken by surprise when the golem suddenly appeared" Reynolds joined in the topic.

"How did it feel to battle against it?"

"Well, not good," Grey said.

After thinking for a while, he added.

"It's like battling an unbeatable opponent. It doesn't feel pain, so no matter how hard you hit it, it would just shrug it off like it was nothing. It can regenerate which made it almost immortal, it's fast, which you all witnessed during the battle. And it radiates some sort of pressure that oppresses its opponent"

"Now that I think of it, it suddenly made sense why it was able to keep up with my speed. Although it's fast, it shouldn't be to the same extent as I am"

This baffled Grey during the battle, no matter what movement technique he uses, the golem was always able to keep up with his speed. There was a time he even infused his body with the wind element, coupled with the lightning element, but it was still able to keep up.

Speed was something he was proficient in, given the fact that he has two elements which boost the speed of the Elementalist.

"It truly is strong, but the consumption of elemental essence is terrifying. Damian wasn't even able to keep it up for five minutes before passing out from overexertion" Reynolds said.

"I think it had something to do with its regeneration ability. Since it depends fully on the element essence of its summoner, technically, it would also need the essence in regenerating. This, in turn, would increase the amount of essence the summoner provides" Grey deduced.

He thought of this when he noticed the difference in speed after the first regeneration, this must have been a result of the limited amount of essence in the summoner's body.

They continued discussing till the battles were about to start. Grey's first battle was against Sheila.

When the crowd noticed the fighters, they all looked on with interest. Grey was already tagged the second strongest in the tournament. Although Grey was strong, they felt Alan was stronger by a margin.

Grey and Alan were the only ones who had never lost a battle since the tournament started. Grey and Alan were both tied on eight victories, with Sheila following closely behind with seven. The next student only has five, same as two others, Reynolds was on four, while Klaus was on three, same as Damian, and two others.

One student was on two victories, with one student having one victory. The last student had zero victories, and he knew his chances were gone.

After the battle started, Grey didn't waste any time and sent out three earth spikes and six lightning orbs towards Sheila. He planned to end the battle as soon as possible to prevent any unexpected surprise, the one he had the previous day was enough for him.

Sheila dodged the attack expertly before sending out her own attacks. They exchanged moves with Grey getting the upper hand during the first two minutes.

"Lightning Rain" Grey mumbled under his breath.

He had been searching for an opportunity to use it, so when he got to the opportunity, he didn't delay.

Sheila's heart tightened when the first bolt struck towards her, she remembered the attack from the previous day. It was hard to defend against due to the number of lightning that strikes towards the target.

She used water to form a protective shield around her. It was able to survive the first set of attacks from the lightning, but on doing this, she couldn't have a chance to attack since her focus was placed on her protective shield which was being bombarded with attacks.

On seeing his opponent fall on the defensive, Grey's attack started getting more aggressive. Slowly but surely, the water started dying down and soon Sheila was left unprotected, Grey launched towards her and ended the battle quickly with Sheila admitting defeat after not being able to keep up anymore.

Grey went back to his seat and waited for his next battle. Klaus won his first battle for the day which brought him to four wins, Reynolds wasn't so lucky.

Grey's next battle was Klaus, which he didn't even bother to go to the platform. Since Klaus was the only one present, he won by forfeit. magic

They all waited patiently. Grey had three battles left, one against Reynolds, one against the other student at the Eighth stage, and finally one against Alan.

*Chapter 66:Heading Back*

Grey's next battle was against the student in the Eighth stage which he won. He currently had two people left to battle, one was Reynolds, and the other Alan.

Both fighters stood on the arena staring at each other, unlike Grey's previous battles, he was one hundred and one percent focused on this battle. He couldn't be careless since he knew how strong Alan was. magic

"Begin!"

The instructor called for the battle to start.

Both fighters attacked at the same time, Alan used the fire element to launch his attack while Grey used his lightning element.

Boom!

The attacks collided causing an explosion in the arena.

The students watching the fight from the stands all held their breaths and kept quiet watching the fight intensely, this was the most anticipated battle in the

tournament. Although most of them felt Alan was stronger, they wanted to see how far he could push Grey.

The explosion soon died down and both fighters could see each other once again.

Grey squinted his eyes, and launched an attack at Alan.

He created three earth maces that he sent at Alan.

Alan didn't panic and used a wind technique to dodge all three maces Grey threw at him while also sending out a palm made of fire towards Grey.

An earth wall appeared before Grey, completely blocking the path of the palm.

Bam!

The palm struck the wall, causing cracks to appear on the wall.

Crack!

The cracks on the wall gradually grew bigger, while the flaming palm slowly started to shrink. But before the fire shrunk.

Bang!

The wall instantly exploded as it couldn't withstand the force from the flaming hand anymore.

Grey quickly dodged to the side, avoiding the rubbles as well as what was left of the flaming palm.

The battle went on for four minutes, with Grey and Alan exchanging multiple moves. From their exchanges, it was clear to see that Alan had a slight advantage over Grey since he had been able to push him back on more than one occasion, only, he still hadn't been able to completely dominate him as there were times when Grey would come out with a flurry of attacks that overpowered him.

'Lightning Rain!'

'Fire Lotus!'

Grey and Alan decided to bring out their big moves after over four minutes of fighting.

Alan's three petaled fire lotus went straight at Grey, while Grey's lightning rain started falling down on him.

Being a Wind Elementalist, Alan managed to escape from some of the lightning, but not all.

While Grey on the other hand tried to block the fire lotus coming his way, he made two earth walls, but the first one was instantly destroyed, and the second one only lasted a second, before it was also destroyed.

Grey tried to escape from the impact of the blast, but was a little too late and was sent flying. He crashed into the ground of the arena, slightly injured.

He quickly stood up, and saw that Alan who had escaped the area of the lightning rain was already coming in his direction.

Alan sent a fireball towards the unsteady Grey who tried to block it with a lightning bolt.

Boom!

The attacks collided and Grey who was too close to it was sent flying once again by the impact of the explosion.

Alan seeing that Grey was down once again charged at him with the intent to attack once again.

Grey was already feeling some aches all around his body, and just as he was trying to stand up, he saw Alan charging at him. He could only smile wryly, because he knew this was already a lost battle.

"I concede!" He gave up before Alan could get to him.

If he continued fighting, then from the current advantage Alan had over him, it would be difficult for him to turn the tide.

Alan stopped and looked at Grey, this wasn't an easy battle for him and the lightning rain Grey used in attacking him did some damages to him, and he was currently panting heavily. He knew clearly that his stage was what gave him the first advantage over Grey in the battle.



Grey accepted the defeat since he lost fair and square, there was no excuse for it. Alan was stronger than he was and that was a fact. He didn't sulk over it and went over for his array training. He still hasn't been able to strike with the symbol so far, so he had to focus on it.

That day went by quickly...

The next day...

Grey's only battle for today was against Reynolds which he wouldn't fight, of course. He only went over to the arena because the tournament would be ending today, and the instructors would tell them when they would be leaving since the competition would be starting soon.

After the battles ended, the rankings were set, with Alan being the only one who didn't lose a fight, Sheila was behind him as she lost only two. Grey was third since he lost three battles, well, technically, he forfeited two, but a loss was a loss.

Klaus and Reynolds, with another student, were tied at five victories.

"All participating student should prepare themselves, we will be heading to the Capital in three days"

After the announcement, the tournament finally came to an end. Grey went over to the valley for his training.

"Teacher"

Grey suddenly called out after failing to once again unleash an attack from the symbol.

Chris raised his head to look at his cook, oh sorry! Student.

"Yes"

"I have a request," Grey said in a small voice.

"Oh!, what is it?" Chris asked with curiosity.

"The instructor announced we would be heading to the Capital in three days"

"I'm aware of that"

"Could you take me back to Red City? Since I came to the Academy, I haven't gone back because my mom told me she would send a letter. It's been over a year now and I haven't heard anything from her yet. I haven't seen my father since I was eight, and she said she was heading over to where he was. I know the chances of her still being in the City is small, but I still want to check"

The volume of Grey's voice decreased the more he spoke. He had missed his mother so much, she was his greatest support, and not hearing from her for over a year now, he was starting to get worried.

His father left in a hurry and he didn't hear from him again. His mother always told him he was fine, and he could feel she wasn't lying from how confident she was whenever she says it. Now, she said she was going over to meet him and refused to tell Grey the location.

He missed her care, voice, 'training', as weird as it sounds, he really did miss her training. And most of all, he missed her cooking.

Chris thought for a while before replying,

"Okay, we'll leave tomorrow. Also, inform Blake they can leave without you. I'll bring you to the Capital myself"

Grey was elated when he heard this, he wasn't too optimistic about Chris agreeing with his request. He bowed towards Chris and expressed his thanks before continuing with his training.

Chris narrowed his eyes, he remembered Martha.

'There's something about this family, from what I felt that day, Martha should at least be at the Seventh stage of the Overlord Plane, if not higher'

How could someone with that strength stay at that little place, Chris knew without a doubt, they were hiding something. He didn't even think Grey knew what Plane his mother was.

That attack Grey did, summed up his suspicion about the family. But he could tell Grey knew nothing about his mother's strength. If he knew, he wouldn't be worried since no one in the empire could harm her, unless she was sneaked attacked by a group of experts.

But the possibility of that happening is too small since the amount of Elementalist in the Late stages of the Overlord Plane are few.

The next day, after bidding farewell to his friends, Grey went over to meet up with Chris at the valley. He was a little hopeful about the journey, but he could deal with whatever the result was.

Blake was present in the valley when he arrived. He turned his attention to Grey on seeing him enter.

Grey bowed to Blake before walking over to where Brown was.

Blake smiled when he saw Grey. He had heard about Grey's performance in the tournament, and he was proud of his student. It wouldn't take long before Grey completely surpasses everyone in his group.

Chris soon came out and after speaking with Blake shortly, he walked over to where Grey and Brown were.

"There's still a little over five days before the competition starts, given the amount of time it took to bring you here, I wouldn't have accepted your request"

"But, since you're already in the Arcane Plane, you can cope with Brown's full speed. So unlike the last time, we should be able to reach before noon tomorrow"

Grey was slightly taken aback.

"That fast!"

When they came over from Red City, they only arrived here on the morning of the fourth day. But now, the journey was cut down by more than half.

Chris smiled.

"Oh! And we'll sleep in the forest during the night"

Grey was puzzled by Chris's words

"The last time we stayed at an Inn, why would we sleep in the forest this time?"

Chris laughed and then asked.

"You can't train in the Inn, right?"

When Grey heard this, he finally understood why Chris said this. He was currently trying to use the symbol to send out an attack, if he accidentally succeeds in the Inn, the owner can pretty much kiss his Inn goodbye since it would be destroyed by the attack.

Chris added after seeing Grey got the picture.

"And besides, you're a better cook compared to those morons who cooked at the Restaurants we ate at"

Grey didn't know if to cry or laugh. Chris had started getting used to his cooking lately that he even tells him to prepare his dinner most of the time before leaving the valley after training.

They immediately set off from the valley, their destination.

Red City...

*Chapter 67:Capital City*

Grey stood at the front gate of the city, it had been over a year since he left now. The city seemed almost exactly like he left it, but for some reason, he felt something was missing.

'I should get this over with'

He touched his nose with a sad smile on his face before heading into the city. Chris opted to stay behind with Brown, back in the forest since there was nothing in the city that interested him.

With a slight smile on his face, Grey entered the city. He didn't have any friends in the city since they all abandoned him during the first time he took the test. He couldn't say they were true friends though.

Grey looked at the building not too far from him, this was the place he spent over fifteen years of his life. The smile on his face only got sadder the more he looked at the place.

'So that's what is missing, huh'

He could see someone in the building, but it wasn't who he wanted. A new family was already living in the place, he watched the kids play for some time before leaving. It was a bittersweet moment for him. He remembered all the times he played here with his mother and father, the times he hid whenever he had messed up and his mother was searching for him to give him a good thrashing, oh training.

'Looks like she has left for a while now since the building is already occupied by someone else'

Grey asked the neighbors to know when she left. He got to find out that Martha disappeared just over a month after he left for the Academy. They woke up one morning and didn't see any signs of her. It was only after a month did they confirm she was gone. But the building was only occupied after a year had passed.

Grey walked around the city for some time, he visited the arena, the marketplace, and other places he frequented while he was still in the city. On his way to the arena, he surprisingly encountered Derek.

On seeing Grey, he was gripped with fear, thinking Grey would get revenge on him for what he did previously. Grey on the other hand just smiled at him before continuing his tour. Derek had already broken through to the Fusion Plane. It's below Grey to bully those lower than him in stages, talk less of an entire plane.

He wanted to see the city since he would most likely not come back here again, even if he would, it wouldn't be anytime soon given Martha wasn't there.

Grey spent exactly one hour in the city before leaving, although he was recognized by some people since their relationship wasn't good, there was no way they could talk to him.

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Boom!

A crater half a meter deep appeared on the ground. If one looks at the sky above the crater, a symbol could be seen flickering with silver lights. The symbol was made up of strange lines that formed a circle.

"Hmm, compared to yesterday, you've made some improvements"

Chris said as he inspected the site of the attack, this was the fifth time Grey was attacking with it today.

They left Red City two days back and were already more than halfway to the Capital. Grey was able to successfully attack with the symbol the previous day and was now working on increasing his success rate and speed.

With Chris's help, he was improving quite quickly. He could already be called an inscriber, okay well, half an inscriber. At least in five tries, he could now successfully attack with the symbol three times. His proficiency with controlling the essence has also improved with time.

A thought came to him which he quickly dismissed, he still wasn't confident enough to try it again, but he knew it wouldn't be long before he tried it.

"I feel the attack isn't as strong as it should be"

Grey said looking at the flickering symbol above him.

Chris looked at the symbol and laughed.

"Well, what do you expect from that?"

He pointed at the symbol before explaining.

"It's not good enough yet, so you don't expect it to have a higher attack power than what you already have. The flickering shows the symbol might die out at any moment, it can't gather the required essence for the attack due to this"

Grey felt what he said made sense since his symbol looked like it was just holding on and might die out any moment.

Chris gave him some tips on what to do. He continued his training while they were still on the journey.

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On the evening of the next day, they arrived at the Capital. A magnificent City appeared before Grey, the city had the most illustrious buildings he had ever seen, and even the gates were imposing. It exuded an aura that made those ordinary citizens shake in fear.

What surprised Grey was the fact that the guards at the gate were all in the Late stages of the Arcane Plane. One has to remember the mayor of Red City was only in the Arcane Plane, he hadn't even gotten to the Late stages yet.

This was the Capital City, the most dignified city in the entire empire. It had everything you could ask for.

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"What! How can it cost so much?"

Grey's heart was currently bleeding as he looked at the meal before him.

After entering the City, he told Chris he wanted to have a meal. Chris warned him on how expensive meals were in the City. But on remembering the money he took from the bandits which he rarely used, he was confident he could pay. Besides, meals in the most expensive restaurants back at Lunar City only cost around two to five silver coins.

"It's just fifty silver coins"

Chris said with a smirk, clearly enjoying the current plight of Grey.

"What do you mean just fifty silver coins? That's half a gold coin. What the hell are the meals made of?"

Grey looked at the meal before looking around again.

"This is even a run down place, yet they charge so much"

Chris shrugged.

"It's not my problem, I told you when we entered the City about how expensive things were" magic

Grey felt his head hurting, this was his hard-earned money, okay, the bandits' hard-earned money, you know what, just forget it, it doesn't matter. The main problem now is, a meal is about to cost him almost one-tenth of his entire wealth, who would eat something like that?!

"Can I return the meal?"

The waiter looked at Grey with emotionless eyes before replying.

"NO"

He left after his reply.

Grey ate the meal with a heavy heart with Chris laughing by the side.

"Teacher"

Grey looked up at Chris when he was almost done.

"Yes"

"Why don't you pay for my meal since it's the first time you're bringing me to the Capital?"

"No"

Chris answered with a sneer.

'Stingy old man'

Grey said in his head before paying for the meal. When he took out the coins, he almost couldn't let go of it, only after the waiter dragged with all his might did he finally let go.

The waiter looked at him with an expression of fear, he knew since Grey was this strong, he was definitely from a large force. But he still couldn't understand why Grey was so stingy.

"We should head over to meet the others"

Chris said after they left the restaurant.

This was not his first time coming to the City, so it didn't take long before he took Grey over to the others. The empire always provided a residence for each Academy.

Contrary to Grey's expectations, the Capital wasn't that big. Lunar City was larger than it was.

They headed towards the eastern part of the city, before arriving at a gate that had the word 'Lunar' boldly written on it. This was the residence assigned to the Lunar Academy.



*Chapter 68 - True Dawn*

"The competition will start tomorrow, why isn't Grey here yet?"

Reynolds asked with a worried look on his face.

"He should be here before the competition starts"

Alice said calmly, she knew Grey wouldn't miss the competition for anything in the world.

"Since he went back with Senior Chris, he should arrive on time"

Klaus knew Chris, so he wasn't worried about Grey not making it in time.

Before leaving, Grey told them he was heading back to Red City. Among the group, only Klaus knew Chris, so he was the most carefree.

While the group was still conversing, Grey and Chris were just entering the residence. Grey looked around awed by the exquisite designs of the buildings. Luckily, he didn't act like a country bumpkin, else Chris would've been embarrassed.

He followed Chris, and they soon got to a building, Grey heard voices as they got close to the building.

"Have you been able to find out the reason they increased the quotas?"

"I have"

"A trial...."

The speaker suddenly stopped and looked towards the entrance of the building.

Chris was the first to step into the building with Grey following closely behind. The building wasn't too large and was just like a hall, with seats at each side of the building and five seats arranged at the front. Tables were in front of the seats at the front and also the ones by the side.

Grey looked around and most of the faces here were familiar with him. The one who was speaking earlier was clearly the man seated at the front seat.

This wasn't the first time he heard the voice, so he was able to figure out it was him.

Seated at the front seat was none other than Oliver, the principal of the Academy. He saw Blake and the other head instructors, with a few other instructors he wasn't too familiar with. But since they were together in the meeting, it's evident their status at the Academy was high.

"When did you come?"

Oliver asked with a smile on seeing Chris.

"Just now"

Chris said offhandedly and took a seat.

"Why is he here?"

An instructor said while pointing at the Grey.

Grey looked at Chris before replying.

"I don't know the place where the students reside"

The instructor looked at Chris before saying towards another instructor.

"Take him to where the students reside"

The instructor took Grey out of the building and directed him towards where the students were.

"What were you saying?"

Chris asked after Grey had been taken out.

"It's about to open"

Oliver said in a solemn voice.

"You mean, that place?"

Chris asked with a startled look

"Yes, it has already been over a hundred years now. So it isn't surprising it's about to open"

Oliver said after some thoughts. He looked at the instructors in the building before continuing.

"Some of you already have an idea about what I'm talking about. Every hundred years, a land of trial opens up just at the border of the Magical Beasts Forest"

He paused and waited for the few people who were just hearing this for the first time to digest the information before continuing.

"It was first discovered by the Stellar empire, but we were able to catch wind of it. Just like how we have spies there, so do the other empires. The emperors..."

Oliver calmly told them about the history of the land of trial.

Nine hundred years ago, a strange array suddenly appeared on the border of the Magical Beasts Forest. It was discovered by an Elementalist from the Stellar empire, and he reported it to the higher-ups. On reaching there, they saw the most complicated array they had ever seen.

Since they had knowledge of arrays, they tried to power it up and see what it was used for. It took them several tries before they were able to power it up.

A portal twenty-five meters wide suddenly opened up. They tried entering the place but were rejected, after multiple attempts, someone was finally able to enter. The others all tried again but failed, only after the third person entered did they find out the pattern. Only those below twenty years of age could enter.

The people who entered came out after some time and told the others what they saw. From what the first set of people said, it was a very large place which was just like the outside world, they saw some debilitated buildings which clearly showed the place used to be occupied.

Not all the people who entered returned though, some of them were killed by magical beasts that resided in the place. Some came out with rare treasures.

After sending in more people, they found out the place was occupied by a faction called True Dawn. They had never heard of this faction, nor was there any records of them in their history books.

The Stellar empire was only able to hide it for three weeks before the information leaked to the other empires' upper echelons. This was a place that could greatly boost the strength of an empire, if one of the empires were to have full rights of it, it would be a catastrophe for the others since it would only take at most ten years before they completely surpass them.

The empires finally came to an agreement to each send in one hundred geniuses into the place for training. They didn't care what happens inside, but as long as one hundred of their geniuses went in, at least forty or fifty should be able to make it out.

But the results of the first trial stunned them all, the portal only stayed open for six months before it started flickering, clearly a sign that it was about to close up. Only twenty percent of people who entered managed to come out in time. The loss of people wasn't what shocked them the most, it was the fact that of all the people who escaped, more than eighty percent of them were at the Mid-stages of the Origin Plane.

When they all entered, none of them was at the Origin Plane. But now, within six months, more than fifty people were able to not only breakthrough into the Origin Plane, but they also reached the Mid-stages.

They monitored the place for over ten years but nothing showed up. It was like the array never appeared in the first place. Only after one hundred years did it appear once again. After it appeared, the empires sent in one hundred geniuses each and strongly reminded them to come out once it's getting close to six months.

Only after three hundred years were they able to confirm that it appeared at a particular time every one hundred years. They have still not been able to fully explore the place even after so long already.

After Oliver was done with the explanation, he added solemnly.

"This should not go out of this place. The empire keeps this information under strict orders, anyone found disseminating it would be executed immediately"

They all nodded before they spoke about other important things.

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Klaus and the others were still speaking when Grey suddenly walked in.

Alice was the first to notice him before Klaus and Reynolds turned towards him.

On seeing Grey, Klaus jumped towards his friend with a sad face.

"Bro, I've been so lonely without you"

Grey's mouth twitched when he heard this and immediately kicked Klaus away.

"Although I don't have a girlfriend, I'm not into boys"

He glared at Klaus after saying this before sitting beside Reynolds.

Klaus stood up immediately and complained

"Bro, you've become so cold-hearted. My heart is broken and this is how you treat me?"

Grey looked at Klaus with a puzzled look.

On seeing Grey's look, Reynolds burst into laughter before explaining

"Leanne broke up with him just before we came over to the Capital"

"Oh! This is new, Klaus was always the one who broke up with his girlfriends"

He looked at Klaus with pitying eyes before adding

"Now you know how it feels when you break up with them, right?"

Klaus almost started crying, this was the longest he had been in a relationship, he really felt maybe she was the one. But she unexpectedly broke up with him. magic

He sighed when he thought of all the times they spent together

"Maybe it was just not meant to be"

The group burst into laughter when Klaus made this statement.

Grey was finally able to cheer up Klaus before the end of the day.

The day soon ended.

After waking up the next day, Grey looked out the window.

"The day of the competition is finally here"

*Chapter 69 - Competition*

On this day, the competition which takes place once every five years officially began. Although the number of people in the Capital increased every time the competition takes place, it's still as orderly as it always was.

All the Inns in the Capital were all occupied by people who came from different cities to watch the competition. They rarely get the chance to come here since the requirements for entering the Capital are different from the other cities.

Only those who were in the Origin Plane, or above were given free rights to enter. But your identity still needs to be confirmed before entering, this way they can stop those who are not from the empire.

The arena where the competition was going to be held was already almost filled with people, yet more people coming in by the minute. Different groups of people were already conversing.

Two sets of people were in a heated argument.

"Dregs from the Lunar Academy, watch how we put you people in your place in the competition"

"Says the sc.u.ms who only knows how to sneak attack their opponents"

"Yeah, why don't you people come at us one on one. We'll see how tough you are then"

The two sets who were in an argument were clearly students from the Lunar and Starlight Academy respectively. From their conversations, you could infer that one of the students from the Lunar Academy was sneaked attacked by a student from the Starlight Academy.

The surrounding people only watched on with interest, they all knew about what was going on between the two Academies. Even if the Emperor didn't intervene, the other Academies had no interest in doing so. After all, they all had their own plans.

While the students were still throwing shades at each other, a commotion suddenly drew their attention.

"Look, aren't those students from the Royal Academy?"

Someone in the crowd recognized the insignia crested on the clothes of youths who just entered the arena.

They all had haughty looks plastered all over their faces. There were six boys and four girls.

"Could it be that the Royal Academy will be participating in the competition this year?"

"Are you crazy, the Royal Academy has never participated in any of the previous competitions, why would they start now?"

"I for one, I'm very suspicious about this year's competition. I mean, each Academy was usually given a quota of fifteen students. How come it was suddenly increased to twenty-five?"

"I don't know, and I really don't care. Those are not things we want to get involved in. The empire and the Academies know what they are doing, all I came here to do is watch some kids beat the crap out of each other, nothing else. You can play detective on your own, I have no interest in dying yet"

The arena was very lively, soon the students from each Academy started coming in together. Each Academy was assigned specific areas in the arena where the instructors and students who are participating in the competition seated.

Because of the conflict between the Lunar and Starlight Academy, when the students from the Lunar Academy entered, they immediately attracted attention from the crowd.

Grey was among the students heading towards the area which was assigned to the Academy. The students from the Lunar Academy all wore the same clothes with a half-moon insignia crested on the left side of their c.h.e.s.ts.

The area assigned to them was close to the Royal Academy. When they got to their seats, some of their students went over to the area assigned to the Royal Academy. From this, one could see how close their relationship was.

Grey saw a familiar face among the students from the Starlight Academy, Jonas. But on checking closely, he noticed he wasn't talking with anyone among the group. He was all alone and seated at a corner when they got to their seats. Unlike the Lunar Academy who tries to create a friendly environment for all its students, the system of the Starlight Academy was completely different.

In the Starlight Academy, only strength mattered. Those who are strong can do almost anything without facing any repercussions. They bully those who are weaker than them, with the Academy showing no signs of stopping them. The Academy even found ways to encourage this, they said only the strong deserved respect.

Klaus noticed Grey looking at the students from the Starlight Academy and couldn't help but get curious.

"Hey buddy, who are you looking at?"

Grey shifted his gaze from that direction before replying.

"Remember Jonas from my city?"

Klaus thought for a while before replying.

"That guy you said was a Fire Elementalist with purple grade talent?"

Grey nodded before adding.

"He's among the students who are participating in the competition"

Reynolds looked in the direction of the Starlight Academy with cold eyes  
magic

"Those bunch of bastards, they better pray I don't meet any of them at the competition"



He still remembered when they were attacked by students from the Starlight Academy, if not for Alice being present, they would have died.

A middle-aged man walked into one of the platforms in the arena. He immediately attracted attention from everyone, and they stopped what they were doing and focused on him. They knew he was about to make some announcements about the competition and also tell the participants the rules.

On seeing everyone was focused on him, the middle-aged man immediately started speaking.

"Welcome, everyone, to this year's competition. Unlike the previous competitions, this one will be a little different. Of the three hundred students participating, the top seventy-five will be taken by the empire for special training. Rewards will be given to the top ten as usual also"

When the guy who said he was suspicious about the competition heard this, he immediately turned to his partner.

"See, I told something was going on"

His partner looked at him with eyes that said 'Who doesn't?'

The middle-aged man continued

"So try your best and remember to admit defeat if you know you're not as strong as your opponent. Once you have incapacitated your opponent, you are not allowed to kill them. You're all regarded as the future of the empire, so the more geniuses we have, the better for the empire"

"Please distribute the plaques to the students of your Academies. They would all be battling according to the plaque numbers. The first round will consist of one hundred and fifty battles, anyone who successfully makes it to the third round automatically gets a spot for the special training..."

The instructor continued explaining the rules of the competition, after all the plaques were successfully distributed the competition officially began. The first round of the competition would take three days with fifty battles taking place each day.

Grey had a battle the day the competitions started. His opponent was someone from the Ernst Academy, who was at the Sixth stage of the Arcane Plane, which he won easily.

After the battles for the day ended, the group from each Academy all headed towards their residence.

"Grey"

On the way back to their residence, Grey suddenly heard his name. Klaus and Reynolds were with him, so they also looked in the direction the voice came from.

A smile formed on Grey's face when he saw who it was...

*Chapter 70 - Competition II*

Two beautiful girls were coming in Grey's direction with two boys following closely behind them. They were the group from the Idris Academy Grey met at the Misty Mountain.

Grey asked with a smile when they got close

"Hey, how have you been doing?"

The girls answered simultaneously

"Fine"

The boys on the other hand kept looking at Grey as if he were a monster. They watched Grey's battle against the student at the Sixth stage of the Arcane Plane, and they were shocked.

It had only been just over three months since they met Grey at the Misty Mountain, and they knew he was either in the First stage or Second stage of the Arcane Plane at that time. The girls already told them about Grey being a Dual Elementalist, so they weren't surprised when Grey used another element.

They had only advanced a single stage since then, yet Grey had gone five or six stages. His speed is terrifying, to say the least.

The girls weren't really too shocked since they felt Grey was far stronger compared to what he showed. After all, they were present when Grey battled with the mercenaries, so they knew he could be even more terrifying. But they were still puzzled by the fact that his cultivation speed increased this fast, if he used a secret technique, he shouldn't be able to advance at such a speed.

Unless, he was hiding his real strength at that time.

Claude couldn't help but ask

"How did you become strong so fast?"

Only after asking did he realize he made a mistake since this was Grey's secret.

He added hastily

"The girls told us about you helping them out again, thank you"

He bowed while saying this

Grey acted like he didn't hear the question Claude asked before replying with a shrug

"It's nothing, I only found them by accident"

Claude said immediately after Grey finished speaking.

"Even though you found them by accident, you could have easily left them to their fate, but you didn't"

While they were speaking, Grey was able to deduce that the girls kept his secret just like they promised him.

Klaus and Reynolds just looked at what was going on with confused eyes, given how well they knew Grey, they knew he didn't have any friends outside the Academy.

Klaus said after they left

"Hey buddy since this is your first time coming to the Capital, why don't I show you around. I've come here lots of times, I'll be your official guide."

Grey accepted Klaus's offer. It was his first time here and not seeing the famous places in the city would truly be a shame. Although things here were expensive, given Klaus's background, he doesn't have a problem with paying for anything here.

They went to a famous Art gallery in the Capital and other famous places in the city, before heading to Klaus's favorite place, The Jade Water Paradise.

Day turned to night. On the western side of Capital City's main road, the King's Avenue. The third floor of the Jade Water Paradise.

Grey and the other two had a room of their own. The nights at Capital City were always busy, especially during the time of the competition. But the nights within the Jade Water Paradise were even more bustling, having reached the peak of busy-ness.

The coquettish giggles of women could be heard nonstop, while the roaring, heroic laughter of men also constantly sounded out. Within a private room, the three bros drank while having an idle conversation, and by each of their sides was a delicate and pretty girl, well, except for Grey.

This was not the first time he had visited a place like this since Klaus always took him to a place like this in Lunar City especially after he breaks up with his girlfriend.

Generally, Klaus and Reynolds would go off and have fun after having their fill of the wine, while Grey would at most drink a little before heading out.

"Buddy I'm going to bed now"

Klaus's hands draped around a girl with long, green hair. His breath smelled strongly of liquor.

Reynolds also got up with the girl he was with

"Bro, we'll be going now. Are you sure you don't want a partner for..."

Grey interrupted Reynolds

"That's enough Rey, stop talking alright?"

Reynolds and Klaus looked at Grey with pitiful gazes, before Klaus said

"It's your loss bro. You don't know what you're missing"

Grey shook his head when he heard this, he watched as Klaus and Reynolds staggered out of the private room with their hands around the waist of their respective companions. He looked at the night sky through the window.

He left the Jade Water Paradise and took a stroll around the City, his desolate shadow faded into the darkness of the night. magic

If they all successfully pass through the second round, they would all get a spot in the special training.

During these two days Grey focused on his training, he was trying to increase the speed at which he could create the symbol and also try to create it while he was doing something else. If he could successfully do that, then he could use it in battles and attack his opponent with a sneak attack.

The second round of the competition soon started with twenty-five battles taking place each day.

On the second day, it was Grey's turn to battle. His opponent was a student at the Eighth stage from the Starlight Academy.

"Begin"

Grey and his opponent struck at each other at the same time.

Boom!

An explosion rang out in the platform from their attacks.

Grey's opponent stared at him with surprise, he planned on dealing a heavy blow to Grey when he found out he was a student from the Lunar Academy, but it seems like it's not going to be as easy as he thought.

'It's him! Impossible, how can he improve so fast? It's not even been up to two years yet'

Jonas was dumbstruck when he recognized Grey.

He was already very proud of himself for being able to progress at such speed, but seeing Grey greatly diminished his pride. He had already broken through to the First stage of the Arcane Plane when Grey took the test again,

but now, Grey was currently battling an opponent he wouldn't even dare to, and he's having the upper hand also.

"Grey wins"

The voice of the instructor announcing the results brought Jonas out of his stupor.

'He won'

He just couldn't believe it, the only thing on his mind currently was

'How?'