

## **Affinity 621**

### Chapter 621 - Sad Reunion

The corpse the Lightning Elementalist attacked stood no chance and was quickly left sprawling on the floor, incapable of moving.

The Fire Elementalist on the other hand had stopped the corpse he identified as his Teacher from moving.

"Teacher... do... do you still remember me?" He asked, hoping there was a bit of consciousness left in the corpse.

The corpse screeched loudly before attacking the human who blocked its path.

The Fire Elementalist dodged the attack, before trying to communicate with the corpse once again. The corpse continued attacking, not responding to any of the words spoken by the Fire Elementalist.

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Grey and the other by the side were a little shaken by the scene. Seeing a loved one who is dead seemingly moving again would always affect anyone. Even when the Fire Elementalist knew that person he was referring to as Teacher was already dead, he still didn't have the mind of attacking the corpse.

"He knows it's useless, right?" Reynolds asked after watching the Fire Elementalist try over and over again.

"Of course he does, but I think he's hoping there might just be a sliver of consciousness or even the soul of his Teacher left in the corpse," Alice replied.

"Such a sad reunion," Klaus commented as he watched.

Blake threw a glance at Jason, and he saw that he still wore the same calm expression. His lips slightly curved upwards to form a gentle smile.

"If I recall correctly, old Mike mentioned burying his Teacher. Could it be that their corpses were dug out?" Jason muttered to himself while staring at the scene unfolding in front of him.

A thought suddenly came to his mind and he couldn't help but look around. All four corpses that appeared were of people in the Sage Plane. Three have been identified as experts from hundreds of years ago. If whoever was behind this had this ability, then they were in serious trouble.

All these people had to do was to find the grave of these people, dig out their bodies and they automatically have a Sage Plane expert working for them.

Jason could tell that the strength of these corpses seemed to be lacking when compared to when they were alive, but it still didn't change the fact that these people were dangerous. After all, there were more dead Sage Plane Elementalists than alive.

'I'll have to relay a message to my father about this. We have to ensure that the previous Emperors' graves are still intact. And also the grave of every Sage Plane expert of the empire.' Jason's mind went into overdrive as he thought of a possible counter to this seemingly unimaginable power.

"Huh?" His attention was finally drawn to the third corpse, and who was engaging it.

"He's broken through to the Sage Plane as well?" He looked at Blake.

"You didn't expect him to stay in the same place, did you? My Teacher was regarded as a genius in his generation, it's only natural that he breaks through," Blake said proudly.

"How envious," Jason replied.

"The same can't be said for you. Your Teacher was already in the Sage Plane before you were even born," Blake stated.

Jason smiled in response, but a light flashed across his eyes and he turned to look at Grey.

Grey felt his gaze and turned to stare at him as well. Jason nodded as if enlightened before turning to look at the battle.

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With the other two corpses stopped by the Fire and the Lightning Elementalist, the pressure on the Principal was greatly reduced.

He had been injured from the attacks of the three corpses, but he still had some fight left in him.

Sizzle! Bang!

The Principal dodged the corpse's attack before sending out a stream of lightning that sent it flying.

He didn't give it any chance to recover before he started bombarding it with attacks. It was as if he was attacking it for all the past sufferings they had put him through.

After a few more attacks, the corpse was taken apart.

Of the three corpses, two had been destroyed in little to no time, while the last one was still operational.

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The Fire Elementalist continued to speak with the corpse, trying to see if he could get through to it. His attempts were all to no avail as other than screeching and attacking, the corpse did nothing else. There wasn't even an atom of hesitation whenever it attacked which showed that it didn't recall anything from when it was alive.

Melancholy washed over the Fire Elementalist as he saw his Teacher, being controlled by some people.

"You bastards! I'll kill all of you!" He roared in anger as he unleashed a sea of flames that enveloped the corpse.

The corpse was a Fire Elementalist like him, covering itself with a dome of fire, it tried to protect itself from the attack of the Fire Elementalist.

Boom!

The attack slammed into the fire dome, bursting out with unprecedented heat.

The dome wasn't able to hold out for long before it was torn apart by the attacks of the Fire Elementalist. The Fire Elementalist attacked once again, his face red from anger, and his eyes bloodshot.

If anyone were to put the people who caused this in front of him, there was no telling what he might do to them, however, one thing was for sure, they wouldn't have a good ending.

Two minutes later, the Fire Elementalist had incapacitated the corpse, making sure he didn't harm it.

It was the corpse of his Teacher after all, and given the respect he had for him, he couldn't bring himself to cause any harm to the corpse. Naturally, there were a few scratches when the battle was going on, but the damage was almost unnoticeable.

He wrapped the corpse with fire, which surprisingly didn't do any harm to it and brought it with him.

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By the time the Fire Elementalist was done with the battle. The Principal had already gone to meet up with Blake and the others.

The Lightning Elementalist was the first to return, and they were staring at each other.

## Chapter 622 - Back To The Capital

The atmosphere was tense with both Sage Plane Elementalist staring at each other.

Blake, Delia, Grey, and his friends had all gone over to the Principal's side, staring at Jason and the Lightning Elementalist.

"To think that you've broken through to the Sage Plane, Oliver," The Lightning Elementalist remarked gently.

The relationship between the two wasn't bad, unfortunately, they were against each other.

"I got lucky, senior," The Principal replied.

"Hmm, since you're already in the Sage Plane, I won't make things difficult for you. I can assure you that your son will not be killed by the Emperor, but you'll have to fight with us. After all, you were once a member of the empire and still are," The Lightning Elementalist made an offer.

"I'm sorry, senior. But you and I know you're not the one who can make that decision. The Emperor has already set his sights on my son and his friends, all based on a rumor he doesn't even know if it's true," Oliver said.

Jason froze for a second when he heard this. They never really thought of it this way. It was never confirmed that Grey and his friends had the item, they only heard from the mouth of someone that they did, and since there was no way to confirm, they just assumed they had it.

"You have a point there, but until we take them to the Capital to test their elemental grades, we can't be sure if it's a rumor or not," Jason said calmly.

He thought about the issue for a while before replying. If Grey and his friends truly obtained the Great Earth Essence Liquid, then their elemental grades will naturally increase. The records of their elemental grades were recorded in the Lunar Academy. All they had to do was to test them again, if there was no increase, then they would let them go.

Grey and his friends exchanged glances. They all knew their elemental grades were not what they used to be. Grey's situation was particularly worse.

He had seven elements, and of all seven, the lowest grade was purple. He had two that were in the violet grade, and one that was even above that. If people were to find out, they would definitely try to find out how he managed to achieve such a feat.

Not only that, but he also had to deal with the issue of being able to actually obtain more elements, since when he entered the Lunar Academy he obviously had two.

"I can not allow that," Oliver stepped in front of the group, blocking them from the Sage Plane Elementalist from the Qilin Empire.

"You don't have a choice," An irritated snort came from behind them.

Turning around, they saw the Fire Elementalist who had a gloomy expression. Fighting against his dead Teacher infuriated him to no end, and he was currently looking for an outlet to unleash his rage.

He prayed Oliver stood with his decision of wanting to fight against them. Then he would kill him without thinking twice. Oliver might be a Sage Plane Elementalist like them, but compared to them, he was still a newbie when it came to unleashing the true potential of a Sage Plane expert.

The expression of the group turned dark when they saw this.

'The plan is to be caught in the first place, it's not like we have a choice.' Grey thought while staring at the Principal.

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Deep in the woods close to the borders.

The figures were almost going berserk in anger.

"Relay the message to Vaughn, tell him they have been captured by the Qilin Empire's Crowned Prince,"  
The cloaked figure regarded as the Supreme One said to the others.

One of the small figures brought out an orb, closing her eyes, she communicated with the Emperor of the Blue Wind Empire.

Grey and his friends hadn't even been captured by the Crowned Prince, yet the news had spread in the Blue Wind Empire thanks to the orb owned by the small figures.

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Oliver didn't stop them for long. Looking in the eyes of Grey and his friends, he could only shake his head as he allowed them to be brought away by the group from the Qilin Empire.

Jason thanked him for being so understanding.

With the capture of Grey and his friends, there was no use in going to the battlefield any longer. Jason headed straight for the Capital, with the two Sage Plane Elementarists in tow.

Oliver, Blake, and Delia followed as well. They couldn't leave Grey and his friends. Grey told them of his plan to use Void to escape, but they still found it difficult to leave them in the hands of Jason.

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The next day.

They arrived at the entrance of the Capital. This was the second time Grey was coming here, and on both occasions, he felt different emotions as he stepped past the gate.

When he came the first time, he was filled with excitement, but now, he only felt a little hint of sadness. Coming from an empire that would want to kill a citizen just because of a fortuitous encounter they encountered was sickening.

It was like they didn't want them to advance quickly. What sort of empire wouldn't want its citizens to grow stronger?

This one apparently.

The crux of the whole matter lay in the Emperor's fear of being overthrown when Grey and his friends grew to the stage where they were unrivaled.

They didn't have the chance to form a good relationship with them since they were in the Lunar Academy.

During the time Jason was bringing them here, the news of Grey and friends being captured by him had already spread on the battlefield. Even the other empires had found out and they were already mobilizing their forces, rushing in the direction of the Qilin Empire.

The Stellar Empire was stuck in a dilemma, unsure if they should assist the Qilin Empire or join the others to pressure them.

They also knew that the Qilin Empire had plans of wanting to dominate the entire continent, and Jason, the Crowned Prince was even more ambitious than his father.

#### Chapter 623 - Attacked In The Castle

With a piece of simple information, the tides of the battle switched entirely. From the Blue Wind Empire being the ones forced back, it turned to the Qilin Empire.

The change happened so fast that before the generals in the camps could figure out what was going on, almost twenty percent of their troops were wiped out. They quickly retreated back into the empire.



Bearing the assault of two empires, it was impossible for them to hold out for long. Unlike when they trod with caution when they heard of the Azure Empire attacking the Blue Wind Empire, the two empires attacked with full force. Causing devastating damage in a matter of hours.

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Qilin Empire, The Capital.

It was just like the first time Grey came here, busy in every sense. The structures here were on another level compared to that of other cities.

Most of the people at the gates of the city were traders and merchants.

After getting into the city, Jason and the others took flight once again. There was a defensive array laid in the walls of the city, making it impossible to fly in without an insignia. Jason naturally had that insignia, but since he was moving with others he had to follow them through the gate.

It didn't take long before a flamboyant castle came to view.

When they got to the gates of the castle, they had to land once again. It was illegal to fly into or even over the castle. If anyone were to go against this rule, they would be immediately cut down. The Crowned Prince, the Emperor, and a selected few were naturally excepted from this punishment.

On the way to the castle, old man Gerald had tried contacting Grey a couple of times. He was one of the first people who heard of the news of their capture.

Grey couldn't take out the communication device, so he naturally couldn't reply.

He had been speaking with Void all through the time, carefully plotting their escape route. He even had the thought of teaching Void the array for long teleportation. Unfortunately, even after repeated teachings, Void was still unable to grasp it.

Given Void's ability to hide from arrays, Grey initially thought he would be a natural born array master.

They were all taken to the main hall. The Principal, Instructor Blake, and Delia decided it was best to stay out of this. Jason invited them to come over, but the Principal refused, opting to stay somewhere in the city.

He didn't have any plans of meeting with the Emperor. There was no telling what he might do if he saw him.

The Emperor was still an Overlord Plane Elementalist after all, and was no match for him. If Grey were to go full power on him, he would be able to take out the Emperor, albeit not easily.

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Inside the castle.

A stout man with a crown sat silently on the throne that was in the middle of the hall, before him were four youths. Jason and the two Sage Plane Elementalists were standing beside him. He was none other than the Emperor of the Qilin Empire.

"You're the one they call Grey?" The Emperor finally opened his mouth to speak.

The first person he questioned was Grey. This was the person who not only crippled some of his children, but also threatened to cripple every single child he had.

Grey nodded, his demeanor was the same as always, calm and collected. There wasn't an inch of fear on his face, even when faced against the Emperor of the Qilin Empire.

"Haha, bold and haughty, just like your Teacher," The Emperor laughed, but everyone could sense the anger hidden in it.

"To be able to defeat the Mayor who is almost at the Peak of the Overlord Plane while still being in the Fifth stage of said Plane is quite impressive. But what I'm more concerned about is how you were able to advance from the Peak of the Origin Plane to the Fifth stage of the Overlord Plane with such ease," The Emperor continued.

Just like the first time, Grey didn't say anything, just taking a glance around the hall.

The Emperor felt annoyed after being ignored by Grey in just a blatant manner.

"Boy, you're already in so much trouble already. Do you think your Teacher will be able to save you?" The Emperor asked irritably.

"No," Grey replied calmly.

"It's a good thing you know." The Emperor snorted coldly before turning to Jason.

Jason whispered a few words in his ears and he nodded in agreement.

"Take them to the garden, we'll test their aptitudes there. If any of them were to have a violet elemental grade, then it is settled. We wouldn't need to wait for the records from the Academy," The Emperor ordered.

Jason nodded before leading the group to the garden.

This was exactly the same place Grey and his friends came when the Emperor addressed them before leaving for the trail land. There was a stone situated at the center of the garden, and they all knew what it was meant for, testing the elements and elemental grade of youngsters when they come of age.

Panic flashed across the eyes of Klaus and the others, even the usually cool and collected Grey wasn't calm any longer. Of course, they hid their expressions from Jason.

"You'll be the first one taking the test, after all, you were the one who was said to obtain the item," The Emperor pointed at Grey.

"I didn't get the chance to acquire the Great Earth Essence Liquid, no one did. A terrifying foe appeared and almost wiped out everyone who entered the place. If we didn't retreat decisively, we would've died. How could someone who was busy running for his life have the time to collect a treasure?" Grey questioned.

"Place your hand on the stone, it'll determine if you truly obtained it or not," Jason replied with a calm smile.

Grey snorted coldly but still did as instructed.

As soon as his right palm made contact with the stone, a dark orb covered in lightning and flames shot towards him from a close range, exploding before anyone could even react.

Chapter 624 - A New Target

Boom!

The stone exploded, with Grey sent flying as a result of the explosion.

"Grey!"

Klaus, Alice, and Reynolds exclaimed simultaneously as they rushed to where Grey crashed into the ground.

Jason, the Emperor, and the two Sage Plane Elementalists who were by the side stared at each other in shock. Everything happened so fast that before they could even react, Grey had been sent flying.

"So this was your plan all along, to kill him?" Klaus asked icily.

One could sense an unbridled rage in him, not just him, but the others as well.

"What happened?" The Emperor asked as he turned to the two Sage Plane Elementalists.

They were the ones with the highest cultivation stage here, so he expected them to at least give him an explanation. He didn't sense anything, not until the attack exploded. Even after the attack, he tried to find where the attack was coming from, but he found nothing.

"An assassination attempt," The Fire Elementalist said as he surveyed the area.

Just before the attack was released, he sensed something, but it was only for a slight moment before he lost track of it.

"Whoever this assassin is, they must be very good since they can hide from the senses of you two," Jason stared at Grey and his friends.

"Who else knows of you bringing them here?" The Emperor asked.

"We fought against some strange people who could use a diabolic technique to control the dead. Either they were the ones who spread the news, or it was Mister Oliver," Jason said.

Since the assassin waited here patiently for so long, it meant that they were already aware of their intentions to test the aptitudes of the group.

"A technique that allows them to control dead people?" The Emperor asked, stunned by the revelation.

Jason went on to explain what he saw to his father. Hearing of how the Fire Elementalist fought against his dead Teacher, he couldn't help but gasp in disbelief. If any of the empires has such a technique, then they would obviously be the ones that will rule the continent, especially with a war going on.

With this technique, their troops will never decline, rather, they will continue increasing. A trace of greed subtly flashed across the eyes of the Emperor. This technique seems to be of more use than Grey and his elemental core, well, so he thought.

While the Emperor was thinking about this, he couldn't help but take a glance at Grey.

Grey's clothes were slightly damaged from the attack, and one could see small burn marks on his skin. What made everyone worried was the seemingly dark lines running across his skin.

The Lightning Elementalist approached Grey, on seeing it, he froze before turning to look in the eyes of the Emperor and the others.

"The darkness element has found a way to creep into his body. As it stands, he's not in a good condition," He said to the others.

"Darkness element?" The Fire Elementalist raised a brow.

"Yes," [ Updated from F r e e w e b n o v e l . c o m ]

"Are you sure?"

The Lightning Elementalist gave the Fire Elementalist an irritated look before showing him Grey who was lying on the ground.

"I sensed the fire element in this attack," The Fire Elementalist said.

"I also sensed the lightning element. I originally thought whoever it was is a Dual Elementalist, who would've thought that the person hid the darkness element within as well?" The Lightning Elementalist said after hearing the words of the Fire Elementalist.

"A Multi Elementalist?" Jason questioned with uncertainty.

"It could be, I only sensed one person," The Lightning Elementalist replied.

Klaus and the others were on Grey's side, trying to do their best to get him up.

Guards around the castle had charged out after hearing the explosion.

"Take them inside, it's not safe for us or them if we continue standing here," The Emperor ordered.

"Yes, father," Jason bowed slightly before calling one of the guards over.

They took Grey, taking him inside the castle.

"Also, try to find out if he will be alright," The Emperor added.

When Grey and the others had gone in, four figures came from the side. They all had Grey hair, and their skins were wrinkled from old age.

The Emperor bowed to them respectfully, before reporting the news of the corpses to them.

"Such a technique exists?" One of the old men asked, astounded by what he was hearing.

The Fire Elementalist who fought against his Teacher went on to bring the corpse of his Teacher.

Everyone could sense the leftover aura of elemental essence in the body which confirmed what they were told.

"What do we do?" The Emperor asked one of the old men who arrived recently.

"Make this your top priority. If you could find out the people who sent these things after them, then it would be easy to get the technique," One of the old men replied.

"Alright, father," The Emperor bowed respectfully before leaving with the two Sage Plane Elementalists.

It was clear that they all took the technique of the necromancers as more of a threat than Grey and his friends since the Emperor didn't bother to go on with the test.

They could only collect Grey's core after he was done with the test, and even after taking it, it would take months before they could start reaping the benefits. But in a matter of a few days, with this technique, they would be able to sweep across the continent unchallenged.

Of course it was impossible to say the Emperor had forgotten about them. If not for the unknown attacker who was trying to kill Grey and his friends, then they would've gone ahead with the test.

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In one of the rooms in the castle.

Grey was placed on a bed, with a wet cloth placed on his forehead to help reduce his surging body temperature.

Jason looked at Grey, a little skeptical about all these. He found everything a little suspicious, but there was no way for him to confirm his suspicions.

Klaus and the others stared at Grey worriedly.

Chapter 625 - Void's Long Awaited Chance

"Stay with your friend, I'll be back shortly," Jason turned around and left the room.

The moment he walked out, after confirming that there was no one monitoring them, the worried expression on the faces of the trio vanished.

"Wow, Klaus, you're such a good actor," Reynolds complimented.



"Well of course, after traveling with my father these few months, my acting skills improved. If not, I'd have been dead by now," Klaus replied proudly, before adding with a smile, "By his hands if I might add,"

"You two are no good," Alice shook her head at the sight of her friends.

"Alice, I believe you should put in more effort. You almost made the Crowned Prince know we were faking it," Klaus lectured.

"I don't like pretending," Alice's reply was simple and straightforward, just like her character.

"Suit yourself," Reynolds and Klaus exchanged glances, clearly, they weren't in line with her words.

"You can stop acting now, he's gone," Klaus went over to kick Grey on his leg.

"Ouch! Are you made of metal or something?" He complained when he was the one that got hurt after the exchange.

The black lines on Grey's body vanished without a trace, and his body temperature returned to normal.

"I thought you no longer wanted to make use of your leg, you know, since you came to kick me," Grey said nonchalantly.

"You... Hmph! I can't be bothered with you." Klaus snorted as he turned to the others, he still felt pain in his right leg, "What's our next choice of action now? We've been captured just as you planned,"

"This place is under close surveillance, so making a long range array will take a while. From the information Void passed on a few seconds ago, it looks like the Emperor is more focused on finding the necromancers than actually doing the test. Since he already has us, he doesn't seem to be pressured any longer," Grey replied.

"Take Void's attack head-on was ingenious, however, I feel like the Crowned Prince is suspicious of something," Alice replied.

"I can tell, but there's no way for him to confirm his suspicions, so we shouldn't be bothered with him. Now, I'll have to find a way to send a message to old man Gerald. Since we're already here, the necromancers will come for us. If the other empires were to find out about it, then all hell would break loose," Grey said with a sly grin.

"Hehe, pitting all of them together, and escaping in the chaos, I love it!" Klaus said with a smile.

Grey took out old man Gerald's communication device, and the messages he had received from him stunned him. It had only been just a day since their capture, yet from how the message sounded, it seemed like old man Gerald got news of it a few hours after they were caught.

'The speed at which he gets information is terrifying. It's a good thing that he's an ally,' He thought internally.

He sent a message to old man Gerald, assuring him that he was fine, and of course he was still under the watch of the Emperor and his people.

He got a reply a few seconds later, it was like old man Gerald had been waiting for his message for a while now.

He found out from old man Gerald that he was already in the Capital, staying in the Lenz organization's building there, waiting for the best time to pay a visit to the castle.

Hearing how anxious old man Gerald was after his capture, Grey didn't know what to feel. He had always felt like other than his parents, friends, and Teacher, no one really cared about him. That was how he grew up because of his situation, and he was used to it. Getting to see someone this worked up because of him left a strange feeling in his heart.

But he soon tossed his feelings aside before telling old man Gerald he was the one who planned for their capture.

In the Lenz organization's building, old man Gerald spat out the tea he was drinking when he heard this, feeling a wave of headache.

They spoke for a few more seconds before Grey asked for his help in decimating the news of them being in the castle to the other empires.

Grey was a little taken aback when old man Gerald told him that they were already aware and that their forces were trying to force their way into the Qilin Empire.

"That's great news! All we have to do now is wait for the chaos that will ensue," Klaus said while rubbing his hands together.

"Wait, where's Void?" Alice asked.

"He's still there. Apparently, he's been trying to get into the castle for a while now," Grey replied with a sigh.

Even after he tried calling Void over, he refused. When he asked his reason, Void's reply was 'What's an Emperor without a crown?'

"So he's going to steal the Emperor's crown?" Reynolds asked, just to be sure.

"And everything he can lay his hands on," Grey caressed his temples.

The only reason he didn't try to stop Void was that he knew that Void would be fine. Since he got to the Peak of Rank Five, his concealing abilities improved drastically.

For a while now he had been very cautious around these Sage Plane Elementalists, but he couldn't afford to let a golden opportunity like this go to waste.

Since he managed to attack and escape in the presence of two Sage Plane experts a few seconds ago, he felt more confident in being able to elude all the senses of the experts here and looting the entire royal treasury.

His first objective though, was the crown of the Emperor. Grey had promised they would steal it anyway.

Alice gazed at the excited Klaus and Reynolds before shaking her head.

"Dammit! I can't wait to see the expression on that loser's face when he can't find his crown," Reynolds said in glee.

"It's a shame we're stuck here," Klaus said regretfully.

#### Chapter 626 - Chaos In The Qilin Empire

The Qilin Empire descended into chaos after the capture of Grey and his friends. With the news already spreading in the other empires, it didn't take long before the Qilin Empire was bombarded.

The forces of the Qilin Empire have not only been pushed back into their territory but they have been forced to run with their tails between their legs. The Stellar Continent finally made the betrayal that everyone was expecting.

It was common knowledge that the unification of both empires was because the Stellar Empire couldn't afford to see the Qilin Empire wiped out. But in any case, they wouldn't mind joining forces with the other three empires to wipe it out. At least in that way, they would get a share in their territory.

This was all on the premise that none of them got their hands on Grey and his friends. Now that one of the empires had them, the others couldn't sit still. It was just like the time the Blue Wind Empire caught Instructor Blake and Delia. Even when everyone knew they hadn't been able to capture Grey or his friends, they couldn't take the risk of letting them complete their objective.

Inside the Qilin Empire castle.

"Father, I've gotten wind that the Blue Wind Empire are in cohort with those people," Jason rushed into the main hall.

It had been a day since he brought Grey and his friends over, and since they couldn't contain the news, they had to deal with the repercussions that came with holding onto the four friends. What made them incensed was that they still hadn't been able to do the tests. Grey was still seriously hurt, lying in the bed.

Whoever the assassin was, they still hadn't been captured, which meant even the life of the Emperor and his family were in danger. Almost every single Sage Plane Elementalist in the castle had been called out, trying to find this elusive assassin.

"The Blue Wind Empire? That must be why they let Blake and Delia escape," The Emperor said.

"Yes, they used some strange technique to track them, finding the targets. Given the reactions of Blake and the others when we got there, they seem to be the ones who caused a huge ruckus to attract our attention when they realized they couldn't defeat their opponents," Jason replied thoughtfully.

"Do you think we have been tricked?" The Emperor asked.

"I can't be sure, but these people aren't people we should take lightly," Jason replied.

He particularly felt Grey and his friends were a bunch of cunning people. Grey was too calm for someone who was captured, he didn't seem scared, as if everything was under his control.

His greatest doubt however was that Grey wouldn't actively cooperate with the Blue Wind Empire since they also wanted to kill them.

"Father, I think it's best we kill them now. Even if they didn't consume the Great Earth Essence Liquid, it wouldn't change anything since their potential is too much. Grey especially went from being a normal person to being in the Mid stages of the Overlord Plane in less than five years, that's a scary fact. His battle prowess is even more terrifying since he could defeat someone at the Peak of the Overlord Plane," Jason suggested.

Keeping Grey and his friends alive was a risky game that might come back to hurt them, so it was best they killed them off as soon as possible. If they did the test, they would still kill them. So there was no use in keeping them alive.

"You're right. They have no use alive, they'll be executed tomorrow in front of everyone, to send a message to those who oppose us, and also to show the other empires that we don't have them anymore," The Emperor declared.

Jason nodded before walking out of the hall.

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In the room Grey and his friends were staying.

"Grey, what's the plan now? It's been a day and the forces of the other empires haven't gotten here yet," Alice asked.

"You don't expect them to appear so quickly do you?" Grey looked at his friend with a composed expression.

"No, but staying here will be dangerous. The Crowned Prince wouldn't want to keep us alive for long," Klaus said his thoughts.

He had heard of Jason from Instructor Blake while they were traveling and had heard about his cautious nature. Cunning people tend to be extremely cautious since they don't want anyone to plan against them.

"That's expected, but with Void causing chaos in the castle, and the pressure from the other empires, it wouldn't be that easy. If my guess is right, they will keep us for a day or two at most. I can complete the array if we get two days, but if they decide to take us out by tomorrow, it'll be a little difficult. Then we'll have to rely on old man Gerald," Grey told them his plan.

He had already started preparing the array, but he couldn't rush it since this place was under heavy scrutiny from the Sage Plane Elementalists in the castle.

During the past day, he had planned with old man Gerald, making sure he informed the other empires of what was happening inside the castle.

This made the empires move out quickly, causing heavy casualties on the side of the Qilin Empire camp. The Lenz organization was trusted throughout the continent for their information, so finding out from them about the events in the castle meant that the news was at least seventy percent true.

Void on the other hand had already started his exploits in the castle, slowly combing through the castle in search of the royal treasury.

Over the course of the previous night, a few important items that weren't in the treasury had gone missing. Some of the Overlord Plane experts in the castle were disappearing mysteriously.

The only reason it hadn't attracted much attention was that the Emperor sent most of them out to help out on the battlefield, but it was only a matter of time before they would find out about the strange situation in the castle.

## Chapter 627 - Missing Throne

Later that day.

The disappearance of the Overlord Plane Elementalists in the castle was soon noticed by someone. One of the senior members of the castle's troop suddenly vanished and the Emperor didn't send him out for anything.

This alarmed the people in the castle, and after doing a rigorous search, they found out that over thirty Overlord Plane Elementalists were missing. And these were people tasked with guarding specific parts of the castle that held at least a treasure or two.

One of them was even tasked with guarding the tomb, and he had vanished. This was brought to the notice of the Emperor and Jason.

Panicked expressions appeared on the faces of the duo when they heard about the grave being unprotected. The skill Jason spoke about was still very fresh in their minds, if these people were the ones who sneaked into the castle, then they were in deep trouble.

There were over ten Sage Plane Elementalists from the Royal family who had died that were buried there. Even the very first Emperor of the Qilin Empire, Constantine Gale was kept there. He was a Sage Plane expert before the time of his death, and to date, he was regarded as one of the most powerful Sage Plane Elementalist to ever grace the Azure Continent as a whole.

If a figure of that caliber got into the hands of these people, then it spelled trouble.

"Father," Jason called out urgently.

"Let's check it out first. It's too early to assume anything," The Emperor replied unhurriedly.

Jason nodded before following behind the Emperor to the tomb. It was located on the eastern part of the compound, almost eight hundred meters away from the castle.

They soon got to the hill, and the entrance to the cave inside was well taken care of. The only thing that gently calmed the Emperor and Jason was that the rock which was used to block the cave was strengthened by an array formation that would attack anyone trying to go in without the specific seals.

A small hut was by the side of the cave, and this was where the Overlord Plane Elementalist was staying.

Jason went into the building, and after seeing no signs of a battle, he furrowed his brows as he stepped out.

'Only a Sage Plane expert can kill him without even giving him a chance to retaliate. But even with that, they should still be a sign of elemental usage in the building. Yet, there is none,' He thought while staring at his father who was making the seals to open up the tomb.

Rumble!



The rock shook vigorously, before slowly moving to the left, creating a path for the duo.

After getting into the cave, a wide expanse opened up before them, and tombstones could be seen rising in different places in the cave.

They spread out their spiritual senses and found out the corpses were all intact.

"Should we destroy them?" The Emperor voiced his thoughts.

Doing this might be disrespectful to their ancestors, but it was better than letting them fall into the hands of people. On the occasion that they fell into their hands, it would be even more shameful and embarrassing to fight against their dead ancestors.

"What about when we get our hands on the technique?" Jason asked.

The thought of also destroying the corpses came to his head, but these corpses could be turned into valuable powerful forces if they manage to get the secret technique.

"Hmm, take a look around," The Emperor ordered.

Jason nodded before walking around, his pupils dilated when he saw the place. All the treasures that were used to pay homage to their ancestors had been looted.

His body vibrated from anger, but he quickly calmed himself. He went back to the entrance to report to his father. Compared to him, the reaction of the Emperor was on a different level. If not for the fact that they were inside the tomb, he would've blown the place up with his fluctuating essence.

"Father, calm down. This is good news for us," Jason calmed the Emperor down.

"What do you mean good news?!" The Emperor flared up with rage.

"We thought it was those people, but from what it looks like, we were only robbed. Although the person who did it might still be in the compound, it means it's not one of those people," Jason explained hurriedly to calm his father down.

When the Emperor heard his explanation, he visibly calmed down since their biggest fear didn't come to pass.

"You're right. Once we get the person who did this, I'll personally skin them alive, and make sure they suffer a fate worse than death," The Emperor said icily.

They left the tomb, heading back to the castle.

On getting there, things seemed to go from bad to worse.

According to what they found out, every single ornament in the castle was missing or destroyed. The Emperor almost collapsed when he went into the main hall and found that his throne was missing.

That was the symbol of his family's dominance over the years, and every Emperor who had taken the position had sat on that throne, yet it was missing?

"Get me whoever did this! Now!" The boiling rage in the Emperor instantly exploded as he yelled out orders in annoyance.

Jason was short of words as he saw what was happening in the castle. It was like the chaos that was coming wasn't enough, and more had to ensue inside the castle as well.

The guards were all on edge because they didn't know how or when someone went into the hall to steal the throne.

Who in their right mind would even steal a throne? It was a chair that was just designed luxuriously for seating! What did the person want to use it for?

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The unrest in the castle didn't escape from Grey and his friends.

Klaus was currently seated on a magnificent throne, laughing his heart out. Reynolds was by his side, patiently waiting for his turn to sit on the throne.

This was none other than the Emperor's throne.

Chapter 628 - Gathering Of The Previous Emperors

"Hey, haven't you been able to get any of the crowns yet?" Klaus turned to Void after standing up from the throne.

Void, who was by Grey's side, shook his head regretfully. One could see he was deeply saddened by not being able to get the crown yet.

"Don't feel down, you get them soon," Reynolds ascended the throne and sat majestically.

Grey and Alice stared at the duo, not knowing whether to laugh or cry. These two were practically taking the Emperor's throne as theirs. In fact, they've already planned how they would rotate using it. Klaus would keep it for the first week, while Reynolds would keep it for the second week.

They would rotate it in this manner. If they by chance get another throne, they would compete for who would obtain the best one.

With Void and these two staying together, Grey could already predict the sort of chaos they would cause wherever they go. It would be an understatement to say they wouldn't make an enemy of everyone they encountered.

Alice laughed as she saw the duo rotating who got to sit on the throne.

Void soon left them, but he didn't forget to tell them of everything he had found out so far. He still didn't know of Jason's plan to kill them the next day, but he knew of the accurate number of Sage Plane Elementalists in the castle. There were fifteen in total, and according to what he heard, there were still around eight independent Sage Plane Elementalists who would willingly assist the empire in times of trouble.

This brought the numbers up to a staggering twenty-three. Of course to the Aurora Continent, this was nothing, but in a place like the Azure Continent, it was a huge number.

Other than the Azure Continent, it was generally known that the Qilin Empire had the second highest number of Sage Plane Elementalists. If not for the fact that Oliver was at loggerhead with the empire, he would've been added to their ranks of Sage Plane Elementalists.

There are naturally a few Sage Plane experts that have secluded themselves from the world, living in a secluded mountain and not bothering with whatever happens with any of the empires. Even if one of the empires finally annexed the other empires, it had nothing to do with them.

Grey had been in contact with old man Gerald, and according to what he heard, the troops from the other empires would arrive the next day, or maybe the day after.

The group hoped they arrived soon, and that a grand battle should follow up so they could be forgotten.

Looking at Void's disappearing figure, Grey couldn't help but shake his head. If he had as much control as Void did over the space element, he wouldn't have to worry about anything, and would've created the teleportation array almost instantaneously and left with his friends.

"All we can do now is wait," Grey said with a sigh as he sat cross-legged on the bed.

Since he hadn't been going out, he decided it was best if he comprehended the elements. He still had an element in the purple grade, and it wouldn't be bad if he upgraded it.

After he came in contact with necromancers, he had been experimenting with the darkness element frequently, and he felt that to get a stronger control over the corpses, he had to get a better understanding of the darkness element.

This was his primary objective, his secondary objective though was understanding how domains worked.

When they were trapped, and that large hand loomed over them, he felt an abstruse power when Void managed to get them out of it. Yet the power seemed to be out of reach, and no matter how he tried to recall it, he couldn't accurately remember it.

'I shouldn't be in a hurry to try to understand it, it'll take some time,' Grey said to himself when he couldn't get it.

He knew for a fact that when it came to things like this, all it would take was time, but he would definitely be able to get it. Domains are like a superior form of controlling elements. He understood that much from the small time Void used it.

Getting a better understanding of his element would give him a bigger opportunity of using this power sooner.

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The troops of the Qilin Empire were continuously pushed back as the other empires started their all-out assault. Supposing the Emperor decided to send out reinforcement, it would make no difference given the huge disparity in numbers of troops.

Being besieged by all three empires was something even the second strongest empire in the Azure Continent couldn't withstand, even the Azure Empire which was regarded as the strongest couldn't withstand it.

What made matters worse was the constant disappearance of people in the castle. The thought of fighting against an unknown enemy terrified the Emperor, as well as the Sage Plane experts in the castle.

They had all tried to sense where this person was, but it was to no avail. A guard that was outside the main hall disappeared right under their noses while they were discussing the matter of what was happening in the castle.

The guards and Elementalists below the Sage Plane were all terrified, but because of their fear of the Emperor, they couldn't escape from the castle.

In a matter of a single day, the castle turned from the most secure place in the entire empire to the most dangerous place for these people. Even the Emperor didn't feel safe staying here.

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Inside the main hall.

Three old men could be seen sitting on three make-shift thrones, although they were not as majestic as the throne Void stole, it was not that bad.

The current Emperor of the Qilin Empire was sitting by the right-hand side of these three, and Jason was standing by his side.

These three were the people with the highest authority in the castle. Even the Emperor and Jason had to pay their respects to them, two of them were the previous Emperors of the Qilin Empire while the last one was the twin brother of one of them.

Chapter 629 - Intruder In The Royal Treasury

"How incompetent can you people get?" The old man in the middle asked gently.

His voice was low but steady.

The current Emperor bowed his head, unable to answer. This was the first time something like this had happened in the castle, and being the one in charge, he was naturally the one who would be blamed when his superiors came.

"Great Grandfather, if I..."

"You too, with your intelligence, I expected you to find this person right from when that kid was almost assassinated. But you've all disappointed me," The old man interrupted Jason.

Jason dropped his head, not daring to speak up again. Unlike his Father, in the face of his Great Grandfather, he didn't have any courage.

The Sage Plane experts in the hall kept quiet, afraid to offend the old man any further.

"Brother, scolding them wouldn't change anything," An old man almost identical to the one Jason referred to as Great Grandfather calmed the old man down.

"Father, you should be a little lenient with Robert. We've been active for hours now, and we haven't even been able to locate the perpetrator as well," The last old man spoke up, albeit, respectfully.

"This doesn't mean we can forgive his negligence," The old man in the middle said coldly.

"I understand, he'll be punished once this whole thing is settled."

"Since it's already like this, what do you think we should do? The Azure Empire is using this opportunity to push into our territory, and the other two empires aren't letting go of the chance as well." The Emperor reported their current situation to them.

Just like the Lenz organization, the upper echelons in the castle have been able to get their hands on a communication device. With its aid, they naturally knew what was going on on the battlefield.

The faces of the old men turned dark, exchanging glances between themselves.

"Where are the kids?" The present Emperor's father asked.

"The one who was almost killed is still bedridden, while his friends are keeping him company. Of all three of them, he's the one with the most mysterious background, and it could also be said he has the most potential..." Jason gave a general rundown of Grey and his friends.

When they started to search for Grey, he did a background search and no matter how hard he tried, he was unable to find anything about his parents. Other than how they suddenly appeared and disappeared from Red City, he got nothing else.

If Grey wasn't here, it would've been like they never existed.

After listening to the report from Jason, the old man in the middle gave his verdict.

Jason also told them of his suggestion of executing Grey and his friends in front of everyone.

"Can we confirm that they consumed the Great Earth Essence Liquid?" The old man in the middle asked.

"We'll take their cores from their bodies once they're dead. Killing them secretly won't change our current situation since the others will think we are only lying, but if they are killed in front of everyone in the city, then it wouldn't be a problem anymore. The other empires will naturally call back their troops, while we will take the chance to eliminate the Azure Empire. After all, this is our empire, we have greater power here," Jason replied calmly.

The old man in the middle nodded his head to Jason's words, just as he was about to make an input, his pupils dilated, before a terrifying elemental essence exploded out.

Extreme cold spread in all directions, almost freezing Jason and the current Emperor who were below the Sage Plane.

The old man could be seen shaking vigorously, and his eyes were bloodshot.

"Find this person now!" He exclaimed at the top of his lungs.

"Brother, what happened?" The man identical to the old man in the middle asked.

"The treasury," The old man in the middle didn't need to say more.



Everyone could sense the extreme anger in his voice. After leaving these words, he vanished into thin air.

The two old men by his side exchanged gazes before disappearing as well.

The face of the Emperor turned sour, while Jason wore a frustrated expression. From the old man's statement, they knew that someone had entered the royal treasury.

If it were to be the same person, then it would be terrible. Luckily, the old man made an array that informed him the instant someone stepped into the treasury. Unlike other arrays that focused on sensing new auras, this one focused more on physical touch.

There was no way one could hide from physical touch. As long as anyone stepped into the treasury, even if it was a single step, he would be alerted.

The other Sage Plane Elementarists in the hall kept their heads down before going out as well, heading in the direction of the treasury. Since the old man left almost immediately he sensed the intruder, then he would definitely be able to capture the person before they escaped.

Jason and the Emperor followed behind as well.

The royal treasury wasn't far from the castle's building. Just like most treasuries, it was located underground, in a secure location.

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When the old man and his brother got to where the treasury was located, the Sage Plane Elementalist guarding it could be seen sitting cross-legged out with eyes closed. His expression was a serene one.

On seeing him, the old man flared up, attacking instantly.

"Useless fool!"

Extreme cold gushed out of the old man, and the Sage Plane expert opened his eyes when he sensed it. He wanted to retaliate, but on seeing who it was, he stopped instantly, letting the cold rush towards him.

He was frozen to the ground, with just his head left out.

The old man went straight to the rock blocking the treasury, and when he opened it, his eyeballs nearly fell out.

"How could this be possible?" He staggered, almost falling to the ground.

His brother who was by his side felt like he wanted to spurt out blood. He couldn't believe his eyes as well.

It hadn't even been up to a minute, yet the entire royal treasury was empty. This was a royal treasury, not the regular city treasury.

"Impossible..." He muttered, dumbfounded.

#### Chapter 630 - Sensitive To The Space Element

Jason and the Emperor arrived a few seconds late, on seeing the Sage Plane Elementalist who was almost turned into an ice sculpture, an ominous feeling rose in their hearts.

"How the hell?" Jason blurted out unconsciously when he saw the empty treasury.

The Emperor almost collapsed as well. The other Sage Plane Elementalists who followed behind them were left dumbstruck.

The royal treasury had been emptied by a thief, and what was shocking was that they were all present in the castle at the time. They all turned to look at the Sage Plane Elementalist guarding the treasury and pity welled up in their hearts for him.

Given how strict the old man was, it was easy to see that this wasn't his only punishment. Luckily for him, they currently needed all the Sage Plane experts they could get since a battle was coming. So the old man wouldn't go overboard.

"Father, how is this possible?" Jason's Grandfather turned to the old man.

The old man didn't reply to his son's question, rather, he spread out his spiritual senses, covering the entire treasury. His expression turned gloomy as he said, "There's a strange aura here. I've only felt it somewhere else."

The old man's twin brother also had a somber expression, just like his brother, he had also sensed this aura before.

"Where could that be?" The Emperor asked meekly.

"The array that leads to the trial land. This is the aura it emits before the people standing there vanish." The old man closed his eyes, sensing the aura once more, "I can't be wrong, it is the same aura as it."

"How's that possible? I know for a fact that all the array masters in the entire Continent have been trying to replicate it, but none of them has been able to do so," Jason exclaimed in shock.

He had been fascinated by the mechanics of how the array that transported people to the trail land worked since he heard about it. So he had been going to the array masters that had been researching it, but it had been to no avail. They had been researching it for hundreds of years now, however, they've not been able to get the slightest clue on how it worked.

"Brother," The old man called out to his twin brother.

After exchanging a glance, they knew what was on each other's minds. Disappearing from everyone's sight, they both appeared in two different spots in the castle compound.

Spreading out their spiritual senses, they were able to cover every single spot in the compound. Each took half of the compound, so they could maximize the efficiency of their search. If a single individual decided to spread out their spiritual senses over the entire compound, they might miss the aura since it was very subtle.

A few minutes later.

Boom!

An explosion rang out inside the castle, and one of the rooms in the main wing of the castle was destroyed. The old man could be seen standing there with both hands behind his back.

"Whoever you are, come out now, you've been surrounded. I can already sense your strange power," He said while looking into the room from outside.

When the Emperor and the others arrived, he was stunned when he saw the state of the room. This room was none other than his personal room, and the old man had destroyed it from the outside.

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The explosion alarmed Grey and his friends who were in a room on the left-wing of the castle.

Grey cautiously spread out his spiritual senses to find out what was happening.

"Has the battle started already?" Reynolds jumped to his feet.

"I don't think so," Klaus furrowed his brows as he stared in Grey's direction.

Alice also glanced at him, and they saw him shake his head.

"I'm afraid Void's actions have incensed the old men in this castle," Grey said calmly.

Just when his spiritual sense was about to get to that spot, he received a message from Void.

The message was simple, and that was that some old men in the castle could sense the fluctuations whenever he opened a spatial tunnel.

'I've always known there are people who are particularly sensitive to spatial tunnels. How are things with you now?' Grey asked.

Since Void was able to report to him, it meant that he was safe. As long as Void didn't do anything, he could even stroll out of the castle since most people would take him for a normal cat. His small stature could even help him avoid the eyes of the guards in the castle.

'I'm okay. No matter how good these guys are, they still don't know about the space element. If I were to teleport to three or five locations in the span of a second or two, they would be lost,' Void replied with a naughty laugh.

Grey shook his head when he heard this. He sometimes forgets how clever Void actually was since all he did was cause trouble.

'Guess I shouldn't worry about you then,' He thought internally.

'Guess what?' Void suddenly asked excitedly.

Grey knew he must've gotten something nice since he was this elated, 'What is it?'

'I emptied the royal treasury,' Void replied with a laugh.

'And?' Grey knew Void hadn't said everything else.

'I've finally gotten my hands on the Emperor's crowns. Hahaha,' Void laughed happily as he said.

A smile appeared on Grey's face when he heard this, he couldn't help but wonder why Void was so obsessed with the Emperor's crown. Void had been planning to get the crown since he told him about it, and it looks like he had finally achieved his aim.

Grey told the others about Void's recent conquest, and they were elated. One has to know that the royal family could be said to be the richest family in the entire empire, and their treasury certainly contained good treasures.

....

Back on Void's end.

He was currently hiding in a small spatial opening he created, staring at the group who were looking at the room. His eyes soon locked on to the crown on the Emperor's head, and a grin formed on his face.