

Affinity 661

Chapter 661 - Marsh Rats

"How are you possible?" Klaus blurted out while Grey and the boar were speaking about the formation.

"What?" The boar turned around.

"How's that possible?" Klaus quickly changed what he said. Even though he was dying of curiosity as to how the boar was in this current state, he felt asking in that manner may offend the boar. Of course he didn't really care they offended him, but just like Grey, he had presumed the boar had something backing him.

"You don't know about natural formations?" The boar asked, shocked by Klaus' lack of knowledge.

"No, no I do not." Klaus replied.

The others however heard what he asked the first time, likewise the boar, but since everyone acted like the question was never asked, it was all for the better.

Grey explained how natural formations formed. They come in different ways, some are made in the sea, some in the desert, some in swamps, even mountains make up natural formations. These formations can form almost anywhere, as long as there is nature there.

"So, how did you manage to know the way of going through?" Reynolds asked.

"Hehe, that's my secret. Now, what do you have to offer?" The boar asked while rubbing both hands together.

"Essence stones?" Grey asked.

"Not acceptable. I have way too many essence stones in my possession, rather, I want something good." The boar shook his head.

"Hmm, I have an elemental weapon here, do you want that?" Grey asked.

The boar shook his head again.

"What do you want then?" Klaus asked when the boar was agreeing to anything Grey was offering.

"Give me that cat." The boar pointed at Void.

Grey's eyes immediately went cold the moment the boar pointed at Void.

On seeing Grey's cold eyes, a chill ran down the spine of the boar and he took a step back, "I was only joking, essence stones and some elemental weapons would do."

Grey took out two mid-grade elemental weapons, before taking out almost twenty high-grade essence stones.

The boar's eyes glittered when he saw this and he said, "It's not enough."

He had already kept these ones before he said this. This way, Grey and his friends wouldn't step back.

"Do you believe that you'll be dead before whatever you have your hopes on would come?" Grey asked coldly, his disposition one that showed that he wasn't joking.

"Calm down, but I'm only stating the truth, these are not enough." The boar said.

"Since they aren't, return them." Grey was decisive in his decision making.

He knew the boar was only trying to take advantage of them since it saw how easily he brought out the items. From how the boar acted, he knew he must've done this to countless people.

"You do not understand what I'm trying to say..." The boar tried to explain. However, he was cut short by Grey.

"Void." Grey said a single statement.

The boar who still felt like he had the upper hand felt his scalp go numb, and the cat that was on Grey's shoulder was no longer there, instead, he was on his shoulder, staring at him playfully, it was like he could kill him anytime.

"Wha... what is the meaning of this?" The boar stammered.

"Return them or tell me how to pass through the forest." Grey's voice was as cold as ice.

The boar looked at Void, and he knew that this cat could easily kill him which freaked him out. When Grey and his friends came in here, Void hadn't said a word, lying carelessly on Grey's shoulder.

"Here, it'll take you to the other side of the forest. It knows the way." The boar waved his hand and a small cage appeared, inside the cat was a small rat.

The rat was barely over six inches.

"This thing can help us get through?" Klaus asked as he picked up the cage. He didn't believe what the boar was saying.

"Yes, but you'll have to let it go after you've crossed so it can come back to me." The boar replied.

"How can it take us there?" Grey asked

"This is a Marsh Rat. It's incredibly difficult to capture, but once you get the right tools, you can easily keep one of them." The boar said.

"There's a female on the other side?" Grey asked.

"You know about this as well?" The boar asked, amazed by Grey's knowledge of things.

These types of al beasts are the least popular type because they have almost zero fighting abilities. They could almost be counted as regular beasts.

They are extremely agile and adept at hiding so catching one was difficult, however, all male Marsh Rats have a fatal flaw, and that is they will go to where there's a female Marsh Rat. If one isn't close by, then they don't mind traveling thousands of kilometers to find one.

This was the method the boar used in crossing this forest. It might be odd but it's very effective. These guys don't rely mainly on their senses when going after their female counterparts, so the formation was useless against them.

Grey smiled before nodding to Void who disappeared from the boar's shoulder and appeared on his own.

"See you next time." He turned around and left.

When the group got to the entrance of the forest, Grey set up a teleportation array there. In case things didn't go as planned, they could easily come back here.

When they entered the place, they let the rat go, and it immediately started running in a particular direction.

Grey placed a leash on it so it wouldn't go too far away from where they were. Before long, they had gone past where they were stuck the last time.

While they were going, Grey suddenly sensed some that made him stop moving. The sensation was coming from deep in the forest.

"What's wrong?" Reynolds asked when he saw him stopping.

"Let's take a quick stop. I feel like there's something here." Grey said to the others.

They nodded and followed behind Grey.

Chapter 662 - Strange River

"So, what are we looking at here?" Klaus asked as they ventured into the forest.

They had been walking for almost one hour now and Grey still hadn't found what he was searching for. If not for the fact that he could see the Marsh Rat with his eyes, he might've fallen into depression when he had to think of how they would leave here once again.

"I don't know, it's a strange feeling I'm getting." Grey replied with uncertainty, but he didn't want to give up on this.

The last time something like this happened was when he was in the trial land, when he felt something like a calling from a rock which sent him to another space. The feeling was almost identical to that one, so he was a bit hopeful he would get something good.

Klaus sighed, but still followed behind him, it wasn't like there was anything he could do. If this was a normal forest, then they could just wait and let Grey go and his adventure on his own.

After another hour, Klaus froze and hastily turned to look in one direction.

"Sense something?" Grey asked.

He could feel that whatever he was sensing should be around this area, and if Klaus was feeling it as well, it would make things easier.

"I think so." Klaus replied, a little uncertain.

"Well then, lead the way." Grey said. He couldn't sense it properly, and since Klaus suddenly started sensing it as well, it might be the same thing, and from Klaus' expression, what he sensed was close by.

Klaus didn't say anything and took the lead, heading in the direction he was staring at. Grey followed closely behind as he looked in all directions.

After a while, they started to hear the sound of running water. The sound was something they hadn't heard of before. Without a doubt, it was the sound of water, but it felt as if a mountain was moving through it. The sound was louder and seemed very powerful.

The group soon caught sight of an unbelievable scene, the running water they could clearly hear from over one hundred meters away was so small they blinked repeatedly.

The width of where the water was flowing through wasn't more than an inch, however, they were unable to determine its length.

"Okay, this is just weird." Reynolds said.

"How could something so small create such a loud sound? I almost thought it was an ocean." Alice spoke what was on her mind when she saw the tiny river.

They thought maybe they were being deceived and a larger river was around somewhere, but unfortunately for them, they didn't find any.

"There's something strange about this water." Grey squinted his eyes.

Klaus also furrowed his brows as he stared at the running river, without a thought, he placed a finger into it. It was at this moment he knew this was by no means a normal river.

He hastily retreated, but when he turned around, he realized within two seconds of placing his finger in the water, it dragged him along with the flow of the river. Presently, he was almost three meters away from the others.

Grey had a stunned expression when he was what just happened. Klaus' feet were dragged along the ground by the powerful force.

"Stay away from the river." He said to the others. When he turned around, he noticed he was the only one standing close to the river.

'They didn't even call me along.' He complained internally.

Even Klaus was no where near the water, giving it a considerable distance. He was still trying to analyze what happened a few seconds ago, but staying away from the water for now was the best thing.

"Put your hand, you have a tougher body." Klaus suggested while looking from almost thirty meters away.

Grey didn't reply, he focused his gaze on Klaus' finger, and from how Klaus was holding it, he was sure it didn't break, but the bone might've cracked.

'Just what is this water?' He questioned curiously before creating an earth wall, trying to block the path of the water.

Crack!

He heard a cracking sound, and the path of the river opened up, the wall didn't even form any sort of resistance, it was breached the second the water came in contact with it.

Grey was shocked beyond words. He had seen how the water easily moved Klaus, but the earth wall he made a few seconds ago was stronger than Klaus physically, so it would've been able to form at least some sort of resistance.

Grey created another rock, but stronger this time and he placed it in the water, just like before, the water passed through it, quite easily even.

'This is the strongest defensive rock I can make. Does this mean that this water can easily break my defense?' Grey was shaken by the thought of this.

Grey brought out one of the elemental items he had with him. Surprisingly, he managed to obtain a specially crafted chalice, well, Void did, but it doesn't matter, it's with him now.

The chalice was extremely tough, Grey had been criticizing the person who created it since he obtained it. Who would make a chalice this tough? It was something that was made for drinking, yet a psychopath turned it into a strange item.

Grey had zero knowledge of what it was used for.

When Grey brought out the chalice, Void's eyes bulged out.

"I thought you said you lost it?" He questioned.

"I did." Grey replied with a blank expression.

"Then what's on your hand?" Void asked while staring at Grey.

This was a precious chalice that had jewels embedded on the side. It was made from silver, an amazing and shiny item. Void was the one who found it, but Grey took it when he saw how strange it was.

"I made a new one from that one's remain." Grey walked closer to the river as he replied.

Void's lips twitched repeatedly, and his whiskers were moving in all directions. He almost wanted to strangle Grey at this moment.

Grey paid no heed to his expression as he bent down to place the chalice on the river.

Chapter 663 - Comprehension

Clang!

The second the tip of the chalice entered the small river, it made a clunking sound as if it was hit by another metal.

Grey hastily tried to remove the chalice after what seemed like a single drop of water entered. However, his expression changed when he realized he was unable to drag the chalice up. With much difficulty and reinforcement from all his elements, he only managed to raise the top a few inches away, before he dropped it on the ground, beside the river.

The stop he placed the chalice sank down from the heaviness.

"How's this possible?" Grey's brain went into overdrive, trying to think of what could make just a single drop of water possess such heaviness.

Klaus and the others saw how difficult it was for Grey to raise the chalice and they couldn't help but look at the river in awe. They were first astounded by it when it moved Klaus so easily, but Grey had the toughest body here, and he still couldn't carry a cup full of water?

When they took a closer look at the chalice, they felt as if their world was turning around. Initially, they thought it was a cup full of water, who knew it was nothing more than a drop. A tiny drop of water and Grey raised it with so much difficulty.

They saw how the ground caved at the moment the chalice was placed on it, so they knew whatever was in the chalice was heavy beyond words.

"A drop of water..." Reynolds was stunned.

He tried to raise the chalice, however, he almost detached himself from his hands after trying too hard.

"How could you be trying to raise it? Grey, who has the physique of a al beast, had such a difficult time just moving it and you think you could?" Klaus asked mockingly before turning to Grey, "No offense bud."

Grey stared at Klaus, calming the urge to punch him in the face.

'You could just say I was stronger physically, what the hell is having the physique of a al beast?!' He complained inside. Unfortunately, since Klaus had somewhat apologized, he couldn't beat him up.

'I'll think of a way to get back at him.'

"Do you think this is like a variant of water?" Klaus asked.

"I heard the pressure at the bottom of the ocean is unbearable for most. This might be something like that." Alice said.

Grey nodded, he had also read about this. If this was true, then it was a mystery as to how this water was flowing on the surface. One thing about this river was that they didn't know how deep it was. If the surface is already this heavy, how heavy would it be if they go deeper?

Klaus moved closer to the water, since he was a Water Elementalist, he had a close connection with water. Compared to Grey who had multiple elements, his connection with the water element was stronger.

He stared at it for some time before sitting down cross-legged close to the river, closing his eyes.

His strange behavior surprised the group, but they didn't disturb him.

Grey knew what Klaus was attempting to do, and he couldn't help but think of the possibility of having something like this in your arsenal. It would be the end of all defenses.

He sat down cross-legged a few meters away from Klaus and closed his eyes as well. Klaus was already attempting it, so why not.

Alice and Reynolds looked at each other at a loss, Void was laying on Grey's head, sound asleep. The duo was forced to sit on the side and cultivate as well.

Time went by and the day became night. The usual foggy forest was crystal clear at the night. The sounds of beasts were coming from all sides, but Grey and Klaus still had their eyes shut.

Alice and Reynolds were already on full alert, prepared to attack. They couldn't leave the area where the river was located due to the fear of getting lost, but they could ensure that no one got close to the duo training.

During that night, four al beasts attacked. The one that was the most difficult to deal with was a Death Owl. It's called this because it had what looked like a skull on its back. It also mainly uses the darkness element for attacks.

Silent hunters were the most difficult to deal with, especially those that were coming from the sky. It might only be in the Early stages of the Fifth Rank, but it's a bird, so it naturally could fly.

It pestered the duo longer than any of the other beasts they battled. After almost one hour, it left, but its prolonged absence sent the duo into full alertness, they felt maybe it was biding its time. It was only after another hour passed did they finally calm down, knowing it was gone.

By dawn, Grey and Klaus still had their eyes closed, there weren't even any signs of them opening their eyes, however, there's a change in Klaus' situation. Around him, there were faint water elemental particles.

They could tell this was a sign of progress in whatever he was gaining an understanding of.

Time went on and the day turned to night again.

Void woke up this time, he went into Grey's storage ring to bring out the roasted meat that was kept there. He ate it with Alice and Reynolds and helped them fend off the beasts that attacked.

The same Death Owl came again, unfortunately for it, Void was around, and unlike the other beasts that managed to escape, it was caught.

Reynolds told Void to make sure he caught it alive, he still felt irritated by the previous night they didn't rest peacefully because of this owl.

On seeing the grin on Reynolds' face as he approached it, the owl struggled, unfortunately, it can't really escape from Void's clutches.

Reynolds didn't kill it, but he continued speaking of how they would eat it after it was dead. The owl naturally understood human language, so hearing this, it was shaking from fear.

Chapter 664 - Celebratory Owl Soup

In the blink of an eye, five days went by in a flash. Grey and Klaus were still seated at the side of the small river.

Initially, Klaus was the first one to have a reaction while they were both trying to comprehend the mystery behind the heavy water, but due to Grey not being a noob to things like this, he quickly caught up.

Nevertheless, Klaus was still the one with the most elemental particles around him. Within a one-meter radius, everything around him felt extremely heavy.

Klaus' comprehensive ability was no joke, in a matter of five days, he had gotten a good chunk of what was needed. He could even exit cultivation now, but he wanted to ensure he got the best out of it.

Grey had never been one with the best comprehensive ability, but his persistence and determination have always been his helping hand. In these five days, he's gotten a lot from it. If things continued in this

fashion, he was sure that he would be able to create water that even a drop would be heavier than an elephant.

Five more days went by, and finally, there was a large commotion on Klaus' end.

Water moved around him, and one could feel like elephants were stampeding on the ground from the small particles that were touching the ground.

Grey was forced to exit his cultivation when he felt this. Looking at Klaus, he smiled before retreating from the area.

Alice and Reynolds walked up to him but didn't ask any questions.

A few minutes went by before the commotion died down, Klaus whose eyes had been shut all this while finally opened it. A glint flashed through, and he sucked in a deep breath.

"How long have I been cultivating?" He asked the others, unsure of the time he used.

Actually, he felt he hadn't been there for more than three days.

"Ten days." Alice and Reynolds replied simultaneously.

"Ten?" Grey and Klaus were a little taken aback.

Grey felt they must've been cultivating for at most five days, he didn't think it was double that figure.

He looked at Klaus and couldn't help but shake his head. Klaus' luck could be said to be the best in the group. He almost always finds a treasure which makes his cultivation advance faster than the others.

After he gained enlightenment on this water, Klaus broke through to the Seventh stage of the Overlord Plane. Of the group, he was the only one who had gotten to the Late stages of the Overlord Plane, with Grey not too far behind.

Alice just broke through to the Fourth stage, so she still had a lot of catching up to do. Reynolds was the only one in the Early stages of the Overlord Plane, however, if his Elemental Warrior is brought into the picture, then it was a completely different story.

"You've broken through again." Grey said with a smile.

"Yeah, just a small reward compared to the real gain." Klaus said with a smile before a ball of water formed above his hand.

The bluish ball of water above Klaus' hand was the same as the small river flowing on the ground, however, his own was weaker in comparison to that one. At this stage, it couldn't even be said to be twenty percent as powerful as the river, but it was a powerful ability to have, and over time, the strength will naturally improve.

Just as Klaus was about to show off, he saw Grey opening his palm with a smile on his face, his expression was one of incredulity when he realized Grey made the same waterball as him. Only, slightly weaker.

It was only now he recalled Grey had the water element as well, and just like him, he tried seeking enlightenment from the river. Although in the end he was the biggest winner, the fact that Grey managed to do this as well showed how powerful his comprehension ability was.

There are Water Elementals that might be Elemental Sovereigns, yet it does not guarantee that they will be able to understand the secret of this river. Luck and fate played a key role in this.

Grey's situation was his monstrous abilities. The orb in his body might play a part in him getting the water element, but comprehending this was his personal achievement.

"When I thought I could finally show off." Klaus sighed in dejection.

"Don't feel too sad." Reynolds consoled him.

"I'm not, he's just too monstrous." Klaus shook his head.

Grey smiled, flashing his shiny teeth before playfully hitting Klaus' on his shoulder.

"Oh Grey, I caught us a celebratory food." Reynolds suddenly remembered the Death Owl and brought it out.

The poor thing had been frightened almost to death. Reynolds' words had been taunting it since it was caught. The second it appeared, it saw two people staring at it savagely and it panicked.

"Haha, let it go, I still have some meat left in my..." Grey paused when he was unable to see any of the leftover meat he kept.

"About that, Void brought it out and we ate it." Reynolds said, a bit embarrassed by the situation.

"If that's the case, owl it is." Grey couldn't nag them for meat, especially when there's free meat staring at him.

The Death Owl's emotions went from sadness to delight, and then to despair.

When it first heard Grey say they should let it go, it almost couldn't contain its joy, but that joy soon came crashing down when he heard what Grey said. It couldn't help but look at Void spitefully.

This cat was the one who caught it, and now, because of this very cat once again, it was about to meet a cruel end. The worst thing was knowing after its death, it would become food for these humans and one cat. Unfortunately, it couldn't speak out, or else it would protest against the decision.

Before long, a fire was set up and a large pot was well-positioned in it. The owl was already killed and cut into small pieces, Grey could be seen adding the final ingredients to complete the soup he was making.

Chapter 665 - Lend Me One!

"This is nice. We should open an Inn." Klaus said while gulping down the rest of his soup.

"Oh really, who's going to be there?" Grey scoffed.

"You of course. Who else can cook among us?" Klaus asked.

"Well, I can." Alice raised her hand.

"Yes, but we're talking about being on Grey's level, or at least close to it." Klaus' reply was like cold water, Alice wanted to refute, but she couldn't.

Yes, she could cook, better than the boys. But being on Grey's level was something else, even being close to it meant that you must be a great cook. Grey was just that good of a cook.

Alice pouted but looked away.

"Bud, come on, what do you say?" Klaus asked.

"I'll be too busy training. After I have no one who can defeat me, maybe then I'll open an Inn." Grey replied.

"Alright, remember to tell me, I'll be your manager." Klaus didn't doubt Grey's words, he was that confident in his friend's ability.

But the truth was, who wouldn't? For someone who can not only comprehend new elements but also improve their grade, there was no way he wouldn't get to the top someday.

"And I'll be your accountant. I'll be in charge of anything concerning money." Reynolds raised his hand to join in on the plan.

"I'll be the one to test all the foods to ensure they're safe." Void said.

Alice laughed when she heard their replies before she said, "I'll be the owner of the Inn."

The others froze, before bursting out laughing. Of course they knew they were only joking. If Grey truly did open an Inn later in the future, then he would be the one to employ people. They would be too busy to cater for an Inn.

"We should get going." Grey suggested after they finished laughing.

The others nodded.

They've been here for ten days now and it was time for them to leave. Since coming to the Aurora Continent, surprisingly, they haven't been able to go anywhere because of this.

'I still have a lot to do before getting to the Seventh stage. The higher my cultivation, the harder it is to improve. I think I'll need to focus on the light element for now. Luckily, I saw Teacher using it during the battle. But that wouldn't be enough.' Grey was deep in thoughts as they followed the Marsh Rat out of the forest.

On the way, he suddenly recalled something.

"Klaus, can you lend me one of the talismans Teacher gave you?" Grey turned to Klaus.

"Uncle's talismans, sure." Klaus took out one of the talismans and gave it to Grey.

Grey took it and sent his spiritual senses into it, sensing the raging fire inside, he retracted his senses and gave it back to Klaus, "One that boosts your speed."

"Oh, okay." Klaus said before taking out another talisman.

Grey took it and sent his spiritual senses inside. The second his spiritual senses entered, he was blinded by a white light.

'Yes, this should help.' He said to himself.

Watching his Teacher using the light element alone wouldn't be able to help him out with his comprehension of the light element, coming in close contact frequently with it will help. This talisman was all he needed.

It was just like in the case of the darkness and space elements, he came in frequent contact with them thanks to Void, which accelerated the comprehension process.

While they were going out of the forest, he focused mainly on the light element. If he could comprehend it, added with the small gains he made from getting enlightenment from the river, even if he doesn't break through to the Seventh stage like Klaus, he wouldn't be far from it.

However, unlike the water element, he was starting from scratch. The chances of him breaking through from normal cultivation was way higher than breaking through after comprehending the light element.

Even with the talisman, it would be difficult. The light element was a tad rarer than the darkness element, so comprehending it was naturally harder than the other.

They walked for almost two hours before they finally left the forest.

When Reynolds saw that they were out of the forest, he couldn't help but heave a sigh of relief, "We're finally out of that hellish place. The city should be straight ahead right?"

Grey nodded before staring at the Marsh Rat. Honestly, he almost didn't want to let it go, but in the end, he had a deal with the boar so he naturally let it go. Besides, he already placed an array on the other side, so he could go whenever he wanted to.

Before the group left, he also created a teleportation array on this side of the forest as well.

"If only we can stay here, then we'll make a fortune." Klaus said when Grey was making the teleportation array.

This was no joke, all they needed to do was charge lesser than the boar, and since theirs was quicker, they would attract all the customers, sending the boar out of business.

"We can't, this place is too local for us. I plan to either join the biggest Faction here, or we head to the Middle Continent, that place has the strongest powers." Grey said.

"I know, I just thought we'd make quick money here. It wouldn't be bad sending an underling here later in the future though." Klaus replied.

Grey nodded before they continued their journey. He recalled something before saying to the others, "Oh, I forgot to tell you guys. There are Factions that focus only on one element. Most of the ones I've seen do that, but I don't know if that's how all the Factions are."

When he saw their reactions, he added, "There are Dual Elementalists in the Factions, so we shouldn't really have a problem."

By the time he got to this point, he froze before looking at Klaus. Of the four, only Klaus didn't have the lightning element which meant there was no certainty that he would be able to join the same Faction as the others.

Chapter 666 - Dixon Region

"I'll join a separate Faction then. If you're in the same Faction as me, you'll steal all the glory." Klaus said calmly.

He's not being envious or greedy, but there's almost no way people will take note of him if there's a freak like Grey around.

Alice and Reynolds looked at each other and nodded in agreement.

"We'll all join separate Factions. This will be better for our growth." Alice said. Seeing Grey's reaction, she added, "If we're together, we'll rely too much on each other, well, mostly on you which isn't good for us."

Grey thought about what they said and nodded. They were right about that, although they didn't really show it, but when they were together, since he was the strongest, they naturally relied on his and Void's strength. This is one of the reasons they could get into a fight without any fears.

"Alright. We'll join different Factions. But we should at least try out the geniuses' rankings before joining. This will not only make a name for us, but we'll get the needed status before joining any Faction since we wouldn't be nobodies." Grey suggested.

The others nodded.

They soon got to the city while speaking. It was a relatively small town, so there wasn't really anything that caught their attention. They strolled around the market, but there was nothing of interest.

After getting a map, they decided to head to the main city of the current Region they were in. There are over twenty Regions in the Western Continent, and only five of them were of a high level. The regions could basically be divided into three; low, mid, and high.

Grey visited Mid and High leveled Regions when he was in the Eastern Continent, so he didn't even take a glance at the low leveled Regions on the map of the Western Region he got. According to the map, they were in a low leveled Region. The others felt it wouldn't be bad to test out the strength of the geniuses on the same Plane and stage.

They traveled for almost a week before getting to where the first person in the Early stages of the Overlord Plane geniuses rankings was located. Reynolds was the only one still in the Early stages of the Overlord Plane, so he was the one who challenged the person.

He won with so much ease that the others gave up on the thought of even trying to fight those in their stages. First of all, the person in the Early stages of the Overlord Plane was well over twenty-five.

This discovery stunned Grey when he thought of those in other regions. Especially when he recalled the youth who attacked him with a single attack he couldn't help but shake his head. He guessed the youth should be at the Peak of the Overlord Plane at that time. If his guess was true, then the youth must've broken through to the Sage Plane a long time ago.

He couldn't help but grit his teeth. He hated being stepped on by others, there was no way he would let it go. People might call him vengeful, but he didn't care about it. As long as he got back at the person who embarrassed him.

The group decided to head over to at least a mid-level Region before they would start challenging those on the geniuses rankings.

One month went by in the flash of an eye, the group was still traveling, but they've all made significant progress. Although none of them had broken through to the next stage yet, they had honed their skills from multiple battles and sparring against each other.

The heavy water Klaus could create now was superior when compared to what he made the first time. It would take a while before he could become an expert on it, but for now, he could use it to surprise others. In a battle, a single change can alter the previous flow of the battle.

If Klaus' heavy water was to be splashed on someone, the result might be terrifying. The person will not die, but the shift in weight will put them off balance.

Grey had been practicing that, as well as the gravitational force the old man from the Azure Empire used to attack the Principal when they were fighting.

At the time he saw it, it piqued his interest and he naturally wanted to learn it. There's also the light element he was trying to comprehend from the talisman. He got so much on right now that, unlike the others, he couldn't afford to give himself any spare time.

His chance of revenge was only less than two years away. There's no way he could allow himself to be disgraced again.

On seeing Grey pushing himself so much, the others were sort of motivated by him and followed suit.

It didn't take long and they got to the first mid-level Region, Dixon Region.

"Finally, we'll get a true challenge." Alice was itching for a fight.

Since she came to the Aurora Continent, she hadn't fought against a genius yet. They encountered some unfortunate bandits, but they couldn't be compared to young geniuses.

"Don't get your hopes up, you might be disappointed." Grey said calmly as they headed into the first city on their list.

This city was called Skyland City.

"To be honest, I'll be disappointed if this City isn't flying." Klaus said when he heard the name of the city.

"Me too." Reynolds said.

The duo almost always agree on the same thing, so the others weren't surprised when they heard this.

Klaus and Reynolds started bantering each other as the group walked around. Grey would be dragged in sometimes and he usually suffers from the duo's hand. He wasn't as sharp-tongued as them, so he always lost.

Alice and Void watched from the side, laughing at Grey's plight. On the way, the plaque Chris made an array on blinked twice.

Grey always keeps it close to him so he will be notified as soon as his Teacher wants something. This wasn't the first time since they left the Azure Continent. His Teacher requests for food at least once a week.

Grey had been doing a lot of cooking lately because of the group. He would keep some so whenever his Teacher wanted something, he could send him one.

Chapter 667 - Dixon Region's Annual Geniuses' Rankings

"A shame." Klaus stood in front of a large city gate as he stared at the city.

"Huh?"

Grey and Alice were taken aback by his comment. They hadn't even gotten into the city yet, but they could feel its vibrant aura already. Why would Klaus suddenly say 'A shame'?

"It's on the ground, like every other city." Klaus pointed at the name of the city boldly written above the city gate.

"Honestly? You really thought it would've been floating in the air?" Grey looked at Klaus oddly.

"Not exactly, but I was a little hopeful. This is a new place with powerful people, so why can't they just make a floating city?" Klaus replied calmly.

The group walked into the city, and they were stunned by the number of people moving around. It was already past noon.

"Is this place usually this active?" Reynolds asked.

"This is my first time here, but I don't think it should. The other cities I've been to are not like this. Maybe something important is taking place." Grey surmised.

Klaus stopped a youth walking by and asked if anything was going on. They were surprised when they found out that the annual geniuses' rankings was taking place today.

"Is it over?" Grey asked hurriedly.

"Not yet, but it will be soon. They've already finished the battles for those in the Origin Plane and the Early stages Overlord Plane rankings have been decided already, likewise the Mid stages. All that's left is the Late stages rankings." The youth replied.

Grey thanked the youth and prepared to leave, however, Alice held onto them before asking the youth nicely, "Where's it taking place?"

The youth told them the direction of the place and they left. Grey and the others felt it was held in the arena, which was normal, but surprisingly, it wasn't. Other than that arena, there was a special place for fighting competitions in Skyland City.

When the group got there, their mouths opened wide in awe. Even Grey who rarely had reactions to things was blown away by what he was seeing.

"It surely deserves the name, Skyland City." He remarked while looking at the floating land in front of them.

Below the land was nothing but water. They couldn't help but wonder how this place was formed.

"I'm impressed." Klaus said with a nod.

Reynolds and Alice nodded.

While they were marveling at the view, three figures were rushing behind them.

"Get out of the way, I'm late." The voice said hurriedly.

Klaus turned around to get a view of the person who just spoke and his eyes trailed longer on the figure in the middle. It was a young lady who looked to be around eighteen years old. With an almost

porcelain-like skin, the sun could almost be said to be radiating off her skin. Her face was a sight to behold, with an hourglass figure and long black hair, she looked like an angel who fell from the sky.

Grey looked at the young lady as well, but his gaze didn't last long on her body, his focus was on the old man standing by her side. He couldn't sense anything from him, and judging from how he was standing beside the young lady, he knew he was protecting her.

'The daughter of a powerful family.' He thought to himself before moving to the side.

Reynolds and Alice also moved to the side, leaving Klaus alone who seemed to be frozen.

"Move." The young lady said, slightly irritated by Klaus blocking her path.

Klaus came back to his senses soon enough, and replied slightly embarrassed, "Oh, sorry. I blanked out for a moment."

He moved to the side and allowed the group to pass. When the group got to the edge of the water, what looked like a stairway appeared and they ascended it to the floating land.

"That's the way to go up, huh? How innovative." Grey said before tapping Klaus on the shoulder. He was still too busy looking at the back view of the young lady that he almost forgot about his friends.

"We should go too. We're already late." Grey smiled before ascending the stairs as well.

Each stair felt like they were made of thin ice. They could see through it.

Klaus was lost in thoughts as they ascended the stairs. They soon got to the peak and the view before them was massive.

A large crowd was gathered, and people could be seen fighting on different platforms. The place was like an open field, but there were buildings around, indicating someone was staying there.

"I want something like this." Klaus said.

The group approached the platforms, staring at the ongoing battles. Those on each platform were in the Late stages of the Overlord Plane, and all of them were between twenty to twenty-five.

Klaus was the only one among the group that was in the Late stage of the Overlord Plane, but it didn't mean that he was the only one with the strength of someone in the Late stages of the Overlord Plane.

About three platforms were empty, but Grey told them to wait and see how things were going. Klaus took them to sit in one of the places, surprisingly, the young lady who passed them not too long ago was sitting in this same area, not too far away from them.

"Don't do anything, please." Grey pleaded with Klaus when he saw his gaze.

This wasn't the Azure Continent, they had to be extra careful here. Naturally, he could speak with the young lady if he wanted to, but he had to make sure he didn't offend her and cause trouble for the group.

If they were in the Southern Continent, Grey could use the influence of the O'Brien family to save them, but here, he had nothing.

"Relax, I'm not that stupid." Klaus said coolly.

"I trust you." Grey focused on the battles once again.

Ten people were currently battling, and all of them were around the Seventh and Ninth stage of the Overlord Plane. Any of them in the Seventh stage could beat any of the Peak Overlord Plane Elementarists from the Azure Continent. The difference in attack power was massive.

Chapter 668 - Klaus Taking The Stage

This was the first time Alice and the others were seeing geniuses from the Aurora Continent fight, well, real geniuses that is. From the small battles they were watching, they knew these guys were more powerful than the first one Reynolds fought against.

They were all pumped up, thinking about how they would fare against these geniuses. In the Azure Continent, they could easily fight across stages. Here, they hoped to replicate the same thing.

"Can we still challenge those in the same stages as us?" Alice asked.

"I think so, but it'll be after the battle for those in the Late stages is complete." Grey answered.

He didn't really know much about these things, but since they could challenge whoever was in the rankings, he was sure they might be able to challenge them here if the people were present.

These people would definitely want to watch more battles anyway.

"It's a shame we were late." Reynolds shook his head.

Grey smiled while looking at the platforms. He didn't think each Region had a different time for their annual geniuses' rankings, but thinking about it now, he realized there was no way all the Regions will host their regional rankings at the same time.

Presently, this was currently the stage where they challenged those in the top fifty.

"Who would you be challenging?" Grey asked curiously.

"This is my first time fighting against them, I don't want to overdo it. I'll challenge the person ranked forty-fifth." Klaus said calmly.

"Alright, there should be some people in the Mid stages that are in these rankings, so you might encounter some." Grey said.

"What about you?" Klaus asked.

"I'm going for the thirtieth person. I can naturally go higher, but I don't want too much attention. I'll slowly fight into the top twenty then stop there. There's a reward for those in the top twenty." Grey said.

"Void, don't you want to try?" Reynolds asked.

"I'll defeat all of them with nothing but a shake of my paws, there's no use trying." Void stated proudly.

His voice was small, but those sitting around the group heard him clearly. The funny part was that they didn't think that the cat was the one who spoke, rather, they felt it was the words of one of them.

Some people scoffed at them, irritated by their baseless boasting.

The young lady the group encountered on the way here also turned to look behind her to see the cause of the small disturbance in the area. She saw Klaus and Grey talking with calm expressions before turning around.

Ten minutes later.

The battles on the platform ended, and it was time for others to step forward and challenge whoever they wanted.

"I'll be going first." Klaus stood up before jumping toward the stage.

He wasn't the only one who was moving toward the stage. More people were headed towards the platforms, and surprisingly, the particular platform he picked had three people vying to get on it.

All still mid-air, they attacked. Whoever manages to step foot on the platform first wins. This was something they all knew. They also knew that they could easily retreat and wait for the next battles, but

they've already stepped forward, and going back now without even testing the strength of the other party was a show of weakness.

Well, so they thought.

The duo sent attacks at Klaus simultaneously. Klaus didn't panic, on seeing the attacks, he wrapped himself with water, shielding himself from every attack coming his way.

The attack delayed him, giving the other two the edge. However, just as they were about to set foot on the platform, they sensed a deadly attack coming their way.

It was a thin ice arrow. The arrows were only around ten inches, but the duo could sense a life-threatening aura from them. Without even thinking, they focused their entire being on it.

Klaus scoffed before gently landing on the platform with a smile.

'Heh, even Grey couldn't block it, you two think you can?' He thought internally.

His ice ability was currently on another level. Grey had a powerful defensive element, and with the increase in his strength, he had been able to create a powerful earth that would take a few attacks before it was penetrated, but a single one of Klaus' attacks easily sneaked through.

The duo stared at the ice thin arrows that were in front of their necks, a few more inches and it would penetrate their necks. Cold sweat ran down their backs. Even with their rushed defenses, these arrows passed through so easily.

Their small bout attracted the attention of the people around. The fact that only Klaus managed to defeat the duo and step on the platform after being attacked by both showed his strength.

Just like him, the duo were still in the Seventh stage. This was not a life or death battle, but he had already shown he was stronger.

"Thank you for letting me fight first." Klaus said with a soft smile before turning around.

Grey has already told him the usual process taken, and even without him, he could learn from those on the other platforms.

Those on the other platforms challenged their opponents, with one challenging the person ranked fiftieth.

'I should've challenged that person first.' Klaus thought jokingly.

When the man in charge of the platform he was on asked who he was challenging, he told him his opponent.

"I'm sorry, but that person just went through a battle and would need at least a thirty minutes break before fighting again." The man said.

"Oh, then whoever is forty then." Klaus said.

The man nodded before turning around. He called out for the person ranked fortieth, and a young man walked out from the crowd, stepping onto the platform.

"A battle of Water Elementalist, who do you think would win?"

A conversation broke out in the stands when they saw this young man. Klaus had showcased a bit of his power, so everyone knew he was a Water Elementalist or at least has the water element. This young man was a Water Elementalist as well.

"We'll find out soon enough."

Chapter 669 - First Victory!

"Hello." Klaus waved at the young man as he stepped onto the platform.

The young man stared at Klaus calmly, he was in the Eighth stage of the Overlord Plane and felt Klaus wasn't his opponent. Of course he knew not to underestimate his opponent, but as Elementalists grew, the ability to cross stages and battle was lower. He too felt like he could fight against someone in a higher stage, after all, he was in the geniuses' rankings so he had the right to be confident.

"Hey." The young man nodded at Klaus after studying his opponent carefully.

The man in charge asked if both participants were ready, and when he got confirmation from them, he gave them the go-ahead to start the battle.

The water element wasn't the most explosive, so a fight between two Water Elementalists wouldn't be as flashy as those of Lightning and Fire Elementalists. This didn't take away its strength though. All elements had their advantages, so everyone knew not to play down the water element.

Klaus was the first to attack. Sending out a stream of water in the direction of his opponent. The young man didn't panic, with a slow wave of his hand, a large water body appeared in front of him, blocking the water coming his way.

After he blocked it, he attacked Klaus as well, sending out three water snakes at him. All three moved independently, attacking Klaus from different angles.

Klaus was even calmer than him, with a smile, he was covered with a water dome that was able to perfectly block all the attacks of his opponent. This was only them testing out each other's strengths.

The young man continued his offensive, attacking from all angles. The water element was the most flexible element, classy yet destructive.

Klaus continued his defensive stance, taking from one attack to another. The young man was by no means weak, so Klaus was fully focused on the battle, making sure he didn't give his opponent any chance to attack him.

At the place he was standing, he had sealed the ground with ice, this way, no attack could come from below him.

The battle slowly built up pace with powerful attacks slowly coming forth. Klaus didn't stay on the defensive, attacking whenever he could. However, it was easy to see that his opponent was slightly stronger than him in terms of elemental power. The strength of his attacks was more powerful than that of Klaus.

"His opponent isn't weak." Alice stated while watching the fight.

"I know, but he should win." Grey said confidently.

If this wasn't a competition, Klaus could've easily displaced the mindset of his opponent with his words, but here, although it wasn't against the rules, it would attract way too many enemies. If they had a strong background to rely on, then they would've been fine, but now, they had to tread carefully.

"He still hasn't used his ice, that would be the deciding factor in this battle." Reynolds said.

"There's still a second option for him." Grey looked at the battle with a blank expression.

The others recalled the ability Klaus and Grey comprehended when they were crossing that forest. During the few times they sparred, defending against the heavy water was extremely hard. Its weight made it hard to block. And Klaus was an ingenious individual who sought out the best time to use it.

If used immediately, it would be easy for them to defend against it, but he always waited for the time they least expect it before using it. Even Grey who could still use it had a difficult time defending against it.

While the trio were discussing, the battle was getting heated. Klaus and his opponent were showing their cards. When Klaus started using his ice, the young man in front of him immediately fell on the defensive which surprised the people watching.

They expected since he was stronger than Klaus, he should have a higher mastery in terms of ice abilities as well, but Klaus was clearly the one on top.

Bang! Bam!

Klaus' ice spears were blocked by the ice wall the young man placed in front of him. The wall cracked the moment the second spear impaled it.

The young man retreated and the spear hit the place he was previously standing.

While he was retreating, ice shards sprang out from the ground, rushing toward him. The young man panicked for an instant, and Klaus didn't let the opportunity slide. He pressed on with the ice shards while sending ice spears at the young man.

The young man scrambled to defend against the ice spears and the ice shards chasing after him. While this was happening, Klaus was preparing his signature move, a thin ice was sent toward the young man. Before the young man could even detect it, it was already at the place between his eyes. He froze while looking at the hovering tiny ice.

If this was a life or death battle, he would've been dead, without even knowing how he died.

With a sigh, he shook his head in dejection.

"I give up." He said to the man in charge of their platform.

The man announced the result of the battle to the crowd before waiting for both individuals to leave the stage.

The young man nodded his head at Klaus before leaving the platform. Klaus replied to the gesture with a nod as well and stepped off the platform.

The battle lasted almost ten minutes, but it ended because of a small mistake by the young man. In a case where the difference in strength between both parties wasn't large, a mistake or a better strategy was what usually determines the winner or loser.

Klaus got back to his seat, staring at the large stone in the sky that had his name placed in the fortieth place.

"Interesting, such a strange item." He said while taking his seat.

"How does it feel to be the person ranked fortieth in the entire Dixon Region?" Reynolds questioned.

"Not good. Apparently, I can only get a reward when I get to the top twenty." Klaus shrugged.

His aim for this competition was higher. Even if he couldn't get into the top twenty, he shouldn't be too far off.

Chapter 670 - Grey's First Battle

"I'm up next, wish me luck." Grey said as he stood up.

He didn't have his mask on since he didn't feel the need to anymore.

Klaus was handsome, so he naturally attracted the gazes of some of the young ladies in the stands. When they saw the stunningly handsome Grey sitting next to him, they almost wanted to rush towards them.

Seeing Grey stand up, they felt excited for some reason, as if they could already see him win against whoever he was fighting against.

Grey had a blank expression, walking towards the platform with steady steps. He didn't jump onto the platform as others did. While he was walking, there was a strange rhythm with the way he walked that

made it seem as if he wasn't moving, whereas, he covered a couple of meters with a single step. It was strange yet appalling.

He got to the platform he picked, and unlike Klaus, he didn't have any opponent vying for the same platform.

Standing on the platform, he looked at the man in charge of the platform.

"The person ranked thirtieth." Grey stated calmly.

The man nodded before calling out for the person ranked thirtieth. The person was a young lady who was in the Seventh stage of the Overlord Plane. Although she was in the Seventh stage doesn't mean she was weak. One has to remember that the person Klaus fought was in the Eighth stage and he ranked fortieth, this meant this young lady was stronger than he was while being a stage lower.

Grey nodded at his opponent before preparing himself for battle. The young lady nodded back as well.

The man asked if both participants were ready and after getting confirmation, he announced the start of the battle.

Grey didn't immediately attack, waiting for his opponent to make the first move. The young lady didn't stand on ceremony, since Grey wanted her to attack first, she didn't hold back.

Boom!

Raging flames exploded out, shooting in Grey's direction.

Grey blocked the attack in a cool and collected manner. With a wave of his hand, an earth wall rose in front of him, easily blocking the attack.

The earth wall stood firm after the attack, but more attacks followed suit and the wall soon broke down.

Grey still had the same expression as before, blocking all the attacks coming his way. Just when people were about to complain that all he did was defend, he suddenly attacked.

With a stamp of his feet, he bolted straight at his opponent. Covered entirely in red lightning, he was like a fast red light.

His sudden change took his opponent by surprise, but the young lady quickly adjusted herself before creating a sea of flames around her to block the incoming Grey.

Grey's figure shot past the flames but was met by a powerful fire attack.

Boom!

His figure shook twice after blocking the attack before he continued his charge.

Swoosh! Buzz! Bang!

He attacked ruthlessly and ferociously.

The young lady blocked his first attack, but small bits of lightning touched her hands, making them go numb.

Grey brought out a sword from his storage ring, with its help, he continued his assault, sending out lightning strikes.

The young lady blocked the attacks before attacking as well. Since Grey's lightning was red, it made red light dots dance around the entire platform.

The young lady didn't stand back and let Grey assault her without moving. She also fought back valiantly.

However, only Grey and his friends knew he wasn't even putting much of an effort. If he were to use his fire element which had the highest mastery, his attack power would go up by a notch, added to his space element, he could defeat this young lady in a minute or two.

The battle continued for almost five minutes and Grey's momentum continued to rise the second he started attacking.

The young lady found it hard to keep up with his relentless attacks, blocking what she could. She tried to attack as well, but Grey effortlessly dodged most of her attacks that she almost gave up hope.

Losing this easily wasn't something she wanted hence she fought on, but after five minutes, she was starting to feel numb all over her body. The bits of lightning that had touched her were by no means small, and those who were observant could tell that Grey was purposely leaving behind tiny lightning across the stage so they could affect his opponent.

She managed to hang on for two more minutes before she gave up. At this moment, she could barely stand, and people could see her visibly shaking from the electrocution of the lightning.

There were slight burn marks on her body from some attacks she, unfortunately, took after being unable to dodge or block them. Grey was very lenient with his attacks even though he was attacking aggressively.

The young lady left the platform after admitting defeat. Grey did the same, his expression still the same, devoid of any emotions.

Initially, some people felt he was proud, but seeing that even when he sat down with his friends he still had the same expression, they knew that was how he was.

His blank expression didn't take away the beauty of his face though.

"Why did you take so long?" Alice asked.

"It's not nice to show all your cards this early, don't you think?" Grey replied with a question of his own.

"You're right." Alice nodded before staring at the other platforms where battles were still taking place.

Just like Klaus' case, the stone in the sky appeared again and Grey's name was placed in the thirtieth position. Klaus' name was pushed down to the forty-first place which irked him.

"What the hell?" He complained when he noticed it.

"Oh, once a new name is on the rankings, it pushes those below it down by one." Grey explained to Klaus.

"So after all my hard work, someone can just push me down by getting a better ranking and not being on the rankings before?" Klaus didn't like how the rankings worked.

"Well, yeah. You don't expect them to be lower than you, right? Besides, you pushed the person ranked fiftieth out of the top fifty when you entered as well." Grey said.

Klaus scratched his head before focusing on the battles again.