

Affinity 771

Chapter 771 Number One

"I really want this." Klaus sighed as he saw Grey's domain.

The trio who were caught in the domain were unable to break out of it, Grey's attacks increased by almost threefold.

The trio were unable to defend for long before they were all knocked out cold. In the space of not more than thirty seconds, Grey had defeated three Ninth stage Overlord Plane Elementalists with ease.

Klaus was standing on the other side of the platform, staring at his fingernails as if he wasn't even involved in the battle.

This was by far the shortest last battle since the start of the competition. It was the shortest last battle in the history of the competition. The crowd were sure no one would be able to replicate this in a short time. Especially when being two stages below your opponents.

From this, the crowd all knew that even if Klaus was eliminated and Grey fought against four people, he would still win easily.

"Is he still human?" Someone from the crowd asked.

"Basically, yes. But I don't want to accept that he's like us. Maybe he's truly favored by the gods." Another person answered.

"Why is the world unfair?" Someone asked.

There were different reactions in the crowd, but the main thing was that they were all stunned and amazed by Grey's domain.

Klaus looked at the trio who were knocked out and walked over with a shake of his head.

"Hmm, how do we rank them now?" He spoke with a thoughtful expression.

"That's not something we should concern ourselves with." Grey said.

"Oh, I know." Klaus smacked his lips lightly and he used water to gently pick up the young man and dropped him outside the platform.

"Now, he's fifth. Up next is you." He pointed at one of the young ladies and did the same act.

He was very gentle when dropping each of them. They were already beaten by Grey, there was no use in causing them more harm.

After sending them out, he turned to Grey.

"Now, your turn." He used his water to pick up Grey and was about to send him off the platform.

, c.o.m Grey looked at Klaus as if he was staring at a moron.

"Klaus." He called out to him gently.

Klaus acted as if he wasn't hearing his words since Grey was already close to the edge of the platform.

Grey shook his head and teleported out of the water that held him.

"Wait, oh it's you. I totally forgot about that." Klaus scratched his head awkwardly. PA2 @la N2? eL

Grey looked at Klaus feigning ignorance and felt like beating him up.

Just as Grey wanted to attack.

"Hold up!" Klaus placed both hands in front of him, signifying for Grey to wait.

"I'm not done cleaning the platform yet, sheesh, always in a hurry." Klaus said as he walked towards the edge of the platform and jumped off.

Who was he kidding, why would he try to fight against Grey. Grey already promised to beat him up, things would be especially worse for him given the stunt he tried to pull some moments ago.

"I'm just letting you win since I don't want to hoard all the spotlight. I'm such a nice person. You should make sure to pay your respects later, alright." Klaus continued speaking as he walked back to their seats.

He didn't even feel strange about the way he was eliminated. In the entire competition, Klaus was the only person who walked off the platform on his own. He didn't even try to fight against Grey.

But the truth was, no one felt he made a wrong decision. Why would he fight against such a beast in the first place? Fighting against Grey was the same as asking for a beating. Everyone has already seen how Klaus speaks, so they were certain Grey would beat him up, especially after he tried to send Grey out of the platform after he removed the trio.

Grey looked at Klaus' back view with a weird expression before he shook his head with a smile. He never thought Klaus would actually jump off the platform.

'I should've used the space element to keep him inside. That cunning bastard.' He complained internally.

This was one of the few opportunities he would get to beat up Klaus, but Klaus being Klaus was a step ahead of him, so he escaped easily.

"Why didn't you try to fight for your dignity?" Reynolds asked when Klaus returned.

"Do I look like someone who cares about that?" Klaus replied nonchalantly.

Alice almost facepalmed, but she knew Klaus was correct. For someone as shameless as Klaus, he had zero care about his dignity. He wouldn't even mind tricking the entire world.

Grey was declared the winner of the competition, but when he was asked which Faction he wanted to join, his reply was.

"None."

His reply sent the crowd hysterical. They never thought he would actually refuse to join any of the Factions. But they soon calmed down. Thinking about Grey's talent, he must've been from one of the very best Faction or Family in the entire Aurora Continent, so there was no need in bothering about him joining a Faction or not.

However, what happened next sent the crowd hysterical once again. Bright lights shot out from the special sitting area where the Elders from each Faction were seated and it was accompanied by a voice that said it was a gift from each Faction present there.

Grey had a strange expression as he looked at the gifts he was getting. He never thought the Elders would give him gifts even after he refused to join any of them. He originally thought he would've been in trouble after rejecting them.

Kyle, who was seated, had a dumbfounded expression. This was one of the strangest things he had seen. Grey's talent was immense, and these people didn't want to offend him.

He could feel that they were scared of his background. Even he had a fear of Grey's mysterious background.

Chapter 772 - Next Time, I Won't Be So Lenient

Grey walked back to his seat, and Klaus moved close to him with a smile.

"You know I was the one who let you win." He said.

"Huh?" Grey raised a brow curiously.

"What did they give to you?" Klaus asked curiously.

Grey paused and sent his spiritual senses into his storage ring, before replying, "Elemental techniques."

"All?" Klaus asked.

"Yeah, all are elemental techniques." Grey nodded.

"How generous." Alice said. She never thought these people would give Grey so many gifts.

"Truly generous indeed." Kyle commented.

"So, what now?" Reynolds asked.

"We're still here, let's have some fun. It's not like we're following them back to the Faction." Klaus said.

"Actually, you are. Since you friends will be splitting up, you have two days to catch up." A beautiful lady who looked to be in her late twenties walked up to them.

The group turned their attention to the lady. She was someone from the Moonlight Faction. By her side, two men in their early thirties walked beside her.

They were from the Raiden and Asterope Faction. They also came to inform Alice and Reynolds that they would be leaving in two days.

"So quick?" Klaus asked with a sigh.

"Normally, we would've left tomorrow, but in consideration of you four, we decided to wait another day." The lady said.

She didn't hide the fact that they only agreed to extend their stay because of Grey and his friends. It was quite shocking when Kyle heard of it. These Factions were part of the top Factions in this Region, even in the Western Continent, they were respected. Doing this showed how highly they regarded their new proteges. Grey's influence could not be neglected as well.

'Being a terrifying genius has its perks.' Kyle sighed to himself.

The other Factions would be leaving the next day, only three Factions would be staying longer.

"Thank you for giving us this chance, we'll make good use of it." Grey thanked the lady and the two men.

They nodded their heads before inviting the geniuses from their Factions. A few of them wanted to test out their strength against Grey.

Grey, however, rejected the challenge. The geniuses felt a little disappointed, but they didn't take it to heart. They knew Grey wasn't proud from the small contact they've had with him.

The group left the arena, and headed for the Inn they were staying in. Klaus suggested that they went out to celebrate their success in the competition, Grey wanted to stay in his room, but after Klaus, Reynolds, and Alice joined hands in convincing him, he finally agreed begrudgingly.

Klaus plotted that they beat him up, they were almost successful, but having the space element meant Grey could easily escape from their encirclement.

'I miss the days when we could beat him.'

The group went out and started reminiscing about the first time they met. Kyle sat by and listened to their stories.

Grey's story was particularly captivating. In the space of five years, he went from a normal person to a genius respected by even the top Factions in the Western Continent.

Overhearing how they grew, Kyle wished he was with them at that time. Watching Grey grow in strength was something that was amazing. He was sure that if he was with Grey, he would've grown stronger than his current strength.

Grey's growth was motivational, helping those close to him grow stronger.

They stayed out almost all through the night. On their way back, they encountered some familiar faces.

It was the trio who fought against Grey and Klaus in the final battle. They still found their defeat shocking, but they knew there was nothing they could do about it.

"Hello." The young man amongst the trio walked up to them and looked at Klaus in particular.

He heard Klaus was the one who eliminated them from the arena. All he wanted to know was why Klaus eliminated him first. He was stronger than the ladies, so he should've gotten the third position, but Klaus didn't give him that chance.

"Hey, you look very familiar." Klaus said with a thoughtful expression.

The young man was about to lose it when Klaus smiled.

"I'm just messing with you. How are you?" Klaus said with a soft laugh.

The young man who came with the intent of arguing with Klaus was a little taken aback. Klaus was very carefree and didn't act as if they were strangers.

"I'm okay, I guess." The young man replied after a short silence.

"Good to know. We're heading back home now, is anything wrong?" Klaus asked with a casual smile.

"No, nothing. I only wanted to congratulate you two." The young man shook his head.

He decided to let the matter go since asking wouldn't do him any good.

"Oh, thank you. Congratulations on joining a good Faction." Klaus shook the young man's hand before the group continued their journey.

The young man looked at Klaus, and seeing the contrast between the current Klaus and the evil Klaus they fought against, he shook his head.

"How come he's so friendly?" One of the young ladies asked.

"Honestly, I don't know." The young man replied with a wry smile.

They expected Klaus to talk in the same manner he did back in the competition. That way they would have a conflict with them, then in the process, one of their Sage Plane Elementalists who was hiding in the cover of the darkness would come out and attack Grey and his friends.

But Klaus was able to speak to them in such a manner that they couldn't do anything.

"I guess it's best if we let this matter go. I don't think clashing with them will be good for us." The last young lady said.

The young man and the young lady looked at her before nodding their heads.

When they walked back to where their Sage Plane Elementalists were hiding, they were stunned to see all of them lying on the ground out cold.

"What happened?" The young man panicked.

"You're lucky you didn't continue with your plan. Next time, I won't be so lenient."

A cold voice came from the shadows, sending chills down the spines of the trio.

Chapter 773 - Going Through The Gifts

'Did you sense them?' Grey asked Void telepathically.

'Yes. Looks like they were out to cause trouble for you guys, but Klaus managed to evade it.' Void replied.

Grey's eyes were cold, but he didn't say anything to the others. When they were stopped by the trio, he sensed some Sage Plane Elementalists. He originally planned to head over to where they were, but he hastily stopped when he noticed they weren't in the Early stages of the Sage Plane.

The trio must've been wary of his domain, so they brought people who were powerful. However, when they were leaving, Grey sensed a familiar yet strange aura appear for a brief moment. After the aura appeared, he noticed he couldn't sense the Sage Plane Elementalists anymore.

'How come the aura is so familiar?' He wondered to himself.

With the increase in his strength, his sensory ability naturally improved as well. This was not the first time he was sensing this particular aura. Back at the Azure Continent, when they were captured, and Klaus' father was fighting against the others, he also sensed this aura for a brief moment. Due to the situation, he didn't take note of it.

But now, he was sensing this same aura again. There was no way two people would have the same aura.

Grey didn't show any odd signs after sensing the aura, he continued acting as if nothing was wrong.

'Void, can you try to track the person?' He asked Void.

'No, whoever you're talking about is either not here, or is too powerful that he can easily hide from my senses.' Void replied.

'Hmm.'

Other than Grey and Void, none of the others sensed the people who were hiding in wait for them. Had Klaus not avoided having any conflict with the trio, things might have been a little different.

They got back to the Inn and each went to their rooms. Grey decided since he had nothing to do, he should go through the techniques given to him by the Factions.

One of the skills he acquired was the technique to manipulate space. Other than his skill switch, he didn't really have any great space elemental skills.

'This will be useful in the future.' He said in glee.

This was the main reason he wanted to join a Faction. Compared to the Azure Continent, the Aurora Continent had a better variety of elemental techniques. The techniques in the Azure Continent could be said to be the basics, while these ones were the advanced ones.

He showed the skill to Void, and in a matter of seconds, Void was able to comprehend it.

"It's a shame the person who did that move was evil." Void still regretted the fact that he couldn't learn the Great Void technique.

What he found more annoying was that the skill even had his name on it. And he couldn't learn it. How frustrating!

Grey laughed when he heard this, he knew Void was talking about the skill he got from the trial land.

"Don't worry, you'll find a way to learn something different." Grey comforted him, "Hey, why don't you teach me that distortion thing you do. It's a powerful attack."

"No. I'll just take it that since I can't learn that skill, you won't learn my special skill as well." Void refused.

Grey continued begging, and after bargaining with seven shiny things, and promising to cook his favorite meals for a week, he finally agreed to teach him only part of it.

According to Void, Grey shouldn't be in a hurry to learn this skill since it was dangerous. When Grey attempted it, he realized Void was right. The skill required a high control of space, and with Grey's current elemental grade, he wouldn't be able to do so. He might risk trapping himself in a dangerous situation.

The Moonlight Faction gave him a powerful ice skill. It involved creating an ice cube in the air and it will continuously attack a particular target. It involves using his spiritual energy to mark the target, and within a five hundred meters radius, the ice cube will continuously dish out attacks.

Grey went through a lot of techniques, and he couldn't help but feel gratitude towards the Elders who gave him the gifts. This was one of the reasons he wanted to get into a Faction, the second reason was those secret realms. According to what he knew, all top Factions have realms they send their geniuses into the train. These domains are rich with treasures, so he would see things that would make him grow stronger, and faster.

He still hasn't forgotten about his two years deal. Months have already passed, so he had less than two years. The quicker he grew, the better for him.

The last time he saw the young man, he was already at the Peak of the Overlord Plane. Grey was certain the young man had broken through to the Sage Plane a long time ago, so even with his insane speed of leveling up, he still wouldn't be a match for the young man if they encountered each other right now.

By the time he finished going through the skills and picking out which ones he would focus on, it was already daybreak.

Klaus and the others came once again to drag him out with them. They would be separating soon, so it was best to spend every minute together.

They walked around the entire town, going to every place they could possibly go. They even attended an auction later that night. Joyner was the one who invited them to the auction.

The group only went there for the fun of it. After the auction ended, Joyner invited them for a small party at his place. The Mayor even appeared this time, speaking with the group.

Klaus continued socializing with everyone. The person who hated him the most was the Earth Elementalist he eliminated from the three-way battle. When they crossed paths, the Earth Elementalist snorted coldly.

Klaus smiled awkwardly before walking away.

Chapter 774 - Chased Into Space

Three days went by in the blink of an eye. It was finally time for the group to part ways once again. Just like before, each would be going their separate ways. However, this time, things were different. They weren't being chased, well, except for Klaus who had amassed a huge number of enemies during the competition, and Grey who was being chased by necromancers.

"So, we're separating once again." Alice said with a sad expression.

"Yeah." The boys nodded, all sad that they were leaving their friends.

"At least we're not being hunted this time." Klaus joked to break the silence.

"Technically, I'm still hunted." Grey shook his head with a wry laugh. He never thought his days in the Aurora Continent would be this perilous. Other than his strength, he basically had nothing to rely on.

"Oh, I forgot about that. Well, I guess some things never change." Klaus smiled.

The others laughed at his subtle jeer. Even Grey laughed to it as well.

The group said their goodbyes, before heading towards the people of the Factions they joined. Grey and Kyle looked on as the groups left with their Elders.

Grey gave them some of the treasures he had with him.

"What now? Where are you going?" Kyle asked.

They were the only ones left with the departure of the others.

"I have no idea, where are you going?" Grey replied with a shrug. The truth was that he didn't know his next destination. His plan was to travel across the Regions and see if he would find what he was looking for.

"I'll be going back to my Family. I only came out to stretch my legs." Kyle replied after a moment of silence.

"Alright, here's a communication device I made. You can use it to interact with the others." Grey passed one of the plaques he made to Kyle.

"Oh, how convenient." Kyle studied the plaque Grey gave to him.

Grey turned in the other direction, preparing to leave.

"Why don't we travel together since we're both going the same way?" Kyle asked.

"Oh, sure." Grey nodded before waiting for him.

They left this city after spending days there. Grey's current destination was the next Region on the map, while Kyle would be stopping at the next Region as well.

"How do you plan to cope with the mark on you?" Kyle asked the important question he had in mind.

"I'm still thinking about it, but I guess all I can do for now is to be cautious." Grey replied.

He was still working on the array he wanted to use in hiding the mark on his body. But he still haven't been able to get any good result.

Kyle looked at Grey's carefree attitude. He couldn't help but wonder if he wasn't afraid of the threat of the necromancers.

One week later.

Grey and Kyle had been traveling through multiple cities, and they were finally at the last city before entering the next Region.

Gillar City.

Grey and Kyle were sitting in an Inn, listening to what has been happening in the Region to see if they might get news about any treasure, just like the time they got news of the treasure Void wanted back at the mansion.

"We're being followed." Kyle said to Grey.

"You've noticed too?" Grey asked.

"Yes, for some time now. I only waited to confirm my senses." Kyle nodded.

"My bets on necromancers, they are the only ones who would follow us." Kyle added.

"We had a squabble with some people some days back, so it might also them." Grey said his thoughts.

"Whoever it is, they're really bad at hiding their tracks." He added.

"Confront or pretend?" Kyle asked for Grey's choice.

He was stuck in confronting the person, or continue pretending to see what these people were up to.

"Let's pretend for a while. Since the person isn't concealing their aura, it means there's a motive behind it." Grey replied after giving it some thoughts.

"Okay."

The duo continued walking in the city, and they still sensed the person following them. Grey brought the idea of them going to a secret alley to confront whoever it was.

Kyle agreed to it, and they headed for the nearest alley.

When they got there, the person going after them hid not too far from them, trying to see what they were up to.

'Void.' Grey called out in his mind.

Void vanished from his shoulder. A few seconds later, he returned with the figure of a chubby lady.

"Who are you?" Grey asked in a straightforward manner.

"Hehe, they knew you would do this." The lady laughed in an odd manner before she started inflating in size.

"Oh no."

Grey's expression changed before he grabbed Kyle's hand and activated a talisman he took from his Teacher. The light element wrapped him and sent them flying in the other direction.

The chubby lady's figure burst apart and a ray of light shot at them.

While escaping, Grey instantly entered the Fusion State and tried to use the Great Void technique. He tore through space and dove in with Kyle in tow.

The ray of light chased after him. It entered space along with Grey, chasing after him as he tried to escape from the ray of light.

This wasn't the first time he was sensing this ray of light. It is usually placed in a puppet, belonging to the necromancers. When he was experimenting with one of the corpses, he saw this thing inside. It was extremely dangerous, and he could tell that if that thing hits him, he would be in danger.

That lady was surprisingly a puppet belonging to a necromancer. This was however one of the most lifelike puppets he had seen, other than the ones made by those creatures.

'Damn it!'

Grey complained as he saw the ray of light entering the spatial tunnel with him. He never thought something like this would happen.

A spatial tunnel opened in another location and Grey shot out of it, behind him was a ray of light.

Chapter 775 - You'll Have Your Answers Soon Enough

Grey's figure was covered with a bright light as he flew as fast as he could. Even with help of his Teacher's talisman, he still wasn't able to escape from the ray of light.

'What do we do now?' Void asked telepathically.

'What can we do?' Grey asked with a wry smile.

He knew his chances of escaping from this thing with his current strength were zero. Even a Sage Plane Elementalist would not be able to escape from it, much less him who is still in the Overlord Plane. He wasn't even at the Peak yet.

Just when the ray of light was about to hit him, he sensed a familiar aura.

'It's that person again.' He thought internally.

He turned around, only to see a man he found familiar standing in front of him, the ray of light which was about to hit him was blocked by the man's outstretched arm.

"Troublesome." The man muttered as he squeezed the light.

The ray of light started to fade, before completely fading off.

The man turned to look at Grey with a smile.

"How are you doing?" The man asked with a shake of his head.

"It's you!" Grey exclaimed.

He had seen this man a couple of times in the Azure Continent. At that time, the man was a regular person, but he knew the person standing before him was above the Sage Plane. He might even be above an Elemental Venerable.

"Yes, how have you been?" The man nodded while placing both hands behind him.

"Fine." Grey replied with a confused expression.

"I believe you have a lot of questions, correct?" The man asked.

Grey nodded, he still had Kyle on his hand since they were still mid-air.

"Well, you'll have your answers soon enough, but for now, take care." The man said and disappeared out of view.

"Wait." Grey tried to stop him, but he was a little too slow.

The man was far stronger than him, so there was no way he could stop him from leaving.

Grey was frustrated because he wanted to know why the man was following him, but the man didn't give him the chance to.

'Void, do you know where he is?' He asked Void.

'No, he's too powerful.' Void replied after a few seconds of silence.

He tried to block the space when the man tried to leave, but he was unable to. Even with the help of his domain, he still wasn't able to stop him.

Kyle looked at the entire encounter with an odd expression. He hadn't seen the man before, but he knew he was a very powerful figure. But from what he could tell, he knew the man was protecting Grey.

'I knew his identity was not simple.' He thought internally.

He had always thought that Grey was from a big Family or Faction. However, the fact that Grey didn't know that the man was protecting him was what he found surprising.

For such a talent, any big Family or Faction would protect him at all costs. Grey should be aware that he was being protected from the shadows, but his behavior showed that he doesn't.

Grey flew down and dropped Kyle with a confused expression.

'Why is he protecting me?' He fell deep in thoughts.

Anytime he sensed this aura, it was when he was in danger. The aura would arrive in time to protect him secretly. This time, due to the complex situation, the man was forced to come out from the shadows once again.

'Teacher's in the Sage Plane, so there is no way he would be able to send someone above the Sage Plane to watch over me.' Grey's head went into overdrive as he thought of who could possibly send someone to protect him.

With his Teacher out of the picture, there were only three people left on his list. The first was his parents, the next was Ellis' family, and the last was Sylvia.

'It shouldn't be either Ellis' family or Miss Sylvia since I've seen him before even heading to the Aurora Continent.'

Sylvia and Ellis' family couldn't possibly be able to send someone to watch over him even before knowing him, so they were out of the list as well.

He knew nothing of his background, and given how mysterious his parents were, he had his suspicions about them being very powerful. The fact that they could appear from nowhere, and disappear at will showed that.

But, if they were powerful, then why did they keep it hidden from him. Not just that, but why would they leave him in such a place?

Just like the man said, he had a lot of questions, however, there was no one to answer them. The only person who could answer them was the man or his parents, but none of them were present at the moment.

"Are you okay?" Kyle asked.

He noticed Grey hasn't been saying anything since he landed, he seemed to be deep in thoughts. So he felt compelled to ask if he was alright.

"Oh, yes. I'm good." Grey replied.

"Where are we now? I didn't even get the chance to head in the direction we wanted to." He looked around before asking Kyle.

"We should be a few thousand kilometers away from the borders." Kyle replied after taking a good look around.

"Hmm, okay. I guess we should find a way to get back on track then." Grey said with a serious expression.

"Alright." Kyle nodded before leading the way.

Grey was silent as they walked through the woods. Someone was protecting him, and he didn't know who, or why. He had no issues with the fact that he was being protected, if not for this person, he might've died from the last sneak attack. But he hated not being in control of things.

This man might be a potential threat who only wanted to ensure he was the one who killed him.

'Void, can we use that thing now?' Grey asked.

'No, it's too dangerous.' Void rejected the idea of using the treasure they got from the mansion.

Chapter 776 Strange Occurrence

'Then what do we do?' Grey asked Void, a little frustrated.

'There's nothing we can do.' Void replied with a bland expression.

Grey felt a little frustrated, but there was nothing he could do about it. He kept quiet and increased his cautiousness as they traveled.

With their last experience, Kyle knew they would always have to be cautious. He also noticed the change in Grey's behavior since the encounter. Especially when the man appeared.

Time went by and after three days, they had entered the next Region.

"We'll be going our separate ways soon." Kyle said to Grey as they walked into a town.

"Okay." Grey nodded.

Kyle had been speaking more with Klaus and the others with the communication device, more than he had been doing with Grey who was present. Grey was almost always training whenever they were not moving, so there was almost no chance to speak with him.

Klaus and the others had been doing well in their Factions. Klaus was the one who seemed the happiest. According to him, he was training in the most conducive place for him. Surrounded by beauties made his training easier.

Kyle still hasn't been able to believe that Klaus was actually able to join the Moonlight Faction. It was still a surprising event.

One of the things he enjoyed about traveling with Grey was his cooking. He couldn't help but admit that Grey was one of the best cooks he had met in his life.

Grey had been cooking frequently because of his Teacher, so Kyle and Void got to eat a lot of delicacies.

The duo stayed together for a few more days before finally going their separate ways. Grey was heading towards the northern part of the Region, while Kyle was going towards the eastern part of the Region.

"What's the plan now?" Void asked as they watched Kyle's disappearing figure.

"I guess I should look for a Faction to join." Grey replied.

"Alright. We should get going then." Void said.

He still hasn't been able to achieve a breakthrough. If Grey were to join a Faction, given how they would treat him, he would be able to use the treasure there without any problems.

Grey and Void started their journey once again. They were used to traveling together, so there were no issues with them.

Grey focused entirely on cultivating. He had been trying to increase the elemental grade of his earth element, while also practicing the new elemental skills he acquired. The earth elemental skills with him were a bit helpful, but he still hadn't been able to increase his elemental grade yet.

Void had been a little bored since nothing interesting was happening. Grey had been extremely cautious with how he handled things. There was a time he even avoided clashing with people in the Origin Plane, just because of the fear of being ambushed by others who were more powerful.

His research in arrays had been stagnant for some time now. He even asked his Teacher for help with it. But his Teacher hadn't been able to provide anything tangible as well. When he told his Teacher about the mark and necromancers, he noticed his Teacher reacted in a strange manner. He tried to ask his Teacher what was wrong, but his Teacher didn't tell him anything.

Some days later.

Grey walked into a small town. He noticed there was a strange aura circulating around the place.

'Void.'

'On it.' ,c`o`m

Void disappeared from his shoulder, and after a few minutes, he returned.

"There's no one here." Void said.

"Huh?" Grey looked around, he could tell there was human activity in this town.

Thinking about it, he felt it was best to leave the town and continue his search for a Faction. Before he could leave, he sensed some people rushing over.

"You, stop there!" A voice came from above.

Grey looked in the sky and saw a group of youths being carried by a large bird. After studying them, he continued walking. They were all in the Overlord Plane, so he had no reason to obey them.

"Are you deaf? I said stop there." The voice ordered overbearingly before the bird flew over to where Grey was headed, blocking his path.

On the bird were eight youths, three young ladies, and five young men.

The person who spoke to Grey was the young man in the Ninth stage of the Overlord Plane. From how he was standing in front of the others, Grey guessed he was the leader of the group.

"What do you want?" Grey asked with a blank expression.

"What happened here?" The young man asked in a commanding tone.

"Why are you asking me?" Grey asked in annoyance.

He hated people like this who felt they were on top of the world. The young man didn't even show any courtesy.

The young man's expression changed slightly when he saw Grey's reaction, he was about to continue speaking when one of the young ladies stepped forward.

"Sorry for the way he spoke to you. We were sent here to investigate the strange events that had been happening in the area. This is the most recent event, so we rushed here, seeing you here, we felt maybe you would know what happened." The young lady apologized for the young man's behavior before telling Grey their reason for stopping him.

"I only came here a few minutes ago. But I can tell you that there's no one here, that's all I know." Grey replied.

"Alright, thank you for your help." The young lady said before turning to the others.

"We should continue our investigation. Whoever is doing this shouldn't have gone far." She said to the others.

The young man who Grey thought was the leader of the group snorted coldly as he looked at Grey before he followed the others into the bird as they flew away.

, c`o`m "Hmm, strange occurrences. What do you think of it?" Grey asked Void.

This was the first time they were seeing this. They had been traveling in this area for some days now, and they hadn't seen a situation like this before.

"Maybe it started recently. There might be a treasure involved, do you want to investigate it as well?" Void asked with sparkling eyes.

"No, I have no interest in wasting my time on these things." Grey went in the other direction the bird flew.

Chapter 777 - People From Another Race?

Grey wanted to avoid any conflict as much as he could. He was already entangled with the necromancers, and for some reason, he could tell he was already well known among them. The fact that the corpse puppet was able to say what it said indicated that.

The sooner he got into a suitable Faction, the better for him. Unfortunately, his search has not yielded anything of value yet. He had been going from one city to another since entering this Region, but no news of any Faction recruiting people. He naturally knew he wouldn't be as lucky as the previous Faction where there was a competition going on at the time they got there.

Some days later.

"Huh? Again?" Grey looked at the deserted village in front of him with an odd look.

This was the fourth village he was seeing since the last town, and all of them were empty. Just like in that town, there was a strange aura circulating around. However, this time, he felt a sense of unease about the situation.

"Void, can you sense anything?" He asked while standing on the same spot, looking around.

"Nothing, for now. But I feel whoever did this is still here." Void replied while looking around vigilantly.

"Hmm, me too." Grey nodded.

The aura here was thicker than when he passed those villages. It was as if the act was just being carried out a few minutes before he arrived.

'Search the place, we'll think of what next to do after that.' He said to Void before disappearing.

Void nodded and disappeared as well.

Somewhere underground, a group of people were looking at the light on the map with playful grins.

"I think it's high time we take this one too, don't you think?" A man asked with a chuckle.

"He might be one of them as well." Another man pointed at a group of youths tied on the ground, helpless and injured. It was none other than the group Grey saw in the first town he saw this situation.

"Hmm, he's a Space Elementalist, so we have to be very careful when dealing with him. We can't afford to let our tracks be leaked by a kid." A more advanced man said.

The strange thing about these people was that, although all of them looked like humans, there was a slight difference in their eyes. Unlike humans who mostly had, black, brown, blue, and golden eyes, with a few having amber eyes, these people mostly had purple, red, and some other colors. There was also a horn on their heads, each person's horn was the same color as their eyes, so it was safe to say they were not humans.

Grey, who was above ground, knew nothing of the people watching him from below. All he wanted to do was to see if he could at least figure out what was happening. Even though there wasn't much he could do, since he had already passed through multiple villages, he felt compelled to at least know the cause of all this.

While he was searching for any clues in the village, he felt his hair standing on edge. Without even thinking, he blinked out of his present location, appearing in another place.

Bang!

An explosion rang out from where he was previously standing as a ten meters wide stone appeared from nowhere.

'Void.'

'Almost there.'

Grey first thought whenever in a battle like this was to call out to Void first. After that, his next objective was to find out who attacked him.

His expression changed when he sensed someone staring at him, looking in that direction, he saw a man who looked to be in his late thirties staring at him aggressively. What drew his attention was the horn on the man's head.

'Someone from another race?' He thought to himself.

He had heard of these people before. Most realms had people like these in them. Some are very troublesome and tend to cause a lot of harm to humans, while others prefer isolation. This race is clearly part of the former.

"What are you doing with the people in these villages?" Grey asked in a straightforward manner.

He was no saint, but he still wanted to know. As a human, he couldn't just let the matter go since he had already seen it. Humans might be greedy and selfish, but once they have a common enemy from a different race or world entirely, they tend to be able to unite against them. Of course, there are a few people who would cause conflicts in a situation like that, but people mostly prefer being the cause of other people's problems, rather than letting a foreign race do that for them.

"It's none of your business. Now, surrender quietly, and we might let you live." The man said. When he finished his statement, three more men came from the ground

'All are capable of using the earth element, I wonder where they came from.' Grey thought as he looked at the four people in front of him.

He wasn't scared of them, what bothered him was where the people captured were taken to.

"I guess I'll have to make you tell me yourself." Grey said before launching an attack.

He was still in the Seventh stage of the Overlord Plane, but he could sense that his earth elemental grade was on the verge of having a breakthrough. Adding that with his cultivation, he was sure he would be able to break through to the Eighth stage of the Overlord Plane.

The four men exchanged glances before spreading out in different directions. After they got in formation, they said something in a strange language before a powerful force field appeared from nowhere.

Grey felt stuck, unable to advance nor retreat. This was something he had been trying to comprehend for some time now, but he still hadn't been able to.

He could feel the weight of the air increasing, and his bones shook from the force.

'I knew they wouldn't be easy to deal with.' He thought to himself as he started to think of a way to escape his current predicament.

Chapter 778 Tough Physical Battle

Grey's figure moved slowly, even after trying to open up a space tunnel, he sensed that the second the space tunnel opened up, it collapsed immediately.

If he had gone into it, he would have been in great danger. This shocked him greatly. The space element had been one of his most trusted methods of escaping, but these people had been able to counter him without giving him the chance to escape.

This was one of the dangers of fighting against people he knew nothing about.

'Void, try not to enter this place. They have a way of locking down the space, and it's not pretty.' He advised Void who was rushing over.

'Got it.' Void's reply echoed in his head.

Grey started to use his elements to boost his physical strength before rushing in one direction. His plan was to attack one of the men, this would surely be able to put them off.

The men realized this in time and retreated along with Grey's movements. Even though they found the fact that Grey could still move to be very baffling, they didn't let it stop their coordinated attack.

Grey dodged the attacks they sent his way as he moved around. This force field was a great way to train his physical body, unfortunately, he didn't have it.

He soon managed to get close to one of the men, and he threw a punch in his direction. The man blocked the punch by crossing both arms in front of him.

For the first time since Grey was fighting, someone he attacked with his physical strength didn't even flinch.

"Huh?" He was taken aback by it. He naturally expected the man to at least move back a little.

"My turn." The man said with a smile as he threw a punch in Grey's direction.

Grey naturally wouldn't sit still and watch this man's blow connect with him. He evaded the blow, before dishing out one of his own. Before he knew it, he was entangled in a fist fight against the man.

Bang! Boom! Bam!

The speed of their punches were quick and accurate, making sure to deliver a powerful blow to the opponent. This was Grey's first time engaging in this since breaking through to the Arcane Plane. And to be honest, he found it extremely thrilling, to say the least.

A fist fight was miles apart from a regular elemental battle. This gave him more room to show his physical strength, while also training it as well.

The man was stunned by the fact that Grey was able to keep up with his speed.

"Fascinating, I didn't know there were people like this in this world." One of the other three men commented.

The other men nodded, astounded by Grey's performance so far.

Grey and the man continued fighting. Void was already in the area, but Grey told him to hide his presence since he still didn't know what they were dealing with.

There might be more of these people, and it would be best if they knew that he was the only one here. This way, in times of danger, he would be able to escape without too much of a hassle. Void agreed with his plan and stayed hidden, watching the battle closely.

Grey didn't let his opponent get the upper hand as he fought fiercely. ,c`o`m

Bang!

Grey's figure was forced back by a punch from the man. After sliding on his feet for a few meters, he stopped and looked at the man.

The man had barely broken a sweat, but Grey was already starting to pant, albeit very slowly.

'Hmm.' His eyes were sharp. While fighting with the man, he could sense a strange vibration coming from the man's body. If not for the help of his multiple elements, he knew he would've been defeated long ago.

"Your strength is commendable, but you're still not on my level." The man said.

"Oh, I was only getting warmed up." Grey replied in an indifferent tone.

, c`o`m The man looked at Grey, before saying, "If so, I would like to see your true strength."

Grey didn't say anything as he tried to keep his figure standing. The pressure from the force field started increasing the second he started to fight. He could feel his physical body was growing stronger by the moment, but he knew he couldn't keep up with this for long. The force field will eventually get to a stage where his elements wouldn't be able to help him.

In respect to the man's words, he laughed on the inside. Who was he kidding? He had shown his full physical strength, but this man was obviously stronger than him. And from what he could tell, the man hasn't gone all-out yet.

The man took the initiative to attack this time, and the rest of the formation moved with him as he attacked.

Grey struggled to defend against the continuous attacks of the man. He could barely keep up with the increased speed and strength of the man. As time went on, he slowly started to receive punches on his body.

His figure was sent flying, but the force field ensured that he didn't go airborne.

Grey's face crashed into the ground before bouncing off.

'Damn! That must've hurt.' Void thought as he watched Grey's figure bouncing on the ground, before finally coming to a stop some few meters away.

Grey stood up and looked at his body, he could already feel the pains from the blows that hit him, and bruises were all over his body.

'This guy is ruthless.' He spat out a bit of blood before wiping his mouth.

'Void, disrupt the formation.' Grey said.

Now, he couldn't care about the others. As long as he could leave this formation, he would be able to deal with the people that would come. But for now, the most important thing was leaving this godforsaken formation.

The formation made it hard for him to use his elements outside of his body. This meant that he could only fight with his physical body at this moment. He had tried using elemental attacks a few times, but he had failed to even produce a spark.

The only thing he didn't try was his domain. He was sure it would work, but he wanted to keep it hidden for now.

Chapter 779 - Valuable Horns

Void appeared behind one of the men and attacked decisively. He didn't hold back, and the man was almost ripped apart by his attack.

The formation broke apart instantly. And Grey got access to his elements once again. Without even waiting for anything, he blinked to where the man he was fighting against and attacked.

The man was able to block Grey's attack, but he was sent flying in the process. Grey continued his attack on the man, not giving him any chance to recover.

Void left the man who was already on the verge of death and attacked the next person. Since Grey and the people were already fighting, there was no use in letting them go.

Grey soon defeated the man, before taking on the last one. In the space of a few minutes, the duo had completely incapacitated the four men.

The ones attacked by Void were both on the verge of death. If they were left unattended, they would most definitely die.

"You evil beings." One of the men Grey beat up said through gritted teeth.

"You're calling us evil? Really?" Grey asked with an odd expression.

These were the same people who had been taking people away from towns, now they were calling him evil.

"If you know what's good for you, you would let us go and leave this place now." The man threatened.

"Actually, I'm quite interested in a few things. What's with the different color of horns?" Grey pointed at the horns of one of the injured ones.

"If they die, then you will have to live a life worse than death." The man continued threatening.

Grey looked at the man coldly before nodding to Void. To the surprise of the man, he saw one of his comrades disappearing bit by bit. This was Void's special attack, spatial distortions.

Since the man was already in this state, there was no way he could fight against it. He could only watch as his body disintegrated bit by bit. What was worse was that he couldn't even feel the pain of it.

"I don't like being threatened." Grey said after the man was completely disintegrated.

The man still couldn't believe what he saw, Grey killed one of them with such ease and calmness. It was as if Grey didn't feel anything.

"How could a child like you be this evil?" The man asked in horror.

"The world is not a friendly place, I understood this at a very young age." Grey replied casually before pointing at the horns once again.

"Our horns are sacred to us, we can not tell you about it." The man said.

Grey looked at Void and nodded at him once again. Void smiled and walked over to the last man on the verge of death. In the presence of the other two, he used his small paws to grab hold of the horns, and with a powerful tug, he dragged the horn out of the head of the man.

Even at death's door, the man screamed from the excruciating pain he was going through as Void pulled out his horn.

Grey and Void were probably one of the most brutal people, and this group were unfortunate to have met them. Grey was even more annoyed after being stuck in that formation.

The man died after Void pulled out his horn.

Void's eyes glittered as he stared at the horns, "Good stuff."

"Oh, it's something valuable?" Grey's interest was piqued when he heard Void's comment.

"Yeah, it can be used to make elemental weapons. You know there are grades for the weapons, with this, you can get the highest tier of elemental weapons." Void explained as he looked at the horns on the head of the other two.

Seeing Grey and Void's gaze, the last two men shivered in fear.

"Where are you guys from?" Grey asked curiously.

"Why are you asking?" One of the men asked in fear.

They were afraid Grey would greedily attack their home and kill everyone there for their horns.

"I'm not a greedy person, I'm just curious, nothing more." Grey replied casually.

"Well, our world is far from here." The man answered after a few seconds of silence. He was afraid Grey would kill him if he didn't answer, and from how the other man was shaking, he knew he would say everything if he died, so what was the use of keeping silent and falling in the hands of these beasts.

"Interesting. Why are you abducting people?" Grey nodded after hearing his words. He didn't know if it was the truth or a lie, but he didn't ask any further.

"This..." The man answering the questions froze. He was afraid of Grey's reaction once he told him the reason for their actions.

"As I said, I'm more curious than interested in whatever you're doing." Grey said, he looked at the men before adding, "I can still kill you and ask that guy, I believe he'll respond to my questions quicker."

"Unlike humans, we can not create elemental orbs since most of our essence lies in our horns, so we extract the elemental orbs from humans to aid the growth of our young geniuses." The man explained with much difficulty, "But I can assure you that this is the only time we've done it."

"Oh wow!" Grey exclaimed unconsciously. He never thought humans would be used in the same manner they use the Seelies. If not for questioning these guys, he wouldn't have known about it.

His only concern was how much of the truth they were hiding in their lies. From the man's expression, he was a hundred percent certain that not everything he was saying was the truth, but he couldn't be bothered with him. He had other things to worry about.

"Where are the people from this village then?" Grey continued his questioning.

"They..." The man's eyes darted in different directions.

"I see, you're only doing this to distract me to give the others the chance to escape, correct?" Grey quickly caught up with his plan.

Chapter 780 - Insights

When the man heard Grey's question, he froze. He had been trying to ensure that he stayed as calm as possible, but Grey was already onto them.

"Hmph! So what? Even if you know, what can you do?" He snorted coldly.

The cat was already out of the bag, so there was no use in pretending any longer. He was not scared of death, since they had the guts to come out from their world into the Aurora Continent, they were already prepared to risk it all.

With the elemental orbs they were collecting, they needed at most two hundred years, then they would be able to produce a few people that might be able to break through the barriers of their world. If one person can do this, then the shackles of their world would be broken and the others would have no problems with doing so as well.

If the person however breaks through outside their world, then it changes nothing. This is one of the reasons why the people from other worlds were strictly monitored by the top Factions. Humans didn't want to give them the chance they needed to grow to the stage where they would be a cause of worry for them. Most of the worlds had limitations of the Overlord Plane, while there are a few that had limitations set on the Sage Plane.

Grey still found these things strange since he still couldn't comprehend how an entire world would be unable to break through to the Sage Plane or become Elemental Venerables.

'Could our world be a small world to a bigger world as well?' This question has been lingering in his mind for some time now.

If there were smaller realms, then there is also a chance that there is a bigger realm, one that is higher than theirs. It was only a matter of time before they would realize they were just in as much danger as the people from these realms they use for training.

"You're going to die regardless, but before you do, you will definitely tell me where they are located." Grey's eyes were cold.

Grey's figure slowly moved closer to the man. The silence of the village was soon broken by the dreadful screams of the man as Grey and Void went to work.

Grey alone was already very dangerous when it came to torturing people, adding Void's somewhat psychotic nature to it, things went wild, extremely wild.

The man screamed in pain, wishing for death that never came. Grey and Void took their time on him, making sure he felt every single pain. The man passed out so many times that they lost count in the space of a few minutes.

After almost five minutes, and what could be said to be a successful operation, Grey turned to the other man who was already shivering before they started the torture.

"Now, where are they?" He asked coldly.

He never had the thought of getting the answers from the first man, his plan was simple. Set fear in the mind of this one who doesn't seem to be as mentally strong as the other one.

The man looked at the two bodies on his side. One of them was still alive, while he could still hear the shrill screams of the other while his horns were being pulled out.

"They are taken to our hideout some kilometers away from here, I can take you there if you want." The man replied while sweating buckets.

Grey tapped him on the shoulder with a smile, "See, I'm not such a bad person if you cooperate, am I?"

The man shook his head, "You're a good human."

Grey nodded in agreement before getting the accurate position of the hideout and then knocking out the man.

"Void, what do you think?" He asked.

"The others would definitely be long gone. I'm sure one person would be left behind to see how things turn out here. This means, we currently have only a few minutes to react, given the information we just acquired." Void replied calmly.

"I'm not talking about that, what I'm asking is if we should head there or not?" Grey asked.

He already knew the others had escaped from the second he killed the first man. What he wanted to know now was if they should get involved or not.

It would be best if he went on his way as planned, but since he was already here, he knew there would be no harm in checking things out.

"Of course, there are more horns to be taken." Void nodded, he had zero interest in the people abducted, what he was concerned about was the horns and how valuable they were.

"Alright, let's get going then." Grey nodded before keeping the body of the two unconscious men and burning the last one.

When he burnt it, he noticed a strange light left the man's body and shot in a certain direction. The light was faint, and its speed was unfathomable. He didn't notice it when Void killed the first man, but watching this one, he was stunned.

'Could this be a way to track where their world is located?' He thought to himself.

He felt maybe the essence of the men was returning back to their realm, and it was most likely possible since there were a lot of strange things going on in the world.

After taking the two men, he headed in the direction of the hideout, moving as fast as he could. He had to get there before whoever was left to scout the area got there. It was a race between them, and he was certain he would win.

'The battle wasn't that bad, thanks to their formation, I've gotten some insights on the gravitational field. I just need a few more things and I'll be able to make one of my own.' Grey thought to himself.

The force field these people made was similar to the one he had been trying to comprehend, so it was really helpful staying in it for so long. As long as he focused on training now, he was certain that he would advance in his training soon enough.