

Affinity 851

Chapter 851 Sheer Dominance

The entire platform was covered with blue raging flames. From outside the platform, it looked like the fighters were standing in an inferno, and Grey was looking down on them like a god.

The only place that was covered by flames on the entire platform was where Alec was standing.

"A domain!" Alec exclaimed unconsciously.

He never expected that Grey had a domain. Without being told, he already knew this was not the effect of a special attack, rather, it was a true domain activated by someone on the platform, since he was safe, it meant it was Grey's doing.

He wasn't the only one who was stunned by the sudden appearance of the domain, the members of both Faction present were stunned as well. The only person who had a calm expression was the Elder who brought Grey to the Faction. The other Elders had a dumbstruck expression, they were already aware of Grey awakening his domain thanks to the three Elders present on the day Grey fought against that young lady and her group. But seeing it with their eyes was still shocking.

The middle-aged man from the Dawson Family stood up from where he was sitting, he couldn't help but let out a surprised sigh.

'What the hell is this kid made of?' He asked internally.

Grey's abilities were nothing short of overwhelming when placed in the midst of Overlord Plane Elementalists. To begin with, he has displayed four elements, and two of them were special types, then having the space element as well made him a difficult opponent to handle. Adding his insane physique, as well as his inscriptions to it, he was already miles ahead of the others on the same Plane.

Now, he not only has a technique that can improve his strength well above the Overlord Plane, but he has also awakened his domain as well. And from the looks of things, it was something even those First stage Sage Plane Elementalists would have difficulties handling. Using that in a battle against Peak Overlord Plane Elementalists is almost like a cheat.

The Elders from the Syphilis Faction stood up on their feet when they saw Grey use his domain. He hadn't even started attacking properly, but the fact that he had it already placed his opponents at a disadvantage.

"Are you sure he's in the Overlord Plane?" One of the Elders looked around and asked.

He just couldn't believe something like this was possible. Grey awakening his domain at such an early stage was a shocking discovery, not just to them, but to the entire Continent as well. There are people who awaken theirs in the Sage Plane, and they're already called geniuses. If those people were called geniuses, what was Grey then?

The discussions about Grey's domain continued, and so did the ongoing battle.

With the activation of Grey's domain, and using his Fusion State to the peak, his aura was unstoppable.

His figure flashed and he appeared in front of one of the young men from the Syphilis Faction. With a wave of his hand, a powerful stream of fire gushed out and sent him flying.

The young man tried to block the attack, but he was barely able to set up a defensive wall before he was sent into the air.

While he was mid-air, Grey's figure appeared close to him and he threw a punch in his direction.

The punch resounded out with a sonic boom.

Crash! Bang!

The young man's figure crashed straight through the platform and landed on the ground. He didn't fall from the platform, rather, the force created a hole on the platform that his figure passed through and crashed on the ground, ten meters away from the platform.

Everyone watching the battle froze in shock. Grey's last attack was vicious and very powerful. He didn't hold back when he attacked, and a platform that had kept its condition from the start of the battle was broken from just one attack.

Alec stood on the same spot, unsure of what to do. His mouth was wide open, and his eyes continued to twitch excessively.

'Since when has someone of this caliber ever appeared?' A question floated through his head.

The answer to the question was obvious, he had never heard of anyone who possessed such unimaginable powers. Grey wasn't only powerful when it came to elemental attacks, but he also seemed to have an outrageous physical strength. It was evident in the battle against Lydia, as well as his last attack.

While everyone was in a state of shock, Grey continued his attack.

He flew straight to one of the young ladies injured when he used his switch skill some time ago.

The group were all fighting against the heat from the domain of fire, and Grey was also simultaneously using the domain to attack them.

In a bid to fend off the attacks, they had no time to even help each other, much less fight against Grey or Alec.

Grey appeared in front of her and the domain seemed to contract, with that, the power of the fire level increased by a few times. The young lady screamed in sheer pain and tears started to drop from her eyes, unfortunately, they didn't even get out of her eyes before they dried off.

Grey threw a blow and the young lady was sent out of the platform, her appearance was one others wouldn't want to look at.

The remaining five members from the Syphilis Faction grouped together, they stared at Grey, terror-stricken.

Grey was single-handedly taking them apart, and he wasn't even being strategic about it, he was forcefully doing it. This was what it meant to be powerful. Even in the midst of multiple opponents, he could do whatever he wanted, eliminate or even kill whoever he wanted, and the rest couldn't stop him.

Alec stood on the side, presently, he was a bystander in the battle. The truth was that he was still finding it hard to believe there was actually someone like Grey.

How is it possible to train to this level? What was worse was that this wasn't Grey's full strength, he still hadn't displayed the mental attack he used against Lydia.

Chapter 852 A Genius Like None

Conor looked at Grey, shaking his head wryly. He didn't dare to say Grey was a genius on his level, while at the Peak of the Overlord Plane, two of him can't fight against the current Grey, much less fight against him alone.

Initially, he had felt Grey's strength mainly lay in his speed. Only after watching Grey go all-out did he understand that he had misunderstood everything all this while, Grey's strength was far more than what he could imagine.

'Can I defeat the present him?' He couldn't help but ask himself.

Thinking of the question, he didn't feel confident in being able to defeat Grey as things stand. One has to know that he has already broken through to the Sage Plane, and is a well-known genius among the youths.

If even someone like him couldn't beat Grey, it goes to show just how powerful Grey was at the moment.

The Elders from the Pymond Faction exchanged glances and the same thought flashed through their heads.

'We have to protect him at all costs!'

It was at this moment they realized something and their facial expressions changed drastically.

"Stupid brat! If he harms his core I'll personally kill him." An Elder said, infuriated at the thought of Grey damaging his core to get this powerful because of the battle.

The others looked at the Elder, and it was surprisingly the most quiet amongst those sent out. He had barely said anything since they left the Faction, but he was forced to speak just thinking of the harm that would most likely befall Grey after using this technique to increase his strength.

"The Syphilis Faction is to be blamed for this." Another Elder said.

The other Elders turned to look in the direction of the members of the Syphilis Faction, and their anger shot to its peak.

The Elders from the Syphilis Faction had also thought of this, they were already thinking of ways to eliminate Grey. Yes, it was forbidden, but it wasn't as if something like this hadn't happened before. It was even happening at the present time, so long as they were not caught, it was fine.

Grey's talent made him a threat to any Faction that's not on the good side of the Pyrmond Faction. It was natural for each Faction to compete against each other, but lately, the Pyrmond Faction had been getting the short end of the stick for some time now due to their decline.

They couldn't fight since it would cause a possible war between two Factions. War was not something they wanted.

"Haha, he's damaged his core. Even if they manage to win this, it wouldn't matter, we'll get it next time." An Elder from the Syphilis Faction chuckled and looked in the direction of the Elders from the Pyrmond Faction with a mocking smile.

She could sense the rage boiling in the eyes of the Elders from the Pyrmond Faction. She knew it had to do with Grey using a special ability to increase his strength, thereby damaging his core.

"Oh right, I forgot about that." A skinny Elder muttered while staring at Grey with dark eyes.

The others nodded to his words.

Back on the platform.

All five members were currently standing beside each other, trying to protect themselves from the inferno.

Grey's figure flashed and his appearance suddenly changed. When the audience looked at his appearance, they realized he wasn't the one standing there, instead, it was one of the members from the Syphilis Faction.

They looked at where the five were previously standing and Grey's figure was currently there.

The five also noticed this as well, and just as they were about to leave, they felt a terrifying weight on their bodies and they crashed into the ground.

"Stay." Grey's voice was low, but everyone on the platform, as well as outside the platform heard it clearly.

It was like the voice of a monarch, telling his subordinates not to move an inch.

The figures of the four members of the Syphilis Faction stopped and slammed into the ground, they weren't even able to get themselves to stand up.

They hastily used their elemental essence to create a defensive force field around them, to ensure the fire doesn't harm them in the same way it did to the young lady a few minutes ago.

As the bodies of the youths touched the ground, Grey sent out quick kicks, sending them flying.

Once their bodies left the area of his gravitational force field, they felt relieved and hastily tried to regain their bearings, unfortunately, Grey would never give them that chance.

He raised his hand into the sky and an orb made of four different colors appeared in his hand, the strength of the orb was something that once again took the Elders off their seats.

"What the hell is that?!" An Elder from the Syphilis Faction exclaimed.

"He merged his four elements into one attack. That... that..." The next Elder was short of words.

They've seen and heard of people boosting their attacks with a second element, but Grey's current attack was a complete merger. This wasn't using one element to boost the attack, rather, it was actually merging them into one.

The orb exploded out with a colorful but deadly light.

The four figures who were mid-air tried to block the attack, but they were sent crashing out of the platform. They slammed to the ground, and passed out.

The last member of the Syphilis Faction looked at everything with disbelief in his eyes. Grey just knocked out six out of seven people.

They were all at the Peak of the Overlord Plane, yet in the presence of Grey, they were like Origin Plane Elementalists. They couldn't even resist.

Grey's figure soon appeared in front of the young man. He wanted to speak, but no words came from his mouth.

With a loud scream, he tried to fight against Grey.

He would never give up without a battle.

"Foolish." Grey said and the domain contracted once again.

It gave the same result as when he did it against the young lady.

Chapter 853 Bittersweet Victory?

Grey stood on the platform, the young man's figure shooting out of the platform like a broken kite.

His state was no different from that of the young lady who Grey attacked the first time as well.

Alec still had his mouth wide open. He had already stopped using his special technique to boost his strength for some time now since it was pretty much useless.

Grey's abilities made it look like he had no issues with defeating the entire team there. Well, honestly, he didn't have an issue with doing that. He could easily defeat them all, Alec included, and this was Alec being sincere with his feelings. For the first time in his life, he was admitting defeat wholeheartedly, he didn't even want to fight against Grey, much less be his enemy.

Grey was still in his Fusion State. He realized that those from the Syphilis Faction were staring at him with a mocking smile and his mind quickly went into overdrive, it didn't take him long to figure out what they were all thinking. He has crippled himself.

'Why not go along with their thoughts?' He pondered.

His aura started to weaken, and before long, it went back to its previous Peak Overlord Plane state, however, they could all obviously see the considerable change in it.

"Haha, I told you, he has damaged his core." The Elder from the Syphilis Faction who spoke about this previously laughed when she saw this.

To them, this was a bigger victory compared to what they were supposed to get from the secret realm. Yes, the place would help them nurture more talent, however, there's no secret realm that could help them create a monster like Grey. As long as Grey didn't die, or foolishly ruined himself which he just did,

they knew there was no way he wouldn't be a force to be reckoned with in the future. But now, that danger was eliminated.

Alec was the first person to rush over to Grey, "Are you alright?"

Grey nodded, before taking slow steps back to his seat. Everyone could tell that he was exhausted.

Void couldn't help but roll his eyes when he saw Grey walking back in such a state. He knew for a fact that Grey was in a perfect condition, yet he was trying to make these people feel like the battle took a toll on him.

'Drama queen.' He said to Grey.

Grey almost tripped when Void said this. When Alec who was behind him saw this, he quickly went over to assist him.

Grey didn't reject it since it would make him seem a bit too proud.

'They think I ruined myself, I want to keep it that way. Even though they will eventually find out later in the future, I believe this would keep me from their view for now.' Grey explained to Void.

'Oh, now I see.' Void nodded in realization.

At first, he thought Grey was doing this to draw sympathy from the Elders in the Pyrmond Faction so he could be rewarded more, but now that he thought about it, he recalled hearing even the Elders from the Pyrmond Faction speaking of Grey damaging his core.

'Not bad. But try to milk them as well, they have some shiny things I want.' Void suggested.

Grey didn't bother to reply to Void's statement, he already knew Void was a shameless figure, so he wasn't surprised by his words.

When he got back to his seat, all the members of the Faction, including the Elders looked at him with a different expression. The youths looked at him with glowing eyes, all they had for him was respect. He was the one who single-handedly brought victory to the Faction.

After beating Lydia up, he was able to fight against seven opponents on his own. They weren't even adding Alec to the scenario since they've forgotten about him after he eliminated the first of the eight members from the Syphilis Faction.

Grey stole the entire show, and this battle was one they would speak of for years to come.

Conor looked at Grey, "You really overdid it, didn't you?"

"A little." Grey replied weakly.

"You shouldn't have gone this far." Conor said softly.

Grey's talent was shocking, it would be a shame if it ended here.

"I'll be fine, don't worry about it." Grey reassured him.

He didn't even bother to take a healing tonic since it was useless. Entering the Fusion State had already healed up all the injuries and exhaustion he was feeling from the start of the battle.

The middle-aged man from the Dawson Family stepped on the platform to announce the winner of the battle. The Pyrmond Faction won naturally, and they were given the right to the secret realm.

The Elders from the Syphilis Faction walked over to the side of the Pyrmond Faction.

"Congratulations, you produced a great seed this time." The Lady said with a smile.

The facial expressions of the Elders from the Pyrmond Faction didn't show the smile they would've worn after gaining this victory, instead, they looked a little downcast.

If Grey has truly damaged his core, then it was a terrible blow for them. Even the Faction Leader will feel devastated by the news.

The Elders from the Syphilis Faction laughed and left the place with a smile.

With the members of the Syphilis Faction gone, only those from the Pyrmond Faction were left, as well as the middle-aged man and Conor who were from the Dawson Family.

"We'll be taking our leave now." The middle-aged man from the Dawson Family said before disappearing.

"Goodbye." Conor waved at Grey and Alec before his figure disappeared as well.

Now, only those from the Pyrmond Faction were left in the place. The Elders still had a sour expression.

"Come with us." The Elder who brought Grey into the Faction held his hand and they disappeared.

The youths looked at each other with a lost expression, they could guess the reason the Elders took Grey with them.

Chapter 854 We All Have Secrets

In a separate space.

Grey and the Elders from the Pyrmond Faction were standing in the sky.

"Why did you do it?" The Elder who brought Grey into the Faction asked with a straight face.

"What?" Grey asked, trying to feign not knowing what they were talking about.

"You know what I'm talking about. You damaged your core, why did you do it? There was no use taking it to that extent." The Elder said.

"Oh, that... Well..." Grey was about to speak when an Elder tried to grab his hand.

He knew what the Elder wanted to do and instinctively let out all his defensive measures, the gravitational field included.

He used the space element to retreat before saying, "I'm fine."

The Elder who tried to grab his hand froze, for less than a second before looking at Grey in shock. He didn't expect such timely response from Grey, he only wanted to see the extent of Grey's injury.

What he found shocking was not only Grey's quick reaction, but the fact that it managed to stop him for that split second when he retreated. He was above an Elemental Venerable, and already an Elemental Sovereign, yet, Grey who was still an Overlord Plane Elementalist was able to stop him. Even if it was for a split second, it was still something that was deemed impossible.

"I mean no harm, I only want to check the extent of your injury." The Elder explained.

"Honestly, I'm fine. The only reason I pretended to be injured is to make them think that I'm not a threat." Grey didn't hide his intentions from the Elders and told them the truth.

Since he was part of the Faction, he had to show them his loyalty. Besides, he had been gaining a few things from the Faction lately, things he didn't want to stop now.

"So, you're saying you pretended to be injured?" The Elder who brought him to the Faction asked.

Grey nodded and used a hint of the Fusion State once again, this was the only way he could show them that he was fine. He didn't dare to let them touch him to inspect his condition. That would be deadly to him if they were to sense the orb in his body. Not just the orb, but his eight other elements as well.

The Elders froze when they saw Grey using signs of his special technique to increase his strength again. They calmed down when they realized Grey was fine, but then it hit them.

There was no technique for increasing strength that didn't have any repercussions. If Grey was fine after using his special technique, then it meant it must be top tier, even higher than the one they had in the Faction.

That was not the only thought in their heads, normally, after using a special technique to boost one's strength, it was suicidal to use it again within a short time. Grey used it to prove that he was fine, even if he didn't use it to the peak, he still used an ounce of it.

'Just what type of technique does he have?'

This was the thought going through the heads of most of the Elders.

"Nice move, you're smarter than most people your age." A voice interrupted the other Elders who were thinking about Grey's special technique.

It was none other than the voice of the man who brought Grey to the Faction. The other Elders realized they were thinking too much. Grey's technique was very tempting, but not as tempting as having Grey in their ranks.

Now they started to think of what Grey said. He tricked their enemies into thinking he was injured, this showed that he was very experienced and cool headed when making decisions.

"Haha, good kid, you tricked them into thinking you were wasted. Even though they will find out later in the future, it's still amazing. It would be nice to see their expressions when they do." The Elder who rarely spoke laughed out loud.

He was happy that Grey was not injured, the rest things didn't matter to him. If any of the Elders tried to even question Grey about his technique, he was one of the few who would attack them.

"You can go back." The Space Elementalist among the Elders sent Grey back.

With Grey gone, only the Elders were left in the separate space.

"What do you all think about the kid?" An Elder asked.

"I like him, he's smart." The Elder who rarely spoke said with a smile.

"We know nothing about him, do you think we can trust him?" The Elder who tried to touch Grey said.

"He told us his motive behind feigning his injury, this showed he placed a little trust in us." The Elder who brought Grey to the Faction said.

"Did you see how he retreated when I tried to touch him?" The Elder asked.

"We all have secrets Micah, don't worry too much about his." The Space Elementalist among the Elders said.

The others nodded, they all had secrets as well, so it was natural for a genius like Grey to have secrets, multiple secrets even. Even Alec has secrets as well, so it was not an issue to them. As long as Grey didn't show any signs of betraying them, then they were fine with him, whoever he was.

They left the separate space after speaking for a few more minutes. Grey and the others were speaking, he wasn't really saying much, just listening to them tell him thank you.

They stayed there for a few more minutes and the Elders gave each of them a healing tonic, and after taking it, they were taken back to the Faction. Two Elders were left behind to keep guard over the portal to the secret realm.

Grey and the others would be heading back to take their rewards for winning the competition.

To be honest, Grey was looking forward to the points he would be receiving from the Faction. He still had a lot of books to read on arrays.

Chapter 855 Meeting The Faction Leader

Pyrmond Faction.

Grey and the others returned a few hours later.

The Faction had already been informed of the result of the battle, so most of the members who were in the Faction were waiting outside for them to return.

When the spatial tunnel opened up and the figures of Grey and the Elders appeared, the youths in the crowd cheered loudly. They've known of how the Faction has lost each of the previous competitions in a row. In fact, it was almost common knowledge that they would always lose whenever they fought against the Syphilis Faction in this particular competition. The reason for it was because of the special technique they used in increasing their strength. Unlike the Pyrmond Faction, the members of the Syphilis Faction seemingly weren't scared of ruining their cores, which was a shocking thing.

The group was welcomed by all the youths, some Elders were also present, and they were all smiles since this was something they had been waiting for a long time.

Grey and Alec were the main stars of the show, with Grey being the main person who took all the spotlight. Most of the youths tried to speak with the Grey, but since he wasn't that social, he spoke with them a little before heading over to meet Keith.

He didn't stay long before he was summoned by the Faction Leader.

The entire group, as well as the Elders who went for the competition, went along as well. The Elders led the group to the largest mountain in the Faction, and they entered the Faction's Hall where the Faction Leader was waiting for them.

This was different from the first time Grey met the Faction Leader, at that time, they didn't meet in the Faction's Hall, rather, they were taken to a secret cave.

Grey looked at the man sitting on the middle seat in the Hall. Just like the first time, he wasn't emitting any aura, but Grey could sense an incredible aura around him.

"Well done." The man said in a calm voice, but everyone could see the joy on his face.

He looked at all the participants in the competition, without giving any of them any special attention.

The youths, as well as the Elders, greeted him before taking a seat.

"I'm proud of you all for not only participating in this competition but also bringing victory to the Faction. As promised, everyone will be rewarded with two thousand points, as well as the right to train in the secret realm. As you all know, the limit for this particular realm is the Sage Plane, this is why it's so valuable to us..." The man continued after everyone sat down.

Those in the Sage Plane could enter this realm, unlike most realms that don't accept people over the Overlord Plane.

He didn't speak about Grey or Alec's performance, instead, he praised everyone who participated in the competition. The other members were elated when they heard the rewards they would be getting. They all knew they didn't do anything, although they tried their best, they were defeated nonetheless, leaving only two people to fight against eight people. If not for Grey and Alec's abilities, the story would've been the same as the previous competitions.

After speaking with them, he told them to leave and accept their rewards. There would be a ceremony later that day to celebrate the victory of the group.

Also, a few people would be chosen to go into the secret realm as well. Grey had zero interest in the ceremony, all he wanted to do right now was to use his points and improve his knowledge.

When Grey was leaving, he received a secret message to stay behind from the Faction Leader. He already expected this in the first place, so he didn't rush out.

"Grey Dawson." The man called his full name.

"Yes, Faction Leader." Grey looked up to stare into the eyes of the man.

"Can I trust you?" The man straightforwardly asked him.

Grey paused for some time, not expecting a question like this. After some time, "You can."

The Faction Leader looked at Grey for some time before nodding, "You can leave. Also, for your good work, you can bring anyone you want with you to the secret realm."

Grey thanked the Faction Leader before leaving. He originally thought the Faction Leader would want to speak about other things, but after asking if he could trust him, he didn't say anything other than giving him extra rewards.

Going back to his place, he went over to Keith's place. By the time he left the Faction's Hall, the tales of Grey's performance has already started to spread across the Faction.

Grey already knew something like this would happen from the start, so he tried to hide from people while going back. It was very easy for people to recognize him, the reason for this was simple, there was no one as handsome as he was in the entire Faction.

He was very famous even before this event, now that the stories of his phenomenal performance started to spread, his fame in the Faction spread even more, especially among the ladies.

With a mask and a cloak, he was able to get to his place without much disturbance. He was only stopped when he first left the Faction's Hall, this was how he knew about what was happening in the Faction.

Keith's place.

"You're very famous now." Keith said with a chuckle when he saw Grey coming into his place.

He knew Grey was not social, so he found his present situation a little funny.

"I really wished it wasn't like this." Grey said with a wry smile as he kept his mask and cloak.

"You're powerful, what did you expect? It's just like that Alec guy, he's also very famous, even though he rarely stays in the Faction." Keith replied.

They continued speaking for some time before Grey asked him a question that stunned him.

"Would you like to enter the secret realm to train?" Grey asked.

"I can't afford to go." Keith replied with a shake of his head.

This wasn't the only secret realm the Pyrmond Faction owned. To enter the secret realm, either they won a competition that would be held, or they used their points for it.

To enter a secret realm cost a whopping eight hundred points. Although it was very difficult to accumulate such a large amount of points, as long as one wanted to enter, they would have to go out more for points.

The Faction made everything all about points for a single reason, if the members don't go out for missions, there was no way they would grow stronger.

Since they would always need points for things, they had to head out for missions, and these missions were things that would make them grow stronger. Of course, there have been a few members who had died on these missions, but it mainly has to do with their judgments. The level of every mission was stated there, so they all knew what to expect when going out for a particular mission. If any of them overestimated their abilities, then they didn't deserve to be geniuses.

Chapter 856 Celebratory Occasion

Later that day.

Grey's house.

Grey was sitting down, reading a book he just took from the Faction's Library on arrays. He didn't have time to waste, he still had to think of a way to remove the mark on his back.

He was still reading when he sensed someone coming into his place, before long, he heard a knock on his door. Dropping the book, he walked over to the door.

Opening it, he saw Alec standing outside with a smile.

"You're not going?" Alec asked when he saw Grey's state.

"Going where?" Grey asked with a confused expression.

"The ceremony the Faction Leader spoke of." Alec couldn't believe Grey had forgotten about the ceremony they spoke about earlier that day. It hadn't even been up to three hours yet, and Grey has forgotten about it.

"Ceremony..." Grey paused and tried to think, he soon recalled the Faction Leader speaking of a ceremony to celebrate the victory.

"Oh that, I completely forgot about it." He said with an awkward smile, he invited Alec into his place.

When Alec entered his place, he stood frozen stiff. He couldn't believe what he was seeing.

'Are there still any books left in the library?' His eyes twitched multiple times when he saw the amount of books on the side of Grey's chair.

Grey brought out all the books since he wanted them for reference. After the competition, his rank in the Faction increased. From rank two, he was currently a rank five member. He was the only member in rank five that was in the Overlord Plane. With his new rank, he went to higher ranks to acquire as many books on arrays as he could find.

When the young lady in charge of the library saw the number of books he was taking home, she couldn't help but take a double look at Grey's badge.

"Sorry about this." Grey said before keeping all the books in his storage ring.

He went inside to get dressed and came out with new clothings. He was currently wearing a white long sleeve shirt, and blue trousers. His hair was well combed, and he gave off an aura of fresh air.

When he came out, Alec couldn't help but click his tongue. He had to admit, Grey was not only stronger than he was, but he was also far more handsome. He had never seen anyone that was as handsome as Grey. Dressing up made Grey even more handsome.

They left Grey's place, and on the way, they met up with Keith who was with Void.

"You finally left your place?" Void mocked when he saw Grey.

After the journey, he couldn't believe that all Grey did was to collect books from the library, with more than half of his points. He didn't even get him anything shiny! He decided to hang out with Keith since Grey would be too busy reading the books he took from the library.

"The cat can talk?" Alec was a little taken aback.

He saw Void with Grey when he first met him, but he never thought Void could speak. He only concluded that Void was Grey's pet.

"Yes, and my name's Void." Void was the one who replied.

There was no use in hiding the fact that he could speak any more. It wasn't like it would change much if people knew he could.

"Oh, sorry. It's nice meeting you Void." Alec apologized for his manner of addressing Void.

"It's okay. Do you have any shiny objects?" Void asked, almost like a criminal who wanted to rob someone.

Grey almost facepalmed when he heard this and dragged Void by the tail before holding him in his hands.

"We should get going." He said to Alec and Keith.

Keith had already used the Void's ways since they had traveled together a few times when he was going out for missions. There was a time Void robbed people of all their shiny treasures. Luckily, he only robbed those who were bad people, well, those he deemed were bad people.

They got to the place where the ceremony was held and it was already filled up. When Grey and Alec made their appearance, they drew all the attention. Keith, who was walking with them, was barely noticed by anyone.

Grey's appearance dumbstruck most of the young ladies in the place. They almost couldn't take their eyes off him.

'Every single time, this is why I hate occasions.' Grey complained internally.

'In times like this, I miss Klaus.' He thought as they walked over to their seats.

"You're Grey." A young lady who was close to their seats asked.

Grey didn't need to check before knowing she was in the Sage Plane. The young lady should be around his age, if not younger with a year.

"Yes, you are?" Grey tried to be as courteous as possible.

"Eva." The young lady replied with a smile. She was genuinely curious about Grey.

The story of how he was able to get his strength above the Overlord Plane, and using a strength that could rival a Sage Plane Elementalist has gone around the Faction, so even the geniuses in the Sage Plane had taken note of Grey.

For someone who could show such strength against other geniuses, it meant that once he gets to the Sage Plane, he would show even greater strength.

Eva wasn't the only one who approached Grey, a few others, as well as some young men also came over to him. They all knew of Alec, so they didn't need to make any introductions with him.

They all spoke and enjoyed the ceremony until it was finally time for the Faction Leader to address them.

Grey didn't think the Faction Leader would take the time to come to such an occasion. But he not only came from the start, but he also wanted to address them.

When the Faction Leader stood up, everywhere became quiet, and everyone placed their attention on him.

Chapter 857 Unexpected Situation

"First of all, I'd like to thank everyone who participated in the sparring contest as well as those who participated in the competition and gave us the victory..." The Faction Leader spoke calmly, but his voice was audible for all to hear.

He addressed the issue of the importance of the secret realm since it was one of the few places that allowed those in the Sage Plane entry. Most secret realms had a limit of the Overlord Plane, so the geniuses above the Overlord Plane couldn't go in, but this particular one allowed those in the Sage Plane. This was why it was coveted by other Factions when the Pyrmont Faction started to decline.

The Syphilis Faction was the only one that managed to succeed. This is one of the reasons why they could produce more Sage Plane Elementalists faster than the Pyrmond Faction. Although the Aurora Faction was superior to these smaller realms, those realms were very beneficial to youths who were still growing.

In the case of Grey and the other geniuses, they would be able to grow at an even faster speed if they were sent to these special realms.

"Now that we've gained control over the secret realm once again, we'll be holding a competition for those who would want to enter for a training trip. The competition will start in two days. As a special reward for being victorious, each of the ten individuals who went for the competition are given free access to the domain." The Leader said.

None of the other youths felt envious of the privilege given to those who participated in the competition. They all tried to gain a spot, but they lost in the contest, so all they can do is place their hopes in the competition that will be taking place in two days.

The Leader spoke a little longer, encouraging those who wanted to take part in the competition. When he was done, he left the occasion. There was no use in him staying there any further.

Grey asked Alec if he could leave since the occasion was as good as finished.

"What do you mean? It just got to the fun part." Alec said with an excited smile.

"Fun part?" Grey raised a brow.

"Just watch." Alec nudged him to look ahead.

Grey looked forward and saw all the youths below the Elemental Venerable Plane stepping out.

"What's going on?" He asked curiously.

"There's always a special session after each ceremony hosted in the Faction. The strongest geniuses from each Plane would step out, well, more like each stage in said Plane. For instance, you see that guy over there?" Alec pointed at a young man who looked to be around twenty-five years old or so.

Grey followed his hands to a young man with blue spiky hair. He stood just over six feet tall and had a well-built body. He has a short beard and mustache.

"That's Kevin, he's the strongest individual in the Late stages of the Sage Plane. He's already been at the Peak for some time now, and it's said he will be breaking through very soon." Alec explained.

He started to point out the other geniuses regarded as the strongest in the Mid and Early stages of the Sage Plane.

Grey listened to his words carefully while taking note of the people he called. He tried to memorize their faces and names in case of future purposes.

Before Kevin started off the special session, he turned to look at Grey.

"I heard you've already awakened your domain. If it's not a problem, we all would like to see it." Kevin said in a booming voice.

Everyone turned to look at Grey. It was said that he used his domain during the competition, this was something that the other youths found shocking. Grey was still in the Overlord Plane, after all.

Kevin who was already at the Peak of the Sage Plane still hadn't awakened his domain. He couldn't say he was jealous of Grey, but deep down, he wished he had awakened his domain.

"Don't worry, he doesn't mean any trouble." Alec reassured Grey.

Grey nodded before standing up and walking over to the platform that had been raised on the ground.

When Grey got to the platform, he bowed to the geniuses on the Sage Plane as a form of respect. They were all his seniors, and although there were a few individuals he was older than, he didn't really care about it. To him, only the strong had the right to be above others. Since he was still weaker than they were, then he was their junior.

Eva, who was a year older than him, was among those on the platform.

"I'm Grey." He introduced himself before taking a deep breath.

His eyes glowed with pale blue light and the platform was covered with a blue inferno, however, there was a difference between this flame and the one he used previously, it gave off intense icy chills.

Those at the Early stages of the Sage Plane felt a cold chill run down their bodies and they quickly used their elemental essence to block the effects of the cold.

"Eh?" Grey let out a surprised exclamation.

He didn't expect the sudden change in the temperature of his flames.

Each of the Elders who were present when he used his domain in the competition stood up in shock. They exchanged glances and even the Faction Leader who was gone suddenly appeared.

Grey deactivated the domain quickly, a little shocked by what just happened.

He hurriedly sent his spiritual senses into his body and saw the pale blue flame inside him rotating slowly.

'Damn it! This thing couldn't pick a better time to react?' He couldn't help but complain, but he still wore the same casual expression.

Only those who were present at the competition found his domain strange. It had the same color as when he used it back then, but the effect was completely different, which was very abnormal.

Grey looked in the direction of the Elders and could also see the shock in their eyes. He almost wanted to facepalm, but he had to keep a straight face.

"Icy fire, you truly are special." Kevin praised.

Chapter 858 Extra Protection

"Thanks." Grey replied before stepping down from the platform.

Alec kept his eyes on Grey all through the time he was walking back to his seat.

"How is this possible?" The Faction Leader muttered while standing close to the Elders.

The Elders all had shocked faces as well, stunned by what they just witnessed. They all knew of Grey's domain, and the fact that it mainly gave off heat. They weren't new to seeing an icy fire, so it wasn't a surprise to them. However, if a Fire Elementalist has icy flames, there's no way they would be able to use flames that gave off heat. However, Grey seemed to be able to use both icy and regular heat flames which was something usually seen as impossible.

Grey's figure suddenly blinked and before Alec could even speak with him, he vanished.

He appeared in a secret cave in the Faction. Looking around, he had a sense of familiarity with the place. It was where they came to meet with the Faction Leader before heading for the competition.

"Kid, what's up with your body?" The Faction Leader asked the moment Grey placed his eyes on him.

Beside him were a few Elders, and all of them were present at the competition where Grey used his domain. These were the Elders the Faction Leader had complete trust in.

Grey looked at the Faction Leader for some time and kept quiet.

"You don't have to be afraid, I have no intention of harming you. Nonetheless, this is a very important matter. If others were to find out about this, then you would be in for a whole lot of trouble. I can't help you if you don't tell me how to." The Faction Leader told Grey his intentions.

Grey looked at him for some time and couldn't help but curse at the flame that was still in his body. The reason it reacted on its own was that Grey still hadn't completely absorbed it, and given the strength it had, it could react on its own sometimes.

These special flames tend to grow a certain type of consciousness when they get to a certain level.

Grey thought about the situation a little longer before finally telling them about what happened when he went out for a mission. He also told them of the part where he was chased by a necromancer. Not forgetting to mention the corpse that used icy flames and how the teleportation tunnel almost broke apart before it miraculously fixed itself and he was transported to an island where he acquired the icy flame.

The Elders, as well as the Faction Leader, were a little stunned by the story. A mixture of coincidences helped Grey obtain a very powerful treasure. The part they were more worried about was the bit with the necromancer.

For a necromancer to chase him that much meant two things, either he had something of theirs, or he was marked. The former had the highest possibility while the latter with the lowest chance, but it still couldn't be ruled out.

The Faction Leader thought about Grey's story and couldn't help but think of a certain person he found when Grey joined the Faction. If his guess was accurate, then the man was the one who helped Grey fix the broken spatial tunnel.

"Hmm, come." He stretched out his hand.

Grey froze for a few seconds, unsure of what to do.

"Don't worry, I won't pry more than what you allow." The Faction Leader reassured Grey, he could already tell that Grey had an issue with trusting people, and he didn't find it odd or bad. Anyone who

has been in the world for long knows not to trust people they're not familiar with. Even when you're familiar with a person, trusting them is also not something that is advised.

Grey nodded before approaching the Faction Leader. The reason he agreed to do this was simple, given the strength of the Faction Leader, he could easily hold him down and search his entire body, but he didn't, giving Grey the choice to allow it or not. This was something that was not common in such powerful people.

Grey's respect for the Faction Leader saw an increase because of this.

He gave him his hand and heard the Faction Leader's voice in his head, 'lead the way.'

Grey let his spiritual senses lead the way for the Faction Leader, taking him to only the place where the place was located. He was particularly happy since the flame was located in his head. If it were close to his core where the orb was also located, things would've been a little difficult for him.

The Faction Leader studied the flame for some time before withdrawing his spiritual senses from Grey's body. He didn't even try to check on other places in Grey's body. To be honest, he wasn't really interested in doing that.

"You're lucky it acted out now." The Faction Leader spoke when he opened his eyes.

"Oh, is there something wrong?" Grey asked.

"It's starting to gain consciousness. If it had reacted another time, you would've left it alone. Had it gained consciousness completely, you would've been in serious danger." The Faction Leader explained.

Grey sucked in a deep breath when he heard this. He couldn't believe that the flame he absorbed was on the verge of gaining consciousness. This was a very serious issue. He already had the orb in his body which had a very dominating personality, the chances of both of them starting a battle in his body would've been bad for him.

The orb would win, no doubt about that, but he might be injured since they would be contesting for his body.

"I'll subdue it so you can slowly absorb the rest of it. Only after you get to the Sage Plane will you be able to absorb the rest of it, so take your time." The Faction Leader made a few hand seals and an array appeared mid-air and sank into Grey's body.

"I know you're very adept in arrays, you can work on it as well so you can use the flames abilities at will." He added with a smile.

He had been keeping his eyes on Grey, when he found out Grey used more than half of his points in exchange for books on arrays, he couldn't help but shudder at the obsession of Grey and arrays. He took Grey for someone who always wanted to learn, hence he placed this array in his head as a means of letting him learn.

Grey bowed to thank the Faction Leader for his help.

"Wait." The Elder who brought Grey into the Faction stopped him before he could leave.

Grey turned to look at him.

"Take these, you'll need them when next you head out." The Elder threw over twenty talismans to Grey.

Each of the talismans gave off an aura that was superior to the one his Teacher gave him.

'These should be talismans with an Elemental Venerable power. This Elder should be above that Plane, right?' Grey thought internally.

"Thank you, Elder." Grey bowed and gladly accepted them before turning to leave.

He soon left the Elders and the Faction Leader alone.

Chapter 859 How's He So Lucky?

After leaving, Grey didn't see a need to head back to the ceremony, however, he couldn't leave like that as well.

'I hate these things.' He couldn't help but complain.

When he got back to the ceremony, the geniuses on the Sage Plane were still performing on the platform. He didn't say anything and sat down close to Alec who was still looking at him suspiciously. Alec sensible didn't speak of what happened nor did he ask why Grey suddenly disappeared. He noticed Grey wasn't the only one who disappeared, and that some of the Elders were gone as well.

'Hey, what happened?' Void asked when Grey came back.

He tried to follow them, but he was knocked back by the person who created the spatial tunnel that sucked Grey in.

Grey told Void about everything that occurred after he disappeared.

'Oh wow! The flame is gaining sentience? That's amazing!' Void exclaimed.

With a sentient flame, Grey would have another means of attacking, just like Alice's Seelie, the only difference is that this flame is completely different. If Grey could nurture it and ensure that he had full control over it, then it would be very beneficial to him.

'Yeah, the Faction Leader sealed it to ensure that it doesn't grow to the stage where it will cause me any harm before I can control it.' Grey said to Void as he watched the ongoing battles.

'That's nice of him.' Void commented.

They continued speaking and before they knew it, the geniuses on the Sage Plane were done displaying their moves, it was time for those in the Overlord Plane to show their skills.

Grey was forced to step out since he was currently considered invincible in the Overlord Plane. In fact, those in the Pymond Faction were almost on the verge of tears that the usual competition between all Factions and Families in the Region was still a few years away, had it been now that they had a genius such as Grey, then he would've completely dominated the entire Overlord Plane battles. With his domain, who would dare to go against him while still being in the Overlord Plane?

Grey didn't do too much though, after sparing with another Peak Overlord Plane Elementalist who didn't go for the competition, he returned to his seat. Everyone was impressed as they watched him battle.

It was natural, with his present fame in the Faction, he could barely do any wrongs. In fact, just walking alone seems like a good thing in the eyes of the youths. Unknown to Grey, he had grown a huge fanbase. And the fanbase didn't consist of only those weaker than him, even a few people in the Sage Plane were part of those who were his fans.

Grey left the occasion as soon as it ended. The Faction was pretty united, so even though he wasn't acquainted with most of the people, he didn't put on any airs whenever he was approached.

This made those around him even more impressed by him. Grey was approachable, his only issue is his lack of communication skills.

Time flew by slowly and it was already almost a month since Grey came back from winning the competition.

Most of those who went with him had already gone into the secret realm in search of an opportunity to break through, Grey on the other hand was still studying arrays. His love for arrays soon became well known across the entire Faction.

He had barely gone out for this past month, and the few times he went out was to attend an array class.

Void had been traveling with Keith all this while. He didn't know what to do with Void. Keith unfortunately couldn't enter the place now since he would need to go with Grey when entering. He still hadn't found a chance to break through to the Sage Plane and he felt like adventuring into the secret realm would be very beneficial for him.

Grey was currently sitting in his place, on his hand was his communication device. He was listening to the messages he had from his friends, while also sending them one as well.

By the time he was done speaking with them, he couldn't help but shake his head when.

'How is he so lucky?' He asked internally.

Klaus had broken through to the Sage Plane, not only that, but he also managed to awaken his domain as well.

Of all of them, Klaus was the one who had the lowest stage, but now, things were always different. He would get one lucky encounter after another that would make him advance at a speed that even Grey was envious of.

Alice and Reynolds were still on the Eighth stage, but Reynolds had nothing to worry about thanks to his Elemental Warrior which had gotten to the strength of a Sage Plane Elementalists. Alice's Seelie was in the Sage Plane to begin with, so she still had methods of dealing with Sage Plane opponents.

Grey had both Void and the talismans his Teacher gave to him. If he used his Fusion State, then he didn't have any problems with going against an Early stage Sage Plane Elementalist, well, one without a domain.

One thing that was worth mentioning is that Keith had broken through to the Sage Plane as well.

After sending some of the things he had learned about arrays to his Teacher for study, he decided it was finally time for him to head to the secret realm.

When Keith heard of this, he was excited beyond belief. He was currently out of points, and there was a mission that required him to enter the secret realm.

Void was also very excited since they would get to experience new things. This was a secret realm he had been trying to get into from the start, so it was a great opportunity for him now that Grey had decided they should head into the secret realm.

Grey walked to the teleportation array in the Faction, with Keith and Void in tow.

Chapter 860 Tremble At The Mention Of My Name

Grey appeared in a place he was slightly familiar with. It was where they came for the competition.

'I need to break through to the Sage Plane on this trip. The time for my revenge is getting closer. If my guess is accurate, that guy should've broken through to the Sage Plane a long time ago.' He thought internally.

There was just over a year before the competition, and he still hadn't broken through to the Sage Plane. If he were to stay at the Peak of the Overlord Plane as long as he stayed at the Peak of the Origin Plane, then things would be extremely difficult for him.

"Come on, let's get going." Grey walked forward, Keith following behind him.

Keith was a little nervous since unlike others who had to take part in a competition, he was going without doing that. According to what Grey told him, he could go with him. He didn't know how true it was, but he knew for a fact that Grey wasn't the type to lie to others, especially for something like this.

When they got to the portal to the secret realm, the Elder in charge looked at Grey, seeing Keith beside him, he didn't say anything other than telling them the time limit they would be spending there.

Since resources are not infinite, each person who enters the secret realm can only spend a limited time inside. There was also a limit to the number of people that could go into the secret realm. If the place was flooded with too many people, then it would disrupt the balance there.

Grey wasn't too bothered about the time limit. He wanted to stay till the time limit, besides, he couldn't stay in the Aurora Continent since he was still being chased by necromancers.

'Once I'm done with this trip and going for the competition for Sylvia, I'll start searching for my parents.' He concluded.

He planned to even head to the Dawson Family where Conor was from before even going over to meet up with Sylvia. Since it was in this Region, why wait till later. Besides, even if he finds out his parents were not from that Dawson Family, he would just take it as visiting a friend of his.

He also wanted to visit Kyle as well. Since they separated, he hadn't really heard from him, the few times he spoke with his friends, he only spoke with Klaus, Alice, and Reynolds.

He had a lot of plans, but those will only be possible after he comes out of this secret realm.

The Elder removed the seal from the portal and the duo walked into it.

When Grey and Keith's figure disappeared, a man appeared beside the Elder. It was none other than the man secretly protecting Grey.

"You know you can't go in, right?" The Elder looked at the man.

He was one of the few people who knew of this man's presence.

"I know, I'm just bored being alone for too long so I decided to speak with you for some time." The man said with a soft smile.

The Elder nodded and they both took their seats and started to speak about life and their journeys in cultivation. Sometimes, casual talks like this can help an Elementalist open a new realm they knew nothing about when it came to understanding their elements.

Once an Elementalist becomes an Elemental Venerable or higher, they rely mainly on their understanding of their elements to grow stronger. Battles mainly involved the use of domains, and a domain will not be powerful if the Elementalist didn't have sufficient knowledge of his elements.

In the secret realm.

Grey and Keith appeared together and some youths were there. They gave them all the information they needed on the place.

This realm had humanoid figures as well, just like the horned race, however, unlike humans and the horned race, this race was a little different. Their skin color varied from green to red, and brown. Basically, each individual's skin showed their elemental affinity.

From the start, they all knew what elements they were attuned to without having to have a test like humans. Those of the horned race had things a little different.

Grey summoned the triplet he captured from the horned race. They were still at the Peak of the Overlord Plane and this was a good opportunity for them to advance. After watching Void break through the last time, they gained some enlightenment, a few more things and they would be able to break through.

Grey handed the two-headed snake to Keith since it was already in the Sage Plane, it would be able to protect him in such a place.

"We should go our separate ways here. I wish you all the best on your journey. We'll meet in six months." Grey said to Keith, before leaving he turned around once again, "Also, take this, you can communicate with me with this. If you're in any trouble that guy can't deal with, just send a distress signal and I'll be able to find you."

He tossed a communication device at Keith. This one was special, compared to the others he had made, he can use this to track down Keith.

He also gave the triplets one each and told them it would be better for them to move out separately. But everything ultimately lied on their decision.

When he was done with everyone, he turned around and left decisively, Void sitting proudly on his shoulder.

"Hehe, finally, time for chaos." Void laughed playfully.

"We're only here to train, no one is causing any chaos." Grey said with an apathetic voice.

"You're no fun. However, I can already see the people here trembling at the mention of my name." Void said with a majestic voice.

"You're not going anywhere on your own, now sit tight, our journey starts now."

After saying this, Grey's figure flashed and he disappeared from the spot he was standing on.

Keith and the triplet exchanged glances. The triplet couldn't help but remember when Grey came to their world. They looked at this world, and pity flashed through their eyes.