

Affinity 761

Chapter 761 - Dividing The Duo

Grey stood and watched his opponents seemingly plotting how they would defeat him. A smirk appeared on his face as he looked at them, amused. He didn't even try to attack them, letting them plot however they wanted.

When the young men saw Grey's facial expressions, they laughed. They knew that they were no match for Grey one on one, but if it was two against one, then they were certain that they would obtain the victory.

They have heard of how Grey defeated the two young ladies back at the party. However, that was something they were capable of as well. The young ladies were only in the Sixth stage of the Overlord Plane, so to them, it wasn't much of an achievement.

Of the two young men, one was a Water Elementalist, while the other was a Dual Elementalist, having both the light and earth elements. He was the most troublesome among the duo.

They moved after they finished their plans. They had no time to waste since they wanted to defeat Grey as soon as possible to show everyone that he was not invincible.

Grey didn't panic when he saw the duo coming his way, he prepared himself and with a blink, he changed positions with the Dual Elementalist, appearing on the side of the Water Elementalist.

He sent out a fireball that exploded out, sending the figure of the Water Elementalist flying.

The Dual Elementalist was stunned, but he quickly came back to his senses and used the superior speed of the light element to rush over to help the Water Elementalist.

Grey was about to continue his assault, but the Dual Elementalist appeared in front of him and earth spikes sprouted from the ground and forced Grey back.

The Water Elementalist's figure crashed into the ground. He managed to create an ice dome to protect himself on time before he crashed to the ground. Not just that, but before Grey's attack connected with him, he made ice on his body to improve his defenses.

The duo stood beside each other with serious expressions.

"This is a troublesome skill. We need to find a way to maneuver through it." The Water Elementalist said, rubbing his chest.

Even though he used ice, he still felt the impact of Grey's attack.

Grey attacked once again. With a blink, he appeared in another location and threw multiple fireballs at them. Before the fireballs got to them, lightning rain started.

The duo blocked the attacks, before attacking Grey with a coordinated attack. The Dual Elementalist was the person Grey was most wary of. This didn't reduce the threat of the Water Elementalist, but with the speed of the light element, it would be hard to hold him down.

They exchanged moves, with none being able to get the advantage.

Seeing Grey hold his own against the duo, the audience were once again stunned by Grey's abilities.

How could someone be this powerful?

This was the question on their heads. They knew Grey was powerful, but fighting against two people who were also regarded as powerful was something else.

While watching the battle, they noticed Grey wasn't having a difficult time as they all expected when the draw came out. In fact, he was fighting easier than previously. The only thing was that he hadn't been able to defeat any of his opponents because of the intervention of the other Elementalist on the platform.

"He's doing better than expected." Kyle said.

"His opponents are wary of his switch skill, so they naturally wouldn't attack carelessly. This in turn is giving Grey the opportunity he needed to attack at will." Klaus spoke his thoughts.

This was one of the reasons Grey was very dangerous in these situations. Because of the space element, he was unpredictable, so his opponents would attack with caution, while he on the other hand would attack freely.

"That skill is something else. I wouldn't want to fight against someone with such a skill." Reynolds sighed, thankful that he was friends with Grey, and not an enemy.

He couldn't even imagine what life would be like if he was Grey's enemy. He might die without even knowing how it happened.

Back on the platform.

Grey and his opponents were still caught in a tough battle. They hadn't been able to hit Grey, but they were gradually growing into the battle.

The Dual Elementalist acted as support while the Water Elementalist was the main attacker.

Grey had no problems with defending against the Water Elementalist, but the Dual Elementalist was starting to give him some trouble.

Thinking to this point, he decided it was time to bring out his inscriptions.

The Water Elementalist just released an attack when he felt danger, without hesitation, he moved to the left.

Boom!

A powerful thunderbolt struck the place he was previously standing. It missed him by only a few inches. If he didn't move the time he felt the sensation, then he would've been hit by it.

The Water Elementalist looked at the sky and his pupils constricted when he saw another attack coming his way, this one was made of the fire element. Multiple fire arrows were falling from a large array in the sky. He didn't need anyone to tell him what this was, it was an inscription.

He created a large ice seal above him which expanded and shot towards the fire arrows.

With the appearance of the inscription, the crowd were once again blown away by Grey. As if he wasn't overpowered enough, he just had to be an inscriber as well.

Now they understood why he didn't seem to be bothered about his predicament. With all these in his arsenal, why should he be?

The Water Elementalist was preoccupied with the inscription, so Grey used the opportunity to focus fully on the Dual Elementalist.

The shift in the way of the battle wasn't something the Dual Elementalist could handle. Grey taking complete control meant that they would lose in a very short time.

He hastily retreated and went in the direction of the Water Elementalist, even though the inscriptions attacks were there, he would be able to help the Water Elementalist deal with it, and in turn, be able to join him and fight against Grey.

Chapter 762 - It's Too Easy

Grey naturally wouldn't allow this to happen. With a blink, he blocked the path of the Dual Elementalist as he was heading in the direction of the Water Elementalist. Well, so he thought.

Unfortunately, before he appeared to block the path, the Dual Elementalist had already gone through.

'I hate this speed.' Grey complained when he realized he was a bit too late.

Although the space element made traveling fast, in such a short place, the speed of the Dual Elementalist who had the light element was actually superior to Grey's. The reason for this was that the Dual Elementalist has a high elemental grade for his light element. So when Grey was creating and entering a portal, the young man could easily move through the length of the entire platform.

Of course this was only in the case of a short range movement like this. And if Void were to be the one in Grey's place, then he would be able to block the Dual Elementalist's path.

Grey didn't take this to heart. Since they wanted to team up, then he would beat them up together.

Three smaller inscriptions appeared in the sky, with two unleashing lightning attacks, the large one, and the remaining smaller one unleashed fire attacks.

The Dual Elementalist and the Water Elementalist felt like they were the ones fighting a one against two battle.

With the inscriptions and Grey's continuous attacks, they were unable to even get the chance to catch their breaths.

The audience couldn't believe what they were witnessing. Even though they were seeing it, it was still hard to believe. Grey, who was two stages below both of his opponents, was actually suppressing them in a two on one battle. If not for the Dual Elementalist, this battle would've ended before it even started.

Boom!

An explosion rang out, and the figure of the Water Elementalist was pushed back.

Before the Water Elementalist could regain his footing, Grey appeared close to him and attacked again.

His attack hit a wall that appeared in front of the Water Elementalist. It was the work of the Dual Elementalist.

Grey didn't feel frustrated by this and continued his attack. The Dual Elementalist was blocked by Grey's inscriptions, so for him to come over to where the Water Elementalist was located was extremely difficult.

The Water Elementalist used the time that Grey's attack was blocked by the earth wall to regain himself. However, he noticed there was presently a large array on the ground and his scalp went numb.

'What the hell?!' He almost fainted from fear.

He had no idea what this area was for, but he had a bad feeling about it.

Grey smiled when he saw that he had completed his array. Now, he didn't need to worry about the Dual Elementalist any longer. This was an array that would boost his teleportation speed by almost double. That would be enough to counter the speed of the light element in such a short distance.

Grey's figure faded from its original position, and when everyone looked around, they were stunned when they saw over ten Grey.

"What's going on?" Those in lower stages asked in fear.

"He's moving faster than he previously was. At this speed, before we can even register that he's in a location, he has already moved to another." A man in the Sage Plane in the crowd explained with a sigh.

He could already see Grey winning this battle after this. There might've been some hope for the duo when the Dual Elementalist still had the advantage in speed, but now, everything is over.

Grey was stronger, and now he has become faster.

The Dual Elementalist saw Grey's movement speed and his jaw dropped.

"How?" He muttered to himself.

Before he could even get himself together, the figure of the Water Elementalist was sent airborne, and a lightning bolt, accompanied by an earth hammer struck him solidly, sending him out of the platform.

The Water Elementalist crashed outside the platform and passed out.

Now, the only two left on the platform were Grey and the Dual Elementalist.

The Dual Elementalist gritted his teeth and attacked. He would never give up.

"Let's see who's faster." He said.

"I am."

Before he finished his statement, Grey was already behind him.

He tried to run, but Grey blocked his path easily and forced him to defend. Grey's array had given him the chance to nullify the speed of the Dual Elementalist. With this gone, the Dual Elementalist was no longer a threat to him.

After defeating the Water Elementalist, the Dual Elementalist was sent out of the platform as well in the space of one minute. Even after a second or two after the Dual Elementalist's defeat, the afterimages of both Grey and the Dual Elementalist were still on the platform.

Grey has made it to the top ten. Although there would be twelve participants after this, the three who took more time to win their battles would take part in another three-way battle and the winner would take the final spot in the top ten.

After being declared the winner, Grey walked back to his seat, with an indifferent look on his face. This was one of the most traumatizing experiences in the life of the Dual Elementalist. The speed he had

been so proud of was useless against Grey. It had some uses at first, but after the array appeared on the ground, it became useless.

"You see, it's too easy for him." Klaus said to Kyle.

Kyle was once again impressed by Grey's prowess. At this point, he doesn't feel there would be anything that would stop Grey from taking the first spot. Well, unless Klaus loses and he has to fight four against one during the battle of the final five. As much as Kyle wanted to see how Grey would cope in a situation like this, he also didn't want to see Klaus lose just because of that, so he discarded the possibility of something like that happening.

Chapter 763 - Klaus' Famous Strategy

"It's my turn, wish me luck." Klaus stood up and walked over to the platform.

The others didn't even get the time to wish him luck before he left the seating area. They could tell he was very serious with this battle. If he loses, then he would be annoyed with himself. He wanted this ranking to end the same way the Mid stages rankings did, with two friends taking first and second place.

Alice and Reynolds had already done it, so why couldn't they do it. It was already almost certain that Grey would take the first place, while Klaus had to fight very hard if he wanted to get the second spot since there would be people who wanted to snatch that position from him.

Klaus stood on the platform and looked ahead of him as the young lady who was his opponent slowly walked into the platform. Compared to his usual carefree expression, everyone could sense the seriousness in his eyes. He had to win this.

"You're not my opponent." The young lady said when she stood in front of Klaus.

"Haven't you heard that you shouldn't talk too much before a fight? Talk only after you win, then, your words would be valid." Klaus replied casually.

"I agree. I will say these words to you again, after I win." The young lady nodded in agreement with Klaus' words.

"You're still talking too much." Klaus shook his head, before adding, "Well, since you've already started it, I guess I should join in as well. I will repeat your words to you, after you're on the ground, defeated by me."

The young lady wanted to continue speaking, but Klaus interrupted her because the man in charge of the platform was already waiting to start the battle.

The young lady was a little annoyed by this.

After confirming if both participants were ready, the man called for the start of the battle.

"I already won the first round, and I will also win this round." Klaus said when the young lady was about to attack.

The young lady froze, taken aback by Klaus' words, "Which first round?"

"Oh, the talking phase. I won that easily, I'm going to do the same in the fighting phase as well." Klaus said as he retreated a few steps away from the advancing young lady.

"Is that..." The young lady wanted to speak but was interrupted by Klaus once again.

"Fight, don't tell me you fight with your mouth." Klaus said snarkily.

The young lady was annoyed by Klaus' words because Klaus was the one who was fighting with words, not her, yet he was accusing her of doing it.

"You're the one..." She wanted to speak, but Klaus interrupted her once again.

"I win again. Just give up, you're not my opponent." Klaus snickered.

The young lady was fuming! Everyone could see her eyes turning red from anger.

Boom!

She exploded out with a powerful attack. She was a Darkness Elementalist.

"Ah!" Klaus screamed and ran away from the attack range.

He made a water armor that covered his body. He didn't turn it to ice since he wanted it to be flexible.

The young lady had lost all reasoning and only wanted to get her hands on Klaus. Klaus on the other hand was keeping a good distance from her.

Darkness Elementalists weren't the fastest, but their attacks packed a powerful punch. If Klaus was hit by any of the attacks flying his way, then things would become very hard for him.

While Klaus was running away from the young lady's attacks, he felt his hair standing on edge.

"Eh?" He exclaimed softly in confusion, when he turned around, his eyes nearly bulged out of his head.

A large array was on his back, and it was already about to release a powerful attack.

"Oh crap!" Klaus was covered by a large black light.

The audience were stunned by this. They all thought the young lady was attacking in a fit of rage, never did they think that she was actually plotting something. Klaus might've successfully angered her, but she didn't let her emotions cloud her judgment.

Grey and his group looked at the black light, a little startled by the turn of events.

A blue light shone in the black light and a large dark blue ice spread out of the black light.

Klaus' figure was seen inside the ice. The ice managed to block the array, stopping it from attacking as it spread across the platform.

The young lady attacked the ice coming her way. While dodging to the side.

She had already seen how powerful this ice of Klaus was, so she didn't dare to let it touch her.

Klaus popped his head out of the safety of the ice and looked around, "Damn! Did you plan to kill me or something?!"

The young lady refused to reply and charged at him, destroying the ice on her path.

"I know you have a crush on me, but I don't accept ladies like you. You're almost like Reynolds, and he's a boy." Klaus said before hiding inside the safety of his ice once again.

The young lady hearing Klaus comparing her to a boy felt even irritated. This was even more annoying than when Klaus said she had a crush on him.

Klaus on the other hand didn't let the young lady have her way. But the corrosiveness of the darkness element was not something to be taken lightly.

Even with the upgrade from the heavy water, the darkness elemental attacks are still managing to find a way to break through the defense. If not for the fact that the young lady couldn't focus fully on attacking since Klaus was also attacking her, she would've been able to break through the ice by now.

Grey and his friends chuckled as they saw Klaus irritating the young lady. This had been one of Klaus' strategies for a long time, whenever his opponent was stronger than he was, he would find a way to irritate them until they attacked carelessly.

The young lady almost fell for it the first time, but she was smart and used it against Klaus.

However, with the level of Klaus' foul mouth, it was only a matter of time before she lost all reasoning.

Chapter 764 Repeating Her Words

Boom! Bang!

The young lady managed to open a hole in the ice Klaus was hiding in and sent him crashing out of it.

Klaus slammed into the ground of the platform, but the water armor he made at the start of the battle became useful. With its flexibility, it was able to take over eighty percent of the impact.

Klaus also used it to get back on his feet in a matter of milliseconds. He didn't want the young lady to get the advantage of being able to attack him while he was on the ground.

He could tell that he had already infuriated her to the level she wanted him dead, but he didn't care. According to an old saying, "All's fair in love and war".

The young lady was already angered from the start of the battle, the longer the fight lasted, the more infuriated she became.

"Your mouth should be cut off!" The young lady screamed in agony and attacked with brutality that showed she wanted Klaus dead.

"I already told you to stop speaking too much, see now, you're bleeding and I haven't even tried to attack you yet." Klaus pointed at the lips of the young lady which already had blood on it.

The young lady bit her lips in annoyance and accidentally injured them. Klaus picked this and used it against her.

The young lady was on the verge of going mad.

The man in charge of the platform was lost. He didn't know what to do. If the battle continued in this manner, the young lady might lose her sanity.

This was the first time he was witnessing a battle like this. He couldn't say it was against the rules since all Klaus did was talk. But to him, Klaus' mouth was even more dangerous than his elemental attacks.

"You see, he's evil." Reynolds laughed as he said to Kyle.

Kyle felt a little fear as he watched Klaus send the young lady into a frenzy with a few words. Even with his calm attitude, he was a hundred percent certain that he would try to kill Klaus if he was on the platform fighting against him right now.

The Elders from the Factions looked at each other, amused. They couldn't say they found Klaus' tactic underhanded. In a real battle, a plan like this could help a person escape certain death. Of course you would get an enemy of a lifetime, but it didn't matter. In this case, Klaus knew he was at a disadvantage from the start, so he prepared his defensive measures and started to rile the young lady up.

The young lady would certainly slip up at this rate, and Klaus would take full advantage of it to defeat his opponent. The young lady didn't know how to control her emotions, and Klaus was taking full advantage of that.

If Klaus tried this against someone like Grey who rarely showed his emotions, it would most likely fail, but against people who find it difficult to control their emotions, they would fall for this most of the time.

The Elder or the Faction the young lady joined took note of this and was prepared to recommend a special training for her that would help her keep her emotions in check.

Klaus was slowly getting the chance he was waiting for. The young lady had been able to block most of his fatal attacks, but a few had made contact. Presently, there was ice on some parts of the young lady's body.

The ice was unable to cover her entire body because she used the darkness element to corrode them. If not for the fact that it was made from the heavy water, it would've already been completely destroyed by now.

Klaus continued his words as he didn't want the young lady to gain the advantage again.

As time went on, the young lady started to make more and more mistakes. Klaus didn't let the chances go as he attacked with every opportunity he got.

Three minutes later, the young lady was lying on the ground, exhausted and almost completely frozen by deep blue ice.

Klaus walked up to her and said, "I told you this would happen."

He turned around and walked away from the platform, however, just as he was about to leave the platform he paused and turned to look at the young lady.

"You're not my opponent." He repeated the same words the young lady said to him at the start of the battle. The difference was that the battle had ended, and he was the victorious one.

? ?? ??-?? ??? . ??? The man in charge of the platform stepped forward to remove the ice, and just like Klaus' previous opponents, the young lady was almost freezing inside and was suffering from a severe cold.

"Such a dirty move." Reynolds said as Klaus returned.

"All's fair in love and war. I saw a chance and took it." Klaus didn't feel annoyed by Reynolds' statement.

"How did you know she would react that way?" Kyle asked.

"Oh, from the way she spoke the first time she stepped on the platform, I knew she was proud. So I took a gamble, guess I was lucky." Klaus replied.

"Hmm, the only issue is that although your strategy gave you the victory, it also took too long." Grey joined in on the conversation.

"Yeah, but you already saw how things were, I can't beat her without advancing to the next stage." Klaus sighed, "I'll think of what to do if I am one of the people in the three-way battle for the last spot in the top ten."

Grey nodded and they watched the other battles that took place. Klaus was the fifth person that battled, and he currently had the longest battle, lasting over ten minutes. In these ten minutes, he mostly defended while the young lady attacked.

In the blink of an eye, the remaining seven battles were completed and the last three people were identified. Klaus was unfortunately part of the trio involved in the three-way battle.

"Such a bad day." Klaus sighed in dejection.

Chapter 765 Klaus' Breakthrough

"Don't worry bud, at least Grey will take first place, and you'll be close to the top ten." Reynolds gloated at Klaus' misfortune.

"I'm still going to qualify." Klaus retorted.

"All beat up, right?" Reynolds asked with a smile.

"Not at all. I'll be in my best condition!" Klaus stated.

"Okay, I'd like to see how that would be possible." Reynolds didn't believe Klaus would make it to the top ten unscathed.

He knew Klaus would win, but there was no way his opponents were not going to make things difficult for him.

Grey shook his head when he saw Reynolds taking advantage of Klaus' misfortune. He was also in line with Reynolds' words, there was no way Klaus would make it to the top ten in peak conditions. Unless he received treatment after the three-way battle.

With his light element, he should be able to help him out. But there's an extent he could use it to since the elemental grade is still low.

'I should take out time to check my elemental grades.' Grey thought to himself as he looked at the arena which was starting to look empty.

It was already sunset, and the three-way battle would be taking place first thing in the morning. So there was no use in staying at the arena any longer.

The group stayed at the arena a little longer since Klaus decided to speak with a few of his Faction members.

When Grey got back to his room, the first thing he did was enter the Chaos space.

He hadn't tried improving his comprehension of any elements for some time now. Although during their journey he had been doing it a few times, he mostly just focused on his space element.

When he appeared in the Chaos Space, he appeared at the mountain peak where the testing device was located. Without any delay, he placed his right hand on the device and it came to life.

A strange energy entered his body and after going through a circle, it returned to the stone.

A few seconds later, the stone lit up with eight colors. The most eye-catching one was still the fire element which had changed from the cyan to the yellow grade. After that, his next element with the highest elemental grade was his lightning which was violet, but surprisingly, he realized he had another element with the violet elemental grade, the water element. It was previously in the blue grade, but it had managed to improve to the violet grade. His wind element was in the blue grade as well as his space element which had also seen an increase, his earth and darkness element were in the purple grade, while the light element was in the orange grade.

When Grey saw the result, he fell deep in thought.

'Since I managed to awaken my domain, I guess my fire elemental grade saw an increase. Comprehending that water helped in improving my grade it seems, while it's natural for the space elemental grade to improve since I use it so much. But why hasn't my earth element improved at all?' He was stumped by this fact.

It had been months now, even years since his earth element got to the purple grade, but it was still there, not improving in the slightest bit. Even his space element had come from behind to top it. It was a shocking thing to him.

'I'll have to focus on it next. No wonder I still haven't been able to learn that thing yet.' He concluded.

He had been trying to learn that move the Earth Elementalist from the Azure Empire used when battling against Klaus' father, but no matter how hard he tried, he still hadn't been able to.

Now he understood the reason, his elemental grade was still too low.

After he finished checking his elemental grade, he decided to head to the earth space in the Chaos Space. Since he wanted to improve the elemental grade, then the best thing to do was to start now.

The next day soon came.

When they stepped out, Klaus was the first among them to come out of his room. Compared to before, he had a different aura to him.

"You've gotten stronger." Grey commented when he saw him.

"Of course, thanks to the water, my breakthrough was smooth." Klaus flashed a grin at the group.

"This is still not going to change the fact that you're going to be trounced at the battle today. In fact, I can already picture you on the ground, almost out cold." Reynolds continued from where he stopped the previous day.

? ?? ??-?? ??? . ??? "Hmph! At least I'm not going to be like you who was placed in a difficult position against a single opponent. I'm fighting against two people, it's natural if they beat me up." Klaus retorted with a proud smile.

Reynolds froze when he heard Klaus' reply. Klaus would be fighting against two people, so it was natural that he was beaten up, if he won against them even if he was beat up, it would still be an amazing achievement.

Klaus smirked when he saw that he had silenced Reynolds. The group joked as they went to the arena in high spirits. Klaus had broken through to the Eighth stage of the Overlord Plane, and thanks to refining his orb before breaking through, he grew even stronger after his breakthrough.

Now, he had more confidence in being able to challenge his opponents. They would not want him to advance, especially after Grey had managed to win the first three-way battle. If Klaus won this as well, then things would be a little strange.

The geniuses had come together to ensure that Grey and Klaus did not take the first and second place. It was a matter of their pride as geniuses. However, they all knew this was their only chance to stop that. If Klaus manages to win this round, then the duo would most certainly get into the top five, and from Grey's last battle, they knew he had no problems with dealing with two or more opponents.

Chapter 766 Klaus' Mind Games

When the group got to the arena, they sat in their seats with serious expressions. Those around them also noticed the difference in Klaus' aura and realized he broke through the previous night.

Some felt he forced the breakthrough when he saw the people he would be fighting against. Others who had taken note of him for a while now knew he was holding himself back from breaking through all this while, so he only did it when he knew he needed the strength.

This was a good thing for him since his opponent would come with the mindset of him still being in the same stage as before, only to be shocked once they saw him.

The top Factions arrived earlier than usual. Today was the last day of the competition, so they wanted to ensure all the battles took place soon since they wanted to head back to their Factions with their new members.

The man in charge called for Klaus and the two others who would be taking part in the three-way battle.

Klaus took in a deep breath before walking in the direction of the platform. He didn't say a word even when his friends were wishing him luck, his eyes were focused solely on the platform. This was a battle he wanted to win.

His movement was slow but steady. In no time, he arrived on the platform. He stood straight while facing where his opponents were coming from.

The man in charge saw the difference in Klaus and nodded his head in approval. He was the same person who was in charge of Klaus' battle when he said he should be given a minute. He noticed Klaus wanted to break through then but refrained from doing so. Now he knew Klaus was keeping it from the right time.

Klaus' opponents soon appeared on the platform, both staring at him with terrifying gazes.

Both of them were in the Ninth stage of the Overlord Plane, and one of them was a Dual Elementalist who had the wind and the fire element.

The other person was an Earth Elementalist. From their elements, Klaus had already predicted how their battle plan would be, the Dual Elementalist would be the main figure attacking, while the Earth Elementalist would act as support.

The man confirmed from the trio if they were ready before calling for the start of the battle.

Just as the battle started, Klaus tried to see if he could play some mind tricks.

"Are you two really going to team up against me?" He asked with a blank face.

The duo didn't reply to him as they moved closer to him.

"I know you're geniuses, but you two have got to be the most gutless geniuses I've ever seen. How can two Ninth stage Overlord Plane Elementalist team up against a newly ascended Eighth stage Overlord Plane Elementalist and still call themselves geniuses?" Klaus asked with a smile, he could see the change in the expression of the duo when he said this word.

"Pathetic, even a pig will have more decency than you two. Even if I were to lose against the two of you, I'd still not take you people as geniuses, because deep down, you're nothing more than a gutless swine who would need to team up just to fight against those who are a stage or two below you." Klaus continued talking to them.

His words seemed to be hitting the duo since there was a visible change in their countenance. Even their movements stopped, it was clear that they were thinking about what Klaus was saying.

"Do you think everyone here would take you two as a genius if you team up to defeat me? The answer is a resounding No!" Klaus stood in the same position as he spoke, "You would be looked down on in the Factions you joined. Even those at a lower Plane will feel you two are nothing but trash."

"Do you want people to call you trash?" Klaus asked the duo.

"No." They answered in unison.

They were geniuses, so it was normal that they were prideful. Before the battle, they also felt it was beneath them to team up against someone they felt was weaker. But they didn't want to let Klaus win, so they felt it was what was necessary.

However, Klaus' words had shaken their resolve. Even if they still managed to try to team up, they wouldn't be at their peak since their minds were shaken.

The Elders from the top Factions stared at Klaus in awe. They couldn't help but commend his brains. He knew his chances of winning against the duo were slim, so he tried to shake their will or even break them up. This was a terrific strategy that would definitely help him out in the battle.

His opponents wouldn't want to be looked down upon and called trash by those in the Factions they wished to enter. Of the duo, only one of them was successful in his attempt to challenge someone from the Faction he wanted, the other one was unsuccessful.

He had managed to get to this point, now Klaus was telling him even if he won, he wouldn't be able to amount to much since everyone would take him for a gutless genius.

Grey smiled when he saw the change on the platform.

"He's a genius, you have to give him credit for that." He said with a light laugh.

? ?? ??-??? ??, ??? "No, he's evil." Reynolds said.

He could already see that those morons would want to fight against Klaus alone and he didn't want that. He wanted Klaus to be beaten up a little, how would he be able to laugh at him now?

Kyle looked at Klaus and he felt a chill down his spine. Klaus was a calculative and horrifying opponent. He was using the pride of these geniuses against them. What was worse was that given the number of people here, they wouldn't want to be looked down on.

Most of the people in the crowd were already discussing the issue and the duo could hear them properly.

'Hehe, now, what will you do?' Klaus sneered internally.

Chapter 767 - Something You Two Don't Have

The young men stared at each other and nodded.

"I'm confident in my abilities, I'll defeat you myself." The Dual Elementalist among the duo said.

"Of all the people here today, you two are one of the few I respect. You're not like those swines who would forget their pride as a genius and attack together. Honestly, I would make the same decision as you." Klaus said with respect.

When Grey and his friends heard him, they almost ran over to the platform to give him a good beating.

"Hehehe, he's always the same." Reynolds laughed when he heard this.

Grey's eyes twitched, but he decided not to think about it. Alice also refrained from saying anything as she looked away when those sitting around them looked in their direction.

Even Kyle who hadn't been with the group for a long time knew Klaus was lying. Unfortunately for the two young men on the platform, they thought he was speaking with the dignity of a genius.

"Since it's like this, I will defeat you personally. Please, stay out of the way, we'll face off after I eliminate him." The Dual Elementalist said.

The Earth Elementalist nodded and moved to the side, close to the edge of the platform.

Klaus bowed in the direction of the Earth Elementalist as if he was thanking him for his willingness to let him battle against the Dual Elementalist alone.

While Klaus' face was out of sight, an evil grin was pasted all over his face. A tiny ice needle was dropped on the floor and it was snaking its way toward the Earth Elementalist. It was moving in a concealed and silent pattern that even some of the Elders with superior cultivation Planes didn't sense it.

The Earth Elementalist felt even better when he saw Klaus thanking him and nodded.

"I couldn't believe I almost teamed up against someone weaker than..."

The Earth Elementalist was still in the midst of speaking when he sensed an anomaly.

"Huh?" He looked around, and to his greatest shock, he was currently standing on ice.

Before he could even react, the ice had sent him out of the platform.

One person had been eliminated without Klaus even getting to go through the stress of fighting against him.

"Haha, one out, one to go!" Klaus laughed before rushing after the Dual Elementalist who still wore a flabbergasted expression.

He still didn't know how the Earth Elementalist was eliminated. A few seconds ago, the Earth Elementalist was standing on the platform, but now, he was no longer on the platform. He saw the ice which sent the Earth Elementalist off the platform, so he knew it was Klaus' doing, but he still didn't see Klaus attacking in any way.

When he heard Klaus' evil laughter, he felt a wave of burning anger in his chest.

"You tricked..."

"Shut up and fight!" Klaus didn't let him finish his statement before he launched an attack on him.

The Dual Elementalist used the wind element to bolster his speed and tried to dodge the attack. There was no way Klaus was going to give him that chance.

Klaus' attacks were vicious and relentless. The Dual Elementalist was instantly placed on the defensive.

The crowd were just as stumped as the Earth Elementalist who had been eliminated and the Dual Elementalist who was currently fighting against Klaus.

They didn't see Klaus attack, but since he was the only Water Elementalist on the platform, they knew it was all his handiwork.

"Is it just me, or has he become even eviler?" Alice couldn't help but ask.

None of them saw this coming. Even Grey didn't notice when Klaus released the attack, it was only after the attack activated did he sense it, like almost everyone here.

The few Elders who sensed the attack earlier looked at each other and couldn't help but shudder at the thought of how ingenious Klaus was. They could already see that his name will command fear in the hearts of his enemies in the future. Klaus was a cunning individual, too cunning for his age even. Most of them wouldn't have thought of solving Klaus' current problem in this manner.

As things stand, Klaus made sure that once he started showcasing his strength, no one else could interfere in the battle. If the Earth Elementalist stayed on the platform, there would've been a possibility of him joining the battle once he notices Klaus had the upper hand against the Dual Elementalist, but now, there was nothing he could do.

Ultimately, this battle was mainly decided by experience. It was evident that Klaus had the experience of an old cunning fox, while the young men were geniuses who only recently started traveling.

The Earth Elementalist tried to get back into the platform, but he was stopped by the man in charge of the battle.

"Sir, the battle hasn't started." The Earth Elementalist said.

"I already called for the start of the battle before you started speaking with him." The man said with a blank look.

"But... but... he cheated!" The Earth Elementalist pointed at Klaus.

"No, I used my brain, something you two seem to be lacking. Hahaha!" Klaus replied.

Even in the heat of battle, he still had time to mock his opponents. The reason for this was simple, since he had already defeated the Earth Elementalist, he needed a quick way to break down the Dual Elementalist, and what was better than a mental breakdown?

The Earth Elementalist gritted his teeth in annoyance. However, he knew there was nothing he could do.

The Elders from the Moonlight Faction looked at each other, a little scared. Klaus was a genius, no doubt, but he had the habit of making enemies.

"This might be beneficial for him, more enemies means he would have to grow stronger quicker or else he would be killed." One of the Elders said.

"Yes, and given the skills he has displayed, I think he is used to such a life. What I'm just confused about is why we haven't heard of someone like him. Not just him, but his friends as well. With their talents, they could easily get into the best Factions in the Middle Continent easily from a young age." Another Elder said.

Chapter 768 - The Top Five

The Elders continued speaking about them and they decided to do some research on their identities when they got back to their Factions. These were geniuses they would want to groom to be pillars of their Factions, so they naturally had to make sure they were people who would take them seriously as well.

During the time they were speaking, Klaus had forced the Dual Elementalist into a difficult situation. Even with his superior speed, he still couldn't break through Klaus' defense, while Klaus had no issues with doing the same to him.

The Dual Elementalist was also slowly getting frustrated as the battle went on. He vowed to never fight against Klaus again, or if he wanted to, then he would have to ensure for the time period, he would block his ears at all cost.

As if Klaus could hear what he was thinking, he flashed a brilliant smile at him which infuriated him even more.

Grey and the others were certain the Dual Elementalist would have nightmares whenever he thought about this day.

The battle was slowly coming to a conclusion, and after the young man exploded with a terrifying attack that he used to push Klaus back, he was unable to take advantage thanks to Klaus' impeccable defense.

Klaus took the initiative back and switched entirely to the heavy water. When the heavy water came into play, the Dual Elementalist could barely defend against it. Klaus' strength had increased since his breakthrough, so he was not the same as before.

The Dual Elementalist was finally eliminated after almost ten minutes of fighting. Klaus stood on the platform, he was officially the last person to make up the top ten spots.

The audience all sucked in a cold breath when they realized Klaus was able to make it into the top ten. When he eliminated the Earth Elementalist, they felt he would be able to get into the top ten, but seeing it actually happen still shocked them.

Against all odds, Klaus qualified thanks to his wits.

The man in charge of the platform declared Klaus the winner of the three-way battle.

The other nine participants were called up to the platform. And of the people who successfully got into a Faction during the time of challenging members of the Factions, only Klaus and a young man were left. The others in the top ten were people who were unsuccessful. Two of them didn't even try challenging anyone, and they were Grey and a young lady.

The man asked them if they would choose their Factions now or later. The ones who were unsuccessful with their challenges picked their Factions, even the young lady did the same as well.

Everyone turned to look at Grey and he still had the same indifferent expression. They all knew he probably didn't want to pick a Faction yet.

They were told to draw lots, and since Klaus just finished fighting, they were given one hour to rest.

Klaus' opponent was the young lady who recently just picked a Faction after getting into the top ten. Grey's opponent was a young man who was unsuccessful in his first attempt to get into a Faction.

Grey and Klaus went back to their seats, and the group congratulated Klaus for his stunning victory.

"Rey, you see, winning with style." Klaus started to brag.

"You cheated." Reynolds retorted.

"Look, my friend, I've said this, and I'll say it again, all is fair in love and war. Did you think I would win this easily if I didn't use my brains?" Klaus didn't think too much about Reynolds' words.

"Definitely not." Reynolds replied.

"You see, but I won anyway. And I didn't even get to fight two people, one of them willingly left the platform." Klaus chuckled.

"I didn't even sense the attack, how did you do it?" Grey was curious about this, so he asked.

"You see, it's like this..." Klaus explained it to them.

Initially, his plan was to defeat the Dual Elementalist before fighting against the Earth Elementalist as agreed. But when he saw the Earth Elementalist stupidly standing on the edge of the platform, the thought of eliminating him crossed his mind. It was a difficult move because if they sensed it, then the duo would know he was only tricking them, so he was extra careful. Luckily, he was successful in his attempt.

In a battle against the Dual Elementalist, he was at least over sixty percent confident in defeating him with his new strength.

"All in all, I guess I was lucky to get opponents Rey is even smarter than." Klaus used the opportunity to bicker with Reynolds.

Reynolds naturally wouldn't let him have the advantage.

Kyle looked at Reynolds and shook his head. Since he had been traveling with the group, no one has been able to defeat Klaus in a war of words. The only time Grey and Reynolds had been able to do so was when they had something to use against him, but with nothing, they were simply asking for it.

Just as expected, Klaus won the war of words once again. It was not even a challenge. Klaus was naturally gifted when it came to sarcasm, so it was easy for him to always have a greater comeback whenever Reynolds said something to him.

Time went on and the one hour soon elapsed. Grey was the first to fight once again, and he didn't even give his opponent any chances.

He had shown his four elements as well as his inscriptions, so he used everything to quickly deal with the young man. He was victorious in less than five minutes.

Klaus' battle was a little longer, but in the end, he won just as everyone expected. Now, both Grey and Klaus have made it into the top five, just like their friends did during the last round.

The other three who made it to the top five were two young ladies and a young man. Klaus almost wanted to advise them to give up even before the battle, but Grey closed his mouth when he saw that he was about to speak to them.

He didn't even need to know what he wanted to say, but he was one hundred percent certain that it was nothing good.

Chapter 769 - A Fallout ?

They were all given a two hours break before the start of the final battle.

"You two better not disgrace me." Reynolds said.

"You're saying that to us? Even without Grey I can take them on my own, much less now that I know I have him by my side. Unlike you who was beaten up, I don't think I'll ever get into a situation like that." Klaus snickered.

Reynolds wanted to speak but he gave up in frustration. Klaus had been using this to hold him down whenever they argued since the start of this round. Since Klaus hadn't really taken a good beating, he had the upper hand.

"Hey, bud, why don't you let them beat him up for a while. Just for a small while, that's all I'm asking for." Reynolds whispered to Grey.

Klaus and the others heard him clearly and Alice couldn't help but laugh.

"I heard you. But did I tell anyone to beat you up? No! You went there to get beat up on your own. Hehe, genius." Klaus continued mocking.

"Don't worry, I'll beat him up myself." Grey said with a soft smile.

"Hehe, you think you're my opponent? I can beat you with my eyes closed. Even in your dreams, I can still beat you up." Klaus bragged.

"Don't forget, I'm now in the Eighth stage and you're still in the Seventh stage, show me some respect." He added.

"I really want to beat you up even more now." Grey said slowly.

"You, my friend, don't stand a chance against me." Klaus poked Grey on the shoulder.

Before the group knew it, the two hours they were given elapsed in the blink of an eye. Klaus and Reynolds spent the entire time bickering, while Grey was unfortunately dragged into it by Klaus who said even if he was crippled, he would still beat Grey up.

While the duo walked toward the platform, Klaus leaned closer to Grey and whispered.

"Hey bud, you know I'm joking right. Don't forget the days you just joined the Academy, I was the one who protected you from those bad guys who wanted to bully you." Klaus said.

"Which bad guys?" Grey couldn't help but ask.

"Of course you wouldn't know of them, that's because I took them out before they could even get close to you. I was protecting you from the shadows so that you can grow strong and protect me in the future." Klaus continued cooking up things he knew never happened.

He naturally knew Grey wouldn't buy it in the first place.

"Alright, look here, young man, no matter what you do, keep my face out when you want to fight against me. Okay?" Klaus finally accepted his fate of being beaten up by Grey.

"Noted, any other special requests?" Grey asked.

"Can you forfeit the fight once we've eliminated them?" Klaus asked with a smile.

Grey looked at him with an odd expression.

"What? I said I should try, who knows, maybe you will let me win since I'm such a great guy." Klaus defended himself when he saw Grey's expression.

They soon stepped onto the platform and their opponents were already there. It was just like the case of Alice and Reynolds, it was two against three. The three teamed up, even though they were aware that they stood no chance against Grey and Klaus.

Both Grey and Klaus had fought in a three-way battle and won comfortably. Klaus' battle might be a fluke since he used trickery, but he won nonetheless. Grey's battle was more convincing.

However, even if two of them held Grey back, the last person wouldn't necessarily be able to defeat Klaus. Klaus had shown his strength since the start of the competition, and it was evident that he was no pushover. Other than Grey, there were very few people here who could trouble him. And those people weren't part of the competition.

The trio stared at the duo, their gazes were fixated on Grey in particular.

Klaus, seeing this couldn't help but cough out softly to draw their attention. It worked as expected, and he got them looking at him for a while.

Whenever they looked at Grey, he would make another sound to draw their attention once again.

Grey almost facepalmed as he saw this. Klaus was just a typical crazy person. In fact, a crazy person might not be as bad as he was.

The man in charge of the battle stepped forward and after confirming if all five participants were ready, he called for the start of the battle.

Grey and Klaus didn't make any moves after the man called for the start of the battle, rather, they watched their opponents.

"I advise you to make your move first, it wouldn't be good if I grab all the spotlight, again." Klaus said to Grey.

"What are you even saying?" Grey rolled his eyes.

"I'm saying you should show some of your moves so that people will at least know you're powerful. I don't want you to say I hoarded the spotlight." Klaus spoke confidently.

The trio looked at the duo in confusion, they initially thought Klaus was speaking to them, only to realize he was arguing with Grey.

"What's going on?" One of the young ladies asked, a little confused.

"I think they're having a fallout." The young man said.

"Do you think they're playing around?" The other lady asked.

"Let's continue watching." The young man wasn't in a hurry. He was currently thinking of how they would eliminate Klaus first, then Grey would have to face three of them alone.

Just as they were still contemplating if Klaus and Grey were truly having a fallout, Grey sent Klaus flying in their direction.

Klaus landed in front of them and cleaned his body.

"Fine, we'll beat you up together." Klaus said in annoyance and turned to the dumbstruck trio.

"Don't even think you three can fight him alone. I've been friends with him for some time now, I know some of his secrets, so what do you say we beat him up together?" Klaus started to rile up the trio.

"Really?" The young man asked, he was still very cautious of Klaus.

Klaus was standing around five meters away from them.

"Of course, he's very annoying." Klaus said as he walked closer to the group.

"In fact, I know a skill of his that once he's within ten meters of you, you're done." Klaus said in a matter of fact manner.

"Please tell us." The young man said.

Klaus was currently standing around two meters away from them.

"Tell? Why don't you see for yourself." Klaus chuckled, "Bye."

"Hi!"

As soon as Klaus finished his statement, his figure changed to that of Grey's.

Chapter 770 - Shocking The Arena Into Silence

"Bye."

"Hi."

The transition was so smooth that even before Klaus' words entered their ears, Grey was already in sight.

Before they could move, they felt a stinging pain, looking around, it was as if they were standing in an inferno.

Grey was standing in the middle of the inferno like a god as he watched them silently.

The crowd, who were still in shock due to the small conflict between Grey and Klaus, were stunned by the turn of events, but they couldn't even speak about it because they were witnessing the shock of their lives.

Since the start of the competition, Reynolds was the only one who had done something almost similar to a domain. It only missed a few details or else it would've been a complete domain. However, right in front of them was a true domain, made by someone who is still in the Overlord Plane.

This person was only in the Seventh stage of the Overlord Plane. If that wasn't shocking, they didn't know what was.

All the Elders from the top Factions were on their feet. They were already astounded by Reynolds' ability to make a semi-domain, but Grey didn't just make a domain, he used it to perfection. This showed that this was not the first time he was using it.

"Where did such a genius come from?" One of the Elders from a top fire-based Faction asked in shock.

Now, he was a little afraid of trying to take in Grey. If Grey has such abilities, it meant he was definitely under the tutelage of someone powerful. If he wasn't, there was no way he would understand things about the elements by this much. Whoever was teaching him must also be an Array Grandmaster.

"He's definitely from one of the big Families. It's impossible that such a genius would come from nowhere. He must've been training in secret, but now they finally let him loose." Another Elder said.

Thinking about it properly, they finally understood why Klaus and others were such powerful figures. They must've also been training in secret. The only reason they agreed to join a Faction was probably because they needed more training.

Grey didn't need anyone since he was already this powerful. Without his domain, the only people who could rival him in the Overlord Plane were those geniuses with cyan and above elemental grade. And the Elders knew for a fact that the geniuses must either be in the Ninth stage or at the Peak. Now, with his domain, he was basically invincible in the Overlord Plane.

The strength of a domain lies in its dominant power. Without sufficient strength, even some Early Sage Plane Elementalists would find it difficult to break out of the domain's hold. A domain was like a cage, giving the owner absolute power.

Those trapped inside a domain would not be able to bring out one-third of their original strength.

Just looking at Grey, they could already see him dominating the world even at this young age.

"It's best to see if he would want to join any of us like his friends did. If he agrees, then we will all congratulate the Faction he joins. But if not, just ensure we make a good impression on him." An Elder from another top fire-based Faction advised.

"This boy is a genius. I would like to invite him over to my Faction." An Elder from one of the top space-based Factions said.

He wasn't even interested in Grey joining them, all he wanted to do was to create a good relationship with him. As much as the top of trying to convince Grey to join them was high, they also didn't want to force him into making any decisions. A genius like Grey couldn't grow in a place where he was held captive. Even if he grows, it would be for the sole purpose of revenge.

The thought of training your killer was something none of them wanted to have. Not just that, but the power behind him might be powerful enough to wipe out their Faction. Although they are among the top Factions in this Region, there are levels among the top Factions.

There are some individuals that can easily wipe out a Faction like theirs on this Continent. Of all the people in the entire Western Continent, there's a terrifying figure in the Dawson Family that can even turn the Middle Continent upside down. Unless the old monsters decide to intervene, very few people in the Aurora Continent as a whole can challenge him.

They all came to the decision as the man from the space-based Faction. They would invite Grey over to their Faction, and if he agrees to come, they would try to build a solid relationship with him.

Of all the Factions present, three of them in particular smiled at each other. With one of Grey's friends joining them, it was already evident that they had formed a tie with him. As long as they do not do anything bad to his friends, they would be in a good relationship with him. Besides, it wasn't as if they tortured their members in the first place.

"A shame he doesn't have the water element, but I'll give him a special technique anyway." One of the Elders from the Moonlight Faction said.

Her words opened the door for the others and they all agreed to give him a special technique. Even the smaller Factions felt compelled to give him some kind of gift as well.

While the Elders were speaking about Grey and how to get on his good side. Kyle had his mouth wide open. When he heard them speak of Grey awakening his domain, he still felt a little doubtful. However, seeing it with his own eyes, he couldn't contain his shock.

Kyle who already knew of this information was already this shocked, it was easy to predict the state of the others who knew nothing about this. All the youths, as well as the old people were staring at Grey, all standing still as if they were frozen.

Grey just shocked the entire arena into silence.