

Affinity: Chaos #Chapter 91 - To Protect! - Read Affinity: Chaos Chapter 91 - To Protect!

Chapter 91 - To Protect!

"What's that?"

The cold-looking youth pointed at the silver symbol which was on the sky with horror.

After Grey killed the first youth, he had completely suppressed them. It was even harder for them to defend against the attacks which would sometimes fall from the sky unexpectedly. They were always confused about where the attack came from, it was only after some time passed did the youth notice the symbol.

'So that's how he killed him'

He thought as realization dawned on him.

He had been puzzled about how their friend died, now he knew the reason, it was because of that.

Being too engrossed in the battle, it was hard for something else to draw his attention as he knew any slip-up, and he'll end up like his dead friend.

At first, he thought it was some kind of special technique Grey was using to unleash the attacks, but now he knew it wasn't because of any special techniques, it was that odd silver-looking symbol that was attacking them. But what he couldn't figure out was how Grey did it.

'If he had such a trump card before the battle started, why did he allow himself to be beaten up before using it? From the looks of it, it seems like he could use it almost limitlessly'.

Every single brain cell in his head was trying to process what was happening, but he still couldn't figure it out.

As the battle went on for another minute or so, the situation of the duo entered a more dire state. If they continued battling, they will most likely end up dead within another five minutes.

They had to escape.

"There's no way we can defeat him, we have to escape and tell the others"

The youth said to his companion.

Although he said this, he still didn't turn to run away, it was like he was waiting for something.

'I'll wait till he's distracted with trying to kill Lucas, then I'll make a break for it'

The youth thought coldly.

He didn't care if his friend died, as long as he could escape with his life, then he's satisfied. They could call him whatever name they wanted, he didn't care, what matters is survival. If you can use your friend to bait the enemy who wants to kill you, so you can escape, why not?

"Go! I'll hold him back"

He looked at Lucas with eyes that said, 'I'll try to stop him, so you can escape, even if it means I'll die trying, what matters to me is your survival'

Hearing this, Lucas stared at his friend with mixed feelings, but he was touched by his act. Even Grey who was attacking them was touched by his loyalty.

"I'll make sure this Qilin empire monster pays for this. This is my promise to you! He will not leave this trial land alive!"

Lucas said before turning away to escape.

'We still don't know who will die here, hehehe'

"Hmph! Do you think you can escape? Anyone I've tagged dead will surely die"

Grey snorted coldly before sending an attack towards the escaping Lucas.

Lucas didn't even bother to turn around as he had already placed his hopes on his friend. Since his friend said he'll block their opponent so he can escape, there's no way he'll allow the attack to get to him.

"Stay here!"

Grey said as the rock he sent towards Lucas turned into a hand and grabbed him.

'This is my chance'

The cold-looking youth didn't delay, he immediately dashed towards the other direction at the fastest speed he could muster.

Lucas who was caught by Grey was surprised by what was happening, before he could realize anything, his friend was already escaping in the other direction.

"Bernard! How could you betray me?"

When Bernard heard this, he snickered before replying,

"This is for the good of the empire, I'm stronger than you, so naturally I should be the one to survive. And even if you escape, you might get killed by something else. But my chances of survival are higher. And you should know killing a monster like him is a must. Don't worry, your good deed will not go unnoticed, I'll make sure the empire knows of it, and your family will be celebrated for giving birth to a hero"

With these words, he disappeared into the forest.

Grey was just as dumbfounded as Lucas was. He actually didn't expect his attack to get to Lucas. He knew there was no way he could keep both of them here if they wanted to escape. Not only that, but he might be able to kill one, but the other will almost definitely escape. But if they decided to continue fighting, then he could kill them.

Had both of them turned their backs on him at the same time, then he could have killed them. But if one wanted to hold him back so the other could escape, then there was nothing he could do other than watch helplessly as the other escaped.

Looking at the despairing Lucas, he almost felt pity for him, well, almost.

"Don't worry, so long as I come across him, I'll kill him"

Grey tried to comfort Lucas.

'At least, maybe after hearing this, he will die with less hatred, who knows? It's none of my business anyway, it's just, seeing his friend betray him is kinda sad'.

With hatred deep in his eyes, Lucas died with his eyes opened. It was like he wanted to tell the world that he was betrayed.

"*Sigh* Life is so unfair, betrayers deserve death. Yet they are the people that tend to live longer"

Grey shook his head looking at the lifeless corpse on the ground.

Since entering the trial land for one month now, except for beasts, he hadn't killed any human. But today he killed two, and he was sure more will follow as time goes on.

"There can't be peace in the world, I have to grow stronger to ensure I can protect everyone and everything I hold dear to me"

He said with determination.

Initially, when he started his journey in cultivation, all he wanted to do was become strong just like those legends he read about, and be worshiped by all. But now, a new d.e.s.i.r.e had risen inside him, and it was stronger than the first one. He wanted to protect, he wanted to grow stronger so he could protect himself, his mother, his father, his friends, his master, everyone who was close to him, he wanted to protect them all.

Thinking of this, he suddenly realized why Claude determinedly faced off against the mercenaries to ensure Nina escaped, although he knew he couldn't defeat them, he still faced off against them to ensure he protected her.

"Will I ever find the one who would make me do something like that?"

'This will be the first step towards my new goal'

He slowly walked towards the dead crocodile.

Acquiring the water heart pulse will mean an increase in strength since he'll awaken his water element. He will not only awaken his water element, but his cultivation will also see a breakthrough with the awakening of the new

element. Only, he wasn't confident he would be able to reach the Origin Plane with it.

'Some people might have already broken through to the Origin Plane already, I can't fall behind'

After acquiring the heart, he left the other parts of the crocodile. He carefully placed the heart in his bag before heading further into the forest.

"*Sigh* What a waste of good materials"

Looking at the body he couldn't help but feel sad.

Inside his bag...

The vein-like lines on the egg had long disappeared, but there is still no sign of its hatching. It was like it didn't get enough blood from Grey.

"This place will be perfect"

Grey said as he looked at the cave ahead of him.

The cave was well hidden, and it will be difficult for anyone to accidentally come across it. After collecting the heart, it took him almost three hours before he was able to find a good place to head into seclusion. Seeing this place, he couldn't help but feel elated.

"Now all I have to do is set up some defensive and trap arrays around it to ensure my safety"

He nodded his head when this thought came to him.

He quickly started with the array as he couldn't wait for his upgrade anymore.

Four hours later... magic

"*Phew* That wasn't easy"

He breathed out heavily as he looked around to confirm he got all the spots right.

"Now it's time for my upgrade"

With a joyful expression, he entered the cave and made a wall that covered the entrance of it. For the next two weeks or so, he'll shut himself out from the world. His full focus will be on refining the water heart pulse and breaking through.

Chapter 92 - Don't Want To Beat Them

In a secluded building, a youth could be seen sitting in a meditative position with an orb in his hands which gave off an intense cold aura.

"Hmm"

The youth opened his eyes and looked towards his right.

Hearing the increased sounds of movements, he stood up from his sitting position and slowly walked towards the direction the sounds were coming from.

Reaching there, he saw a black leopard.

'From the aura it's giving off, it seems to be in the Ninth stage of the Arcane Plane. I should be able to deal with it, but I don't know if there are others around'.

The youth thought while looking at the creature as it took big strides around the building.

As if sensing the youth's gaze, the leopard looked in his direction. It looked at the youth and faced him. Both the youth and the leopard stared at each other for some time, each clearly wary of the other.

'I haven't battled a beast in the Ninth stage since I advanced'

The youth thought as a little glimpse of fighting intent surfaced in his heart. But after some thought, he decided against it.

'Although I'll like to test my current strength, doing it now isn't worth it. Besides, the beast doesn't seem like it wants to attack'

The youth looked on for some time before slowly backing off.

He knew turning his back against the beast might trigger its predatory instinct, and it might just probably lose what little reasoning it had.

The leopard didn't make any other movements and just stared at the departing human.

Just as the youth turned and was about to exit the building, he saw another leopard outside the building. This one was slightly weaker compared to the first one as it was in the Eighth stage, but it isn't far from a breakthrough.

'Had I gotten into a battle with the first one, I would have been in a difficult situation if this one joined the battle'

Unfortunately, things don't always go as planned. The leopard being a predatory type beast, had keen senses, so it was able to sense the arrival of the human.

Unlike the first one, this one charged straight at the youth.

'Damn! Couldn't it just pretend it didn't see me?'

The youth thought frustrated before sending out a water snake towards the leopard.

Bam!

The leopard was immediately sent flying.

"Stupid cat"

The youth said with a smirk.

'Wow! My attack power is insane. Normally, someone in the Ninth stage of the Arcane Plane can't easily send a beast in the Eighth stage flying so easily'

He didn't stay any longer and quickly left the place before the other leopard would recover from the attack, and the other would exit the building.

The youth soon disappeared from the area. This youth is Klaus who found a place for his seclusion two weeks ago.

'It has been two weeks now, I wonder how the others are doing'

Klaus thought while running in the forest.

In these two weeks, he had already broken through to the Ninth stage of the Arcane Plane. His speed could be said to be the fastest among everyone who entered the trial lands. In one month of entry, he has gone from the Sixth stage to the Ninth stage.

And it seems he isn't far from breaking through to the Origin Plane.

This was the second time his seclusion has been disrupted during these two weeks, he couldn't complain though since there is a high number of beasts present in the place.

'I should find a good spot to complete my refining, or even, I should at least break through to the Origin Plane before they disrupt my cultivation again'

Shaking his head, Klaus continued heading deeper.

'This place should be a go...'

He didn't finish his statement before he started hearing the sounds of fighting not too far away.

Going over to check it out, his jaw dropped. With stars almost shooting out of his eyes, he stared at the opened box at the side of the building.

'Essence stones and two of them seem to contain water essence. I will acquire it, no, I must acquire it'.

Klaus stared at the box greedily.

There were about seven fist-sized stones in the box. With two of them being blue, this was a sign of them being filled with water essence. One had earthen brown, which signified it was of the earth element, and the other three were orange. He couldn't see the last one clearly.

'I'll use the water essence stones, I'll give Alice the fire essence stones. Then Grey will get the earth essence stones, it's a pity there isn't a lightning essence stone, I would have given it to Rey'.

Klaus started thinking about how he'll divide the stones among himself and his friends. If the people fighting knew someone had already distributed the stones they were fighting over, they might cough out a mouthful of blood.

If Klaus could get this, then he could gain a bigger boost in his cultivation after breaking through to the Origin Plane, as they can only be used for cultivating when an Elementalist reaches the Origin Plane. Also, acquiring one is very difficult.

'Oh! Beauties'.

When he finally shifted his attention from the box to the fighters, he saw two beautiful faces.

'Stealing is great! But stealing from a beauty is even better!'

Klaus laughed inside.

From the aura of both ladies, one of them is just a bit away from breaking through to the Ninth stage, while the other seems like she just broke through. The fight was currently tied as none of them seems to be getting the upper hand.

From Klaus's love for ladies, one would expect he wouldn't steal what they were battling for. But, what would their beautiful faces give him? Nothing! What would the essence stones give him? Increase in strength. So you see what's more important.

Arranging his hair, Klaus sneakily swaggered towards the box. It's not like he couldn't defeat both ladies if they were to fight, but seeing how beautiful they were, he decided to only steal the stones.

Before long, he had already reached the spot the stones were. Opening his bag, he started picking them and placing them in his bag.

'Oh! Guess Rey is lucky after all'.

He thought when he saw the last stone in the box.

It had a silver color which showed it's of the lightning element.

After putting the last stone on his bag,

'Huh! That's strange, how come I don't hear fighting anymore'.

Turning around, Klaus was greeted by the furious gazes of both beauties.

He immediately raised his hands,

"It's not what you think"

He said to the ladies.

"Oh really, what does it look like then? You thief!"

The lady in the Eighth stage was the first to lash out words towards Klaus.

'If not for the fact that I don't want to beat up two pretty ladies, I wouldn't bother talking to them'

"Drop the stones and piss off!"

The girl in the Ninth stage said in a commanding tone.

'Anyone would be upset if what they were fighting for was being stolen. I'll just take it as they said nothing, I really don't want to beat them up'

With this in his mind, Klaus started walking in the other direction, with the mind of leaving the building.

But would the girls allow him?

Boom!

"Stay here you thief!"

The girl in the Eighth stage was the first to attack.

"If you know what's good for you, I'll advise you to let me go"

Klaus shook his head as he dodged the attack.

The other girl stood without making any movements, it seems like she was weighing her options. She didn't want to allow Klaus to leave with the stones, but from his aura, he seems stronger than she was. magic

"Hey, let's team-up. After taking the stones from him, we'll decide on what to do next"

The girl in the Ninth stage said toward her previous opponent.

"Okay"

The girl in the Eighth stage nodded.

When Klaus easily dodged her attack previously, she knew she was no match for him.

"Why do they never listen?"

Klaus prepared himself for battle.

'I really don't want to beat them up'

He thought.

Five minutes later...

Two bloodied girls were lying on the floor motionless, it was unknown whether they were dead or alive.

At first when the battle started, Klaus wanted to go easy on them. But then he realized something, these ladies wanted to kill him. After realizing this, he changed them from beauties, to enemies.

Just like Grey, Klaus hated it whenever someone directs a killing gaze towards him. If he notices this, then he'll try everything he can to kill the person. It's not that he was evil or anything, it's the rule of the world. And leaving someone who wants to kill you alive, is like leaving a sword hanging above your head.

'I should start my seclusion, the battles from now on will be harder than this was'

Klaus felt a little sense of urgency.

He knew some people must have already broken through to the Origin Plane, if he were to accidentally encounter one before his breakthrough, it will be bad for him.

'Alice should have broken through by now, I'm not really sure about Rey and Grey. But hopefully, the next time we meet, you all should have broken through to the Origin Plane'.

A smile appeared on his face when he thought of his friends. He missed them a lot, especially Rey.

Chapter 93 - Reynolds Plight

In the northern part of the trial land...

A youth could be seen moving at a fast speed towards a tower.

'This place should have something good'

The youth thought excitedly as he increased his speed.

This youth is undoubtedly Reynolds. After separating from the group, he had gone through different places and could be said to have gained some rewards since he had already broken through to the Ninth stage of the Arcane Plane not too long ago.

He had gotten into different battles during this time, but none of them got to the stage where both parties wanted the other dead. Now that he had ventured deeper into the trial land, the frequency of meeting others had increased dramatically compared to the first two weeks, where they barely met others.

Entering into the first floor of the tower, he found nothing.

"Well, this place is already ransacked"

Turning around, he headed towards the second floor.

"Still nothing"

He moved and went to the third floor.

Finding nothing there also, he faced the stairs to the fourth floor, and then the fifth. It was only on the eighth floor did he find something, and his eyes lit upon seeing it.

"An elemental weapon!"

He exclaimed before running towards it.

Picking up the old-looking spear, he carefully examined it.

"It looks broken, but not completely destroyed. It should still be able to be used for some time before it becomes useless"

"Sadly, it's a water elemental weapon. Guess I'll keep it for Klaus"

He searched for something he'll use to strap it to his back since it was too long to fit into his bag. The disadvantage of this though was that everyone would be able to see the weapon, and the greedy ones will attack him so they could acquire it. But there was nothing he could do, he couldn't hold the spear constantly since it will impede his movements. And even holding it was no different from this due to its length.

Searching the other floors, he didn't find anything good. He left the tower and headed for another one he saw while he was at the top of the tower.

On his way, he encountered a youth.

Seeing the spear on his back, the youth immediately attacked him.

'I know keeping this with me will attract trouble, but I can't leave it behind since I don't know if I can find another weapon, or even if Klaus could'

With this in his mind, he also attacked.

There were no greetings or words. Both parties engaged in a battle immediately.

After three minutes of fighting, Reynolds held the upper hand. Although not completely. There might still be a chance for his opponent to turn the tide, so the youth refused to stop the battle.

But after another two minutes, Reynolds started completely suppressing him. Without seeing any hope of being able to gain the upper hand, the youth escaped quickly.

Reynolds on the other hand abstained from chasing him. He knew having the spear was like setting a target on himself, it would be best if he didn't come across any more people as most of them are likely to attack him.

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Two hours later...

"F.u.c.k! This is bad"

A youth with a bloodied arm said as he looked at the people coming his way.

"How am I this unlucky? Those bastards from the Starlight Academy, I'll make them pay"

The youth said through gritted teeth.

This youth was Reynolds who was heading towards the second tower. He accidentally came across a group of people from when he was about to get into the second tower.

The spear on his back immediately attracted their attention, and they surrounded him and told him to give it to them, which he promptly refused. After struggling with the trio for some time, he was defeated. After they acquired the spear, they still didn't show any signs of retreating, but they also didn't show any signs of attacking.

But just as he was about to leave, he heard a youth saying he's from the Lunar Academy while pointing in his direction. The moment the others heard this statement, they immediately turned cold and once again started attacking. From this, he figured they were all from the Starlight Academy.

Although he had already broken through to the Ninth stage of the Arcane Plane, he didn't have any advantage since all his opponents were in the Ninth stage also. If he were to fight them one on one, or even, one on two, he was confident in his abilities. But fighting against three always difficult, too difficult even, especially for an Elementalist with a single element.

"Where do you think you're running to?"

One of the trios sneered while looking at him

"Hehehe, a worm from the Lunar Academy. Why don't you run your mouth anymore? Or, did the cat got your tongue?"

Another one said while laughing. magic

The others all burst into laughter when they heard this. They all felt a certain joy when they are beating up the people from the Lunar Academy. Due to the event where Blake charged over to their Academy and almost killed one of

their instructors, they all developed a strong hatred towards the Lunar Academy, Chris smacking one of their instructors to death, increased their hatred to a terrifying rate.

Now all they wanted to do was kill any Lunar Academy student they find in the trial. This group had already killed one student during the second week they were in the trial land. Presently, they were about to add another student to the list.

"Don't worry, you wouldn't even know how you died. I'll make it as painless as possible"

The last of the trio said softly.

Being the girl among the group, one expected her to be the kindest in the group. But don't be fooled by her soft voice, deep inside is a terrifyingly wicked monster. Even the two boys are scared of her.

She enjoys torturing her enemies to the brink of madness. The first student they killed was actually personally killed by her. They watched her torture him for over six hours, they could still hear his horrified voice when he was pleading for death. The torture was so intense that the youth only pleaded for death and nothing more, he wanted to die, but she didn't allow it.

Only after torturing the student to her fill did she finally kill him. Yet the death wasn't fast in any way. First, she gouged out his eyes, cut off his tongue, before finally dismembering him.

'I can't die here, I still have a lot to do'

Reynolds screamed in his heart.

He had tried battling them, but still to no avail. They were just too strong for only him to fight against, he tried everything he could, yet he still couldn't escape.

His bloodied hand is a result of his attempt to run which as you can see was futile.

'Starlight Academy, I'll personally destroy you if I survive this'

Reynolds thought hatefully.

He had always hated the Starlight Academy, but now, the hatred has increased by a hundred folds.

Death was in front of him, and he didn't know if he might be able to escape.

"I'll kill you people"

Reynolds spat hatefully.

"Haha, good. I'd like to see you try"

The girl giggled with her hands covering her mouth.

They once again started fighting with Reynolds getting hit most of the time. If not for his movement technique, he would have already been dead. The lightning element was known not just for its destructive power, but also for its insane speed.

This speed had allowed Reynolds to hold on for this long, but he was already starting to tire. Once again he tried to flee the trio but was soon caught due to his tiredness.

"These hateful bunch"

Reynolds was infuriated.

Currently, they had been chasing and attacking him for over five hours. It was like he was a game to them. He was already injured in multiple places, and the prolonged running and fighting were already starting to take their toll. Not to mention his injuries as well.

"Running is futile, you stand there humbly like the dog you are and stretch out your neck"

One of the boys said while grinning evilly.

They were now in a compound and there was no place for Reynolds to run to any longer.

Reynolds looked at them with madness visible in his eyes. His eyes had already turned bloodshot from the anger boiling inside him. But being unable to unleash that anger seemed to make matters worse.

He was grinding his teeth so hard that blood was already dripping from his mouth.

"Be careful boys, even a cornered rabbit will fight back"

The girl said laughing.

The others also burst into laughter. They knew she was only mocking Reynolds.

"Arghh"

Reynolds roared in madness.

"I'll kill you all"

He yelled out loud.

"Hehe, if you can survive, that is"

The boys said while laughing.

They once again resumed their attacks on him.

Chapter 94 - Reynolds Plight II

Bang!

Reynolds slammed into the wall heavily. Standing up, he vomited a mouthful of blood.

For the past three minutes, he had received injuries of different calibers. Some heavy, while others light. It was like they didn't want to kill him hence they were holding back.

His vision was already blurry from the blood which entered his eyes. Defending had gotten hard, evading was even harder.

'Will I really die under the hands of people from the Starlight Academy. I don't fear death, but I don't want to die at the hands of these people. Okay, I'm scared of death, I mean, who wants to die?'

Reynolds's mind was a mess.

But there was something he knew, he didn't want to die. Even though he might eventually die, but not now. He still hasn't married, hasn't had a kid. And he hasn't given his parents the good life he promised them.

Yes, he had a rare element and a great grade in it also. With this, his parents are living well, but that was on the premise that he is alive. If he dies here, they would go back to the way they lived previously, when eating twice a day was hard. Sometimes they couldn't eat a meal all day.

As a kid, he was very malnourished and had to ensure he also doesn't eat much because he didn't know if he would have anything to eat the next day.

But it all changed when he went for his test, the moment his element was discovered, and also the grade of it. Their lives changed, his mother didn't have to be mistreated at the place she worked just so she could earn enough for them to eat. His father could be said to be one of the unluckiest people alive.

On the first day he set out to become an adventurer, he was almost killed by a magical beast and had no option than to stop. With a grave injury, doing anything else was difficult.

Two years before his test, his family welcomed another child. At first, he felt upset at the thought of it, he even almost scolded his parents. They were already having trouble feeding, and they wanted to add another mouth to the fray.

In the end, he was the one who loved the little guy more. And the little guy could be said to be their lucky star since just after clocking two years, their entire life took a turn around. Coming from a poor family and having not just a rare element but also a high grade on it, was uncommon.

'Carl, your test will be coming in six years'

When he remembered his little brother, tears filled his already bloodshot eyes.

He couldn't fight back, standing on his two feet was even harder. He couldn't hear anything except the high-pitched buzzing sound which was ringing constantly in his ears.

He placed both hands on his ears, trying to at least make the annoying sound stop. But it didn't, he tried to speak, but no words came out.

With a 'thud' he fell on his knees. His legs couldn't support his body anymore, his consciousness was slowly fading away.

'Will I never see my friends again? Alice, Grey, Klaus. My family, Dad, Mom, Carl'.

His fading mind did all it could to ensure he didn't lose consciousness.

'No! This isn't the end. I won't die here'.

Giving himself motivation.

With sheer willpower, Reynolds straightened his back, raising his left leg, he planted it firmly on the ground. Using his hands as support, he stood up. Although staggering, he was up.

"Look boys, our prey still has some fight left in him"

The girl said with joy pointing at Reynolds.

The boys laughed when they saw the bloodied Reynolds struggling to stand still.

"Your willpower is strong. Kekeke, just how I like them"

The girl gave off a sinister laugh while l.i.c.k.i.n.g her lips.

"Stop being a p.u.s.s.y you fools. I won't do anything to him just yet. I just want to see how long he will be able to keep standing after falling"

The girl pouted before scolding the boys when she saw their scared expressions.

Seeing her delicate face when she pouted, the boys didn't even dare to admire her beauty, all they saw was an evil woman.

"Luckily, we are from the same Academy"

One of the boys said in a voice that only he and his partner will hear.

The other boy nodded agreeing to what he said. If they were to be enemies with someone like her, then they would rather commit suicide than face her.

Well, they wouldn't know she was like this until they met her anyway. But still, they were thankful she was one of them.

Reynolds who stood on the same spot currently couldn't discern his left from his right. There was only one thing going through his mind presently, that was, to live. As of now, nothing else mattered. He wanted to live, to fulfill his promise to his family, his friends.

He remembered what Klaus said before they separated.

'How can I die when the others are still alive? I can't make them feel the pain of losing a friend'.

All this was to rekindle the fighting spirit in him. If his fighting wasn't rekindled, then there was no way for him to have the strength to fight back.

A little spark resurfaced in him once again. Slowly, the spark turned into a fire that started burning brightly.

"I know I'm not the strongest, but the likes of you aren't enough to keep me down"

With this, he stood as straight as an arrow.

Staring dead in the eyes of his enemies, without any fear he started this round of battle this time. He didn't wait for them to attack before he retaliated, he attacked first.

'Lightning rain'

The technique he had not been able to utilize for a long time, was used.

This was one of the strongest attacks, and also the one with the widest range in the lightning element arsenal they knew of. And for the first time in his life, he used it.

The attack was flawless as it was able to take his enemies unaware. The girl who was more alert compared to the two boys was able to escape from the range of the attack after being hit three times.

'A chance'

A glint flashed through Reynolds's eyes when he noticed one of them had been hit with paralysis.

Swoosh!

The sound of something breaking the wind was heard. And before anyone could figure out what was happening, a lightning arrow had already pierced through the head of the boy. With that, his body fell lifelessly on the ground.

"One down, two to go"

Reynolds said coldly.

"*Sigh* This is why mother said to never play with your prey, especially one as dangerous as this. You never know when they will strike back"

The girl said with a sigh.

The other boy looked at her, but she still wore the same casual smile she had on her face all this time. It was like she didn't even notice one of their companions was dead.

"He's dead"

The boy couldn't help but say to her.

"And so? Don't worry, after I'm done with this prey, we'll get a new partner"

She said nonchalantly.

The boy alternated his gaze between the dead body of their companion and the smiling face of the girl. A thought told him to leave the place, but his rationality told him otherwise. The chances of the girl killing him if he tried to leave were quite high, and he was no match for her if they were to fight.

Seeing he couldn't blame the girl, he directed all his hatred to Reynolds.

"It's all because of you. You mutt, you killed him!"

With a roar, he charged at Reynolds and unleashed a sea of flames his way.

"Haha, didn't you want to kill me? I told you I will kill you all. His death is just the beginning, soon both of you will join him in hell"

Reynolds released a defensive technique that was able to easily deflect the sea of flames.

"I want you dead"

The girl also joined the fray. magic

"Strange, so do I"

Reynolds said icily.

Boom!

Attacks clashed against each other.

And the girl was pushed back for the first time since they started attacking Reynolds.

'Something's wrong'

She was able to quickly notice the difference in his strength.

"Don't attack him head-on, at the current state he's in, we can't take him down. Let's go on the defensive, he shouldn't be able to last long"

The girl said on seeing the boy was thinking of fighting Reynolds head-on.

Her deduction was actually spot on. Reynolds won't be able to keep this up for another three minutes. His boost from adrenaline will soon die down, and he will go back to his weak and defenseless state.

Three minutes later...

Thud!

Reynolds once again dropped to the ground on his knees breathing heavily.

He couldn't keep on, he was out of strength. Normally, with the boost he got, he should have been able to quickly kill them, but the girl was able to figure it out and told her partner they should go on the defensive.

After attacking for over one minute with no results, he wanted to flee. But the girl was also able to stop him from fleeing.

"Is this the end?"

A teardrop fell from his eyes.

The girl walked towards him smiling widely.

"Now, I will make you suffer"

She said every word slowly.

It was like she was afraid given Reynolds's condition, he wouldn't be able to hear her clearly if she spoke normally.

'No! It can't be'.

Reynolds refused to accept his current predicament.

Unwillingness rose in his heart once again.

"I refuse to accept this!"

RUMBLE!!

Chapter 95 - Unexpected Gift

"I refuse to accept this!"

RUMBLE!!

A rumbling sound came out from the sky, it was like the sky was angry.

Crack! Crack!

The sounds of lightning could be heard all around the place.

The girl who was making her way towards Reynolds stopped in her tracks and stared at the sky.

"What's happening?"

The boy asked in a surprised manner.

"Seems like it's about to rain"

"Could it be because of him?"

The boy asked pointing at Reynolds.

"You're even dumber than I thought, why would it rain because of him?"

She looked at the boy like he was a moron.

"Guess the rain wants to help you wash away your blood after I'm done with you"

She once again focused her attention on Reynolds.

But what she saw amazed her, Reynolds, was standing once again.

"Your willpower is terrifying"

She couldn't help but praise.

"I want to see just how long you can keep standing"

She waved her hand sending out a casual attack.

The attack hit Reynolds firmly, and he fell down once more.

Five minutes later...

Bam!

Reynolds hit the ground again.

In these five minutes, the girl had struck him over six times. But he always gets back on his feet. Stubbornness evident in his eyes, his body had already given up on him, but his mind keeps finding ways to make it move once again.

The sky was still rumbling, and the sounds of lightning got louder. But the assumed rain still hasn't started.

"How does he still have the energy to get up?"

He has been watching Reynolds fall, and stand up again for five minutes now. If he were the one in his position, he knew there was no way he would still be

up. He wouldn't even have lasted this long under the assault of three people. But Reynolds not only lasted, but he also killed one of his attackers.

The girl on the other hand is already starting to get frustrated. Although she enjoys torturing her opponents, she has started feeling somewhat uneasy seeing Reynolds getting up every single time.

"Stay down"

She yelled releasing a stronger attack.

Previously, she was just having fun hence the strength of the attacks was meager since she believed he wouldn't be able to take them even.

Drip!

A raindrop dropped on her shoulder, feeling the coldness from the water, she calmed down. Soon, the rain started pouring down.

'I guess the shock he's been giving me after standing up multiple times is starting to affect my mind'

She thought with a wry smile appearing on her face.

'It truly isn't because of him. Guess I was thinking too much'.

With this thought, he relaxed visibly.

Reynolds was on the ground, with the rain continuously hitting his face, he tried to raise his hands so he could cover his face with it, but it felt like something was placed in his hands which kept them stuck to the ground. Not just his hands, his entire body felt like it was being pressed to the ground by something heavy.

'I refuse to accept this'

He kept repeating this word in his head.

He didn't want to accept the fact that he was going to die, he couldn't accept it. There was still a lot he had to do, he can't fall here.

RUMBLE!

The sky thundered once again.

But none of them attached any attention to it. Had it been before the rain started falling, the boy might have still taken a peek, but now, he didn't care anymore. Besides, it wasn't the first time he was hearing the sounds of thunder anyway.

"What? You can't stand anym..."

Before the girl could finish her statement, she paused halfway. magic

The reason for that was because, just like before, Reynolds was standing up once more.

"Why won't you stay down?!"

Frustration was starting to eat her up.

She is the one beating him up, yet she was the one getting frustrated. Reynolds was just like a c.o.c.kroach, he just won't die. His tenacity was insane.

"Just kill him already"

The boy said from the side.

He was already getting tired of watching the same thing happening over and over again. Reynolds clearly can't fight back, yet, she still didn't want to kill him. What was the reason? Was it to satisfy her sadistic nature? Or was there another reason for it?

"Shut up!"

"I'll make sure you never stand again, how will you stand with a broken body?"

The girl laughed maniacally before aiming an attack towards Reynolds's leg.

This time, she was ruthless and didn't hold back. She wanted to break his leg. The fact that he had been standing up had already ruined the fun for her. Now all she wanted was to see him lying on the floor.

CRACK!

RUMBLE!

BOOM!

Just as her attack was about to hit Reynolds, lightning fell from the sky, its target, Reynolds.

The girl quickly retreated when she saw the lightning heading towards him.

"Hahaha, you see, even the heavens are angry with you. How will you rise from this?"

The girl laughed continuously.

Looking at the girl, the boy felt she wasn't stable mentally. At first, she was enjoying it whenever Reynolds stood up, but then, she started getting frustrated whenever he does.

'Is this coincidental?'

He felt suspicious about the whole event.

He remembered it was only after Reynolds roared did the clouds start gathering. But after the rain started, he thought it was just normal. But now, lightning suddenly fell and hit Reynolds. His thought process was still trying to comprehend what was going on.

'What's this? How come I don't feel hurt?'

Reynolds who was covered in lightning felt a strange sensation.

His consciousness had almost faded when he suddenly saw the lightning heading towards himself. Although he was already very weak and was probably at death's door, he still nearly shit his pants from fright.

Although he is attuned with the lightning element, he still hasn't reached the level where he can come in contact with real lightning and not get hurt from it. So, he was pretty scared.

Being completely covered by the lightning, none of the duos could see what was happening. They just felt the lightning will fry him, well, that was what was supposed to happen.

"Why is this taking longer than expected?"

The uneasiness the boy felt grew as time slowly ticked on.

When lightning strikes someone or a place, it doesn't usually take more than two seconds, but Reynolds has been covered in lightning for over thirty seconds now.

'I feel energized. Hmm, my body is absorbing the essence of the lightning'

Reynolds whose strength had already dwindled completely felt a surge of power flowing through his body.

His cultivation slowly started increasing. Within ten seconds, he had already reached the peak of the Arcane Plane. Just one more step and he'll cross over to the Origin Plane.

Unfortunately, after getting to the very peak, it stopped increasing, and the lightning slowly started fading.

Seeing that the lightning was beginning to fade, the duo looked closer with squinted eyes.

"Why do I see two figures?"

The boy rubbed his eyes again feeling the light was the cause of it.

Staring at it again, it was still the same thing, and the lightning was fading at a faster rate now as if it was being absorbed by something.

He remembered Reynolds was the only one who was covered by the lightning, but he could swear he was seeing another figure in there currently.

"Do you see it also?"

He asked the girl just to confirm he wasn't seeing double.

The girl didn't reply to his question as her full attention was on the light, she too, could also see a second figure in the light.

When the light finally died down, they saw the cause of the other figure. Reynolds was standing calmly with a smug smile on his face, by his side, was a man, made entirely of lightning.

"A summoner"

The boy exclaimed.

"How could this be? If you were a summoner, you wouldn't have waited this long before summoning..."

The girl froze mid-sentence and looked at the man made of lightning again.

Unlike the usual summons which is bigger, Reynolds's summon was the size of a man. And what was surprising was the fact that it had a bow, a quiver, and a sword.

"No! Impossible! It's... an elemental warrior!"

The boy shrieked in terror and immediately turned to flee.

Summons are divided into two, one is a normal summon just like the one Damian did at the tournament, while the other which is a grade higher and much stronger is the one Reynolds currently summoned. They are called Elemental Warriors.

Unlike normal summons which are mostly a stage above their summoners, the strength of an Elemental Warrior will see an increase after every leap in Plane. Meaning, for now, it's only a stage above Reynolds, but once Reynolds breaks through to the Origin Plane, it would go two stages ahead and so on.

They could be said to be the perfect warriors, only, the consumption is just as terrifying as their capabilities. Currently, Reynolds could only keep it for about three minutes. But that's enough to kill the duo.

"Don't run you fool, we can hold it back for some time"

The girl tried to stop the boy, but she was unfortunately too late.

Thang!

Swoosh!

The sound of a released string sounded out, followed by the sound of something breaking the wind.

The Elemental Warrior had released a lightning arrow towards the running boy. Just one arrow and it didn't follow up with another.

Bam!

The sound of something hitting the ground was heard coming from some distance away. The boy was dead, he didn't even make a sound before he died.

Reynolds s.u.c.k.e.d in a cold breath when he saw this.

"I don't know if I should thank you or not. Hehehe, because if not for you, I wouldn't have gotten this unexpected gift"

He laughed out in joy when he said this.

The girl suddenly felt regret for the first time.

'Why didn't I kill him when I had the chance?'

Despair washed over her, she knew she was no match for the Elemental Warrior since it was a Plane ahead of her. Had the boy stayed, they might have been able to fight for some time. Although they would still be defeated, it wouldn't have been this quick.

"Go to hell, you b*****"

Reynolds looked on as the warrior charged towards her.

One minute later...

"No...."

A shriek of terror was cut short.

The head of the girl was cut off by the warrior, with her mouth still wide open.

The warrior soon started to fade.

Reynolds heaved a sigh and looked around before walking to where the trio stood previously, he picked up the spear once again.

In the end, he still retained it...

Chapter 96 - Two Months

Reynolds strapped the spear to his back once more. Looking at the corpse of the duo, he quickly went through their bags but didn't find anything good. Seeing there was nothing else for him to do there, he soon disappeared into the trees.

Two minutes later...

A figure appeared at the scene of the battle.

'This should be the place'

The figure thought as she started walking closer for further inspection.

The figure was none other than Alice who was attracted here by the scream.

She was moving in the forest when it suddenly started raining. At first, she was surprised since for the one month they've been here, there haven't been any signs of rain. But she didn't attach too much importance to it since it was normal for it to rain anyway.

But surprisingly, after the lightning strike, the rain stopped instantly. This only added to the mystery she felt this place was, it was only after she heard the faint scream of the girl did she guess the rain was probably caused by someone. And from the direction of the shout, it was almost the same place the lightning struck.

She moved quite nimbly and delicately. With a beautiful face, she looked at the bloodied scene of the battle without many reactions. Even when she saw the beheaded girl, there weren't any changes in her facial expression.

"So she's been killed. Hmm, good. She was lucky to escape from my hands previously, guess her luck ran out. Huh! Where's the last one?"

After separating from the group, she ran into this girl and her crew. When they recognized she was a student from the Lunar Academy, they attacked her, but unfortunately for them, she was too strong for them to handle. At that time, the trio were all in the Eighth stage of the Arcane Plane, while she was in the Ninth stage

She was able to quickly suppress them, but unfortunately, they escaped.

Since the battle was already over and there was no one else present, she turned to leave the place. Initially, she came here to find out who caused the rain, but it seems like the person is looking long gone.

Only, just as she was about to leave, she stopped and looked to her left. She sensed someone was watching her from the shadows of the trees.

"Come out"

Alice said calmly.

She didn't have anything to fear, she had already broken through to the First stage of the Origin Plane. So even if she faced off against those in the Origin Plane also, she didn't think she would lose out.

The figure of a young man slowly came from behind one of the trees.

Looking closely, Alice thought he looked familiar and tried searching her memories from where she saw him before.

The young man was actually Jonas. Just like Alice, he was also attracted here by the girl's scream. On arriving here, he noticed someone else was here, so he hid behind a tree to observe what was going on. It was just that, he didn't think the girl would be able to sense his presence.

"You're from the Starlight Academy, right?"

Alice suddenly asked after some time.

After thinking closely, she was finally able to remember who the youth was. She didn't really know his name, but she remembered Grey had spoken of him once, and she also saw him during the competition when he fought against Reynolds.

"Yes. You're from the Lunar Academy"

Jonas didn't try to hide his identity since there was no use anyway.

He remembered seeing the girl at the competition, and she sat close to Grey. So he guessed they might be friends. He had actually forgotten Grey's name, it was only during the competition that he remembered it once again.

"Friends?"

Alice asked while pointing at the corpse of the headless girl as well as the one of the boy with a hole in his head.

She was still quite skeptical about where the last boy was because she remembered the trio always moved as a group. Not seeing the corpse here, she assumed he most likely escaped. Of the trio Reynolds killed, only the bodies of the girl and the first boy he killed were present at the scene of the battle. The other boy ran quite some distance away before he was put down by the Elemental Warrior. Since none of the two people present passed through that direction when coming, they didn't see the third body.

"I don't have friends"

Jonas replied coldly.

"I figured"

Alice nodded.

Although she had only seen him once which was during the time of the competition, she remembered after his battle with Reynolds, when he went back to his seat, the other students didn't have a welcoming attitude towards him, some even looked at him with scorn.

"Are you going to attack or not? If not, then I'll be on my way"

Jonas spoke calmly, there wasn't even an ounce of fear evident in his face.

With this question, the atmosphere suddenly tensed up.

After some time Alice spoke up.

"I'm quite surprised you didn't run the moment you noticed I've sensed your presence, given the relationship between our Academies"

"Hmph! Why would I run?"

Jonas snorted coldly before replying.

"Given the difference in strength, running the moment you saw me was the best option for you. You're still in the Eighth stage of the Arcane Plane, and I've already broken through to the First stage of the Origin Plane. Also, with

the feud between both Academies, we can be said to be enemies. I might even consider sparing you because of how quickly you ran away"

Alice replied with the same playful smile.

"Then why aren't you attacking? Or do you usually talk this much to people you want to kill?"

Jonas asked calmly.

"Of course not, I'm not that bored to start talking with people I want to kill"

Alice replied with a laugh.

"The reasons you're still alive is that I remembered hearing Grey say you were from the same city as himself, and also, when I saw the reception you got from your fellow students, I figured your life was quite miserable at the Starlight Academy. But the real reason was because you came from the same city as Grey, and he didn't say anything bad about you. Actually, he didn't say anything about you other than being from the same city"

Jonas didn't speak any further and just looked at her. Just as he turned to leave.

"Did you see who did this?"

Alice suddenly asked.

"No"

Jonas replied as he continued walking away.

'Hmm, I can sense a high amount of lightning element in the environment. Looks like the person who killed them is a lightning user'.

Alice thought while leaving the place.

"Oh! So here you are"

Alice gave a light laugh when she saw the corpse of the second boy.

Two weeks went by without much happening on the side of Grey, Klaus, Reynolds, and Alice. The three boys were still in seclusion trying to break

through to the next Plane or in Grey's case the next stage and awakening his fourth element. Alice had already broken through to the Origin Plane, so there was no use in going into seclusion for her. With her strength, she had few opponents among the people who entered. Only those beasts at the Origin Plane or higher could scare her here, but she hasn't gone that deep yet.

Klaus had unsurprisingly broken through to the First stage of the Origin Plane but still didn't exit seclusion as he wanted to increase his stage before coming out.

Another two weeks went by uneventful for the trio as they spent their time cultivating. They were already preparing to exit seclusion because they had already met their objectives.

Grey had broken through to the Ninth stage of the Arcane Plane and wasn't far from the peak. But that was not the biggest gain in his one month of seclusion. His biggest gain had to be the awakening of his water element, and also the increase in the grade of his wind element.

As it stands, his lightning element was blue grade, his earth element was purple grade, his water element was also purple grade, and lastly, his wind element was orange grade.

His strength has seen a great boost, although he hasn't broken through to the Origin Plane yet, he doesn't have a problem battling with someone at the First stage of the Origin Plane and winning given his current strength.

Reynolds had broken through to the First stage of the Origin Plane, while Klaus broke through to the Second stage.

From their cultivation, Klaus could be said to be the strongest. But Reynolds is the strongest among them, given his Elemental Warrior is now in the Third stage of the Origin Plane. magic

But if they said who had the highest attack power, then it would be Grey. The reason, elemental fusion.

When he was still in the Seventh stage of the Arcane Plane, and only had three elements with his wind element still being at the pink grade, he could already dish out an attack that didn't lose out against someone in the First stage of the Origin Plane. Now, among his four elements, one was blue, two were purple, while the last one was orange. The attack power currently will be

terrifying, Grey felt it might even exceed the attack power of someone in the Fourth stage.

One week after the trio exited seclusion, a light suddenly shot up at what looked to be around the middle of the trial land attracting the attention of everyone.

Chapter 97 - Origin Plane, Just So So

"Damn! All our hard work will be for nothing since this foolish light will attract everyone here"

An angry youth exclaimed in frustration.

"Hopefully it opens before the others get here. Otherwise, it would be hard for us to acquire it"

Another voice spoke calmly.

"Shit! We spent the past two months searching for this, we didn't even search for any good items to increase our strengths. If not for the abundant essence here, then we wouldn't have made any improvements"

A third voice said.

Five young men were currently standing in front of what looked like a sealed door that led underground. The light which shot upwards came from that door.

They were the group sent here to acquire the unknown treasure which would likely boost the strength of the hidden family.

Amongst the young men, there was one who had some resemblance to the middle-aged man at the study room.

'It's weird father attached such importance to this treasure. No one has seen it before, what if it isn't what they expected'.

The youth contemplated.

The fact that his father, grandfather, and even his ancestors all placed their hopes in something they haven't seen before surprised him. Although from the looks of the door, it might still be there. What if the treasure was taken by the people who stayed here previously, then what?

"As long as the treasure is still here, then no one will be able to take it from our hands even if they come here"

The youth said confidently.

He had the right to be this confident because even before coming here, he had already broken through to the Second stage of the Origin Plane. The two months he had spent here had seen him advanced to another stage. He was also a rare multi Elementalist wielding three elements respectively.

They are lightning, fire, and darkness element. Each of his elements was destructive on its own, now combined, they were a terrifying force. With one rare and another extremely rare element that has terrifyingly destructive powers, even if he faces off against someone in that Fifth stage, he wouldn't lose. But if the Elementalist is a Dual Elementalist, then his chances of winning are below forty percent.

He believed no one had reached the Fifth stage yet since it has only been two months hence he isn't worried.

"Okay"

The others nodded.

They all knew just how strong he was. Not just that, but they were all also in the Origin Plane. With two being in the First stage, and the other two being in the Second stage.

They could be said to be one of the strongest groups, if not the strongest, that is in this place amongst the youths who entered.

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"Uh! What's that?"

Grey looked at the light in the distance, intrigued.

"It's best I check it out"

Without further delay, he started moving in the direction of light.

Grey felt anything that could give off a light like that isn't something ordinary, also given how extraordinary this place was, he knew there was something good to be acquired there.

He came out of seclusion about a week ago and hasn't been able to find anything good. This place had been searched by so many people over the years that it was hard to find something good. Apart from those places which are trials and also that garden, he didn't think there was anything else worth finding. He had already decided to focus his time on cultivating and finding tough beasts to battle. magic

Unless they decide to head deeper into the place which they were advised not to because there have been sightings of beasts in the late stages of the Origin Plane, and also beasts in the Overlord Plane. So unless you're certain you could protect yourself, going there is equivalent to a death wish.

The place didn't seem close, and it might probably take him about a day or two to get there.

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'Hmm, the others will probably head there. I should also go, I wonder how much they've advanced'.

Since the first two weeks of entering this place, he hasn't seen his friends again. So the thought of teaming up again made him happy.

Reynolds and Alice were also heading in the direction of the light, with the former being a good distance away and the latter being closer.

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The next day...

The light still hadn't gone off yet, so a lot of people were still heading in the direction of it. Some who were closer to the place had already gotten to the place and just like the group who discovered the place, they were waiting for the light to die down, so they would enter the place.

'I should be able to reach before the end of today'

Grey looked at the light that was getting bigger compared to the first time he noticed it.

He had been rushing here since he noticed the light the previous day. Although he had encountered some beasts, he was able to easily finish them off. On the way, he had also met others who were also heading towards the light. But they all went their separate ways since there were no profits to be made if they fought.

"Hehehe, who knew we would cross paths again"

Turning around, he saw two people. One was a familiar face, and the other was an above-average-looking girl who had a nice figure.

"Oh! It's you"

Grey smiled when he saw the youth.

The youth was Bernard from the Azure empire. Grey never expected to meet him again, but he still remembered what he promised his friends.

"Given that I'm in a hurry, I wouldn't have spared a glance at you. But I promised your friend before I killed him that I would kill you anytime I see you"

He started walking towards Bernard.

"You overestimate yourself. Heh, you're still in the Arcane Plane and you dare to spout nonsense in front of me. I don't know if you're just stupid, or you're acting like one"

Bernard scoffed.

He had already broken through to the First stage of the Origin Plane after escaping from Grey the previous time. Now he was confident he would be able to defeat him.

"I'm in a hurry, so I can't entertain you for long, you've already lived past your expiry date, now it's time to die"

Grey didn't seem bothered even after noticing Bernard was in the Origin Plane.

"Kill him quickly. Others have already reached there by now"

The girl gave Grey an apathetic look.

"I know you're trying to find a way to delay me so you could create that mysterious symbol you did the last time. But sadly, you won't live that long"

Bernard attacked instantly not giving Grey any chances to inscribe.

"For the likes of you, I don't need it"

Grey felt it was beneath him to inscribe when facing off against a single opponent.

Since it took time and focus, he rarely used it against a single person. Actually, over the course of his previous battles, as long as his opponents are single individuals, the thought of using inscriptions hadn't crossed his mind. It was only when he was facing off against a group does it come to his mind.

Using one of the few wind techniques in combination with his lightning element, he moved at a fast speed. When he first came here, he still hid the fact that he had other elements. But he recently realized he only had to hide that fact from those who knew him, he could freely use a third element in the presence of others since there were Multi Elementalist.

Boom!

Bang!

Grey and Bernard exchanged moves for a minute with Grey easily deflecting most of his attacks. He didn't focus on attacking him, it was like he wasn't interested in the battle.

Bernard sent another attack towards Grey.

Using both his lightning and wind element, he easily evaded the attack and charged forward. But his target was surprisingly not Bernard, rather, it was the girl who accompanied him.

Swoosh!

Grey sent a wind blade towards Bernard to act as a deterrent, so he wouldn't stop him.

Bernard who was about to give chase stopped and defended himself.

"What are you doing?!"

The girl shrieked in fright.

Just like Grey, she was still in the Ninth stage of the Arcane Plane. But with the few exchanges she saw between Grey and Bernard, she knew she wasn't his match.

"Removing the ants"

A cold glint flashed through Grey's eyes as he went closer.

'This time, no one will escape'

Grey thought coldly.

Within two strikes, he had killed her. Due to fear, the girl couldn't even put up a defense.

Everything happened so fast that before Bernard could discern what was going on, the girl was dead. Five seconds ago he was still battling with Grey, now five seconds later, his partner was dead.

"You bastard! I'll kill you!"

Bernard's eyes turned bloodshot.

"Oh! Seems something was going on between you two. I'm usually not a heartless person, so I'll quickly send you on your way, so you can meet her again. Although, I'm not sure your friend will allow that"

Grey laughed lightly.

"I'll kill you! Ahh!"

Bernard roared like an animal and charged towards Grey.

"Okay, I'm done playing"

One minute later...

"Origin Plane, Heh! Just so so"

Grey said looking at the corpse of Bernard.

After saying this, he continued his journey towards where the light was coming from.

Chapter 98 - Darkness Element

"What do you think is behind the door?"

"How should I know? Just like you, this is my first time coming here, and it will be the last since there's no way we can get into the place after crossing twenty"

"The light still isn't showing any signs of dying down. It has already been two days already, a lot of the people has been attracted here by it"

"Why are you acting like you're the one who found this place? Weren't you still attracted here by it?"

"If more people comes, then the battle for the treasure will get harder"

Looking closely, one could see groups of different sizes conversing quietly. Most of the groups each contained three or four people. Some of them were already together when they followed the light here, others grouped up after getting here. But they were all discussing the same thing, the door, and what they would potentially find in it.

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"More people seem to be arriving, if the light doesn't die down sooner, acquiring the treasure would be harder than expected"

One of the youths from the group who discovered the door said worriedly.

"I never thought it would give off this light, and even for so long. This wasn't stated in the records else we would have been more careful"

Another one said.

The son of the middle-aged man looked around coldly, judging from the number of people present, he had already predicted things might get harder now. There was no way he could claim this place for himself since he couldn't fight everyone here. He had already seen some geniuses who were in the

Second stage of the Origin Plane already, and there were even six who are even at the same stage as himself.

If he were to battle them one on one, or one in two, he was confident in his abilities to defeat them. But given the current numbers present, he wasn't that powerful yet.

"No matter what, we'll still be the first to head inside"

He said with certainty.

They had already occupied the location closest to the door, and due to the cold aura they were giving off, none of the people dared to get close to them.

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"Seems like Grey isn't here yet, could it be he's not coming?"

Alice asked while searching the crowd if she could spot Grey.

Among the group of four, she was the first to get to the place since she was located closer to it. Reynolds was a few hours later than she was, but at that time, the number of people wasn't too much, so he was able to quickly locate her. Klaus came in the morning of the second day but was only able to locate them after staying for almost one hour.

After the three got together, they searched for Grey but weren't able to find him. Now the second day was almost up, and they didn't know if the light would still be up by the next day. They wouldn't want Grey to miss out on this if there happens to be something good inside.

"Maybe he's in seclusion, or probably on his way here"

Klaus speculated.

The thought of Grey being dead didn't even cross either of their minds because they believed there was no way for that to happen.

"Let's continue waiting, it's not as if the door has opened yet"

Reynolds said calmly.

The others nodded and took a sit by the side of a rock.

They each started telling the others of the experience during the time they were apart. Among the group, Reynolds' experience was the most heart-racing due to the fact that he almost died. When the others heard he was cleansed by lightning and also gained the ability of summoning, they felt happy for him.

When they also found out his summon wasn't an ordinary summon but an Elemental Warrior, they were shocked by his unexpected good fortune.

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'It's coming from there'

The sun had already gone down, but luckily, he was able to get here before the day ended. He estimated he would be able to see the source of the light in another five minutes.

After killing Bernard, he had rushed here as fast as he could. Facing no major obstacles on the way, his speed increased further.

Shortly after, Grey could be seen walking out from the mountains. He didn't attract any attention from others since he wasn't the only one arriving at this moment.

When he looked around, he estimated there were already at least one hundred people present here. He guessed more were still on their way here since the light was still in and like him, they weren't close to it. The fact that some were dead also didn't escape his thoughts, and others might also be in seclusion.

The place where the people are gathered was an open valley with huge rocks present in different places. But the most eye-catching thing in the valley was a huge black door that was embedded on a mountain that seemed to lead underground.

"So that's the source of the light"

Grey mumbled slowly as he studied the black door further.

The door was at least twenty meters wide, and looking at it from the ground level, the door had an average height of about ten meters, although its real

length was longer than that, but since the door was embedded on the mountain slope, the height was a mere ten meters.

'Looks like it will only open after the light dies down'

When he looked away from the door, he noticed there was a good distance between the first group who were close to the door than the other groups. He suspected there was a reason behind it.

At the other regions of the crowd, he noticed some groups had already gotten into disputes and from the looks of things, a fight might break out any moment.

Shifting his gaze from them, he looked around to see if he could find his friends, but unfortunately, he couldn't. The valley was quite spacious spanning over eight hundred meters. Being filled with huge rocks, it was likely that they were behind one of them.

'I'll wait till the door opens, there's no way I wouldn't see them then if they are here'

Being too lazy to search for them, he decided to wait till the door opens.

There was also the possibility of them not even being here, so his best choice of action was waiting till the door opened since if they were here, there was no way they wouldn't try to get in.

He went close to the tree and sat in a meditative state, he entered into what looked to be a semi-conscious state and started cultivating.

Just as he speculated, the group who got into a dispute started fighting, but the fight didn't last long as they were all reserving their energies for the battle that will likely take place once the door opens.

.....

Just as the sun was about to rise, the light slowly started dying down.

"Look, the light is starting to die down"

The group at the front were the first people to notice the changes in the light.

Moments later, others started noticing it as well. Some who were sorted stood up and looked at it closer to confirm they weren't seeing things.

"The light is fading"

"Does that mean the door is about to open?"

"Who knows? We'll only find out after it does"

The dying light sparked different conversations among the groups gathered here.

"Rey, let's head closer to see"

They weren't the only group going closer, everyone wanted to be the first to head into this strange place.

Even Grey stood from where he stood and walked closer as well.

"No one is allowed to come any closer, you can all enter after we head in" magic

Just as the groups were edging closer, the arrogant voice of the young man sounded out.

When everyone looked closer, they realized it was one of the young men from the group who were seated close to the door.

"It's them, I remember seeing them when I got here"

"Yeah, I guess they are likely the people who found this place"

"But that doesn't give him the right to be arrogant. We can head in when we want to"

"Oh! Why don't you try walking closer"

"I don't like entering strange doors first, so I'll leave this to the others"

What the young man said caused an uproar among the others. They all felt he was being too arrogant. Although they felt this way, most of them still stopped in their tracks.

None of them wanted to be the one who would step out and challenge him, besides, it wasn't like the door had opened anyway. And even if he was the first to go in, they would still be able to enter.

While they were all contemplating on the matter, one of the few people present who was in the Third stage of the Origin Plane walked out.

"Hmph! What gives you the right to enter before we do"

He said coldly.

He felt since he was in the same stage as the young man, he didn't have anything to fear. Besides, he was confident in his abilities.

He slowly walked closer to the group with a cold and conceited look on his face.

"I don't like repeating myself"

The young man's gaze went cold.

And against everyone's expectations, he attacked.

"Heh! Let's see if you have the capabilities to enter first"

The youth laughed coldly.

Seeing the attack the young man sent his way, he set up an ice wall in front of himself to block it. He didn't even take it seriously, but the next moment, his expression turned into one of horror as his Ice wall was instantly destroyed and the attack reached him without any obstructions.

"No...."

A heart wrenching scream resonated in the valley.

The others were still in the process of creating space for the battle. They too wanted to see what made him arrogant. But while they were still moving back, they froze because the scene which played out in front of them stunned them.

"Instant Kill"

A youth exclaimed in shock.

The young man killed his opponent instantly, and what is more shocking was the fact that they were on the same stage.

How quick the battle ended wasn't the most telling thing, but it was the attack the young man used that caused an even greater uproar.

'Darkness element'

Grey's gaze turned intent as he looked at the young man once again.

Chapter 99 - Just An Ordinary Looking Rock

"It's the darkness element"

Someone exclaimed in deep shock

This was the first time most of them present were seeing the darkness element, so their reactions are quite understandable. Just like the light element, the darkness element is also extremely rare. With a high destructive capability and supreme corrosion ability, it is regarded as one of the deadliest elements there is.

'How corrosive'

Grey thought as he stared at the corpse of the dead youth.

The youth's body had already started to decay, and it hasn't been up to two minutes since the attack killed him. Although had the youth not died under the attack, he would have been able to use his elements to stop it. The only way this particular trait of the darkness element can show forth is when battling an opponent a couple of stages weaker than you, or when the opponent is dead like in this case.

Now Grey knew why the young man was able to one-shot his opponent, firstly, the element of surprise, secondly the high corrosive ability of the darkness element. His opponent didn't know he was a Darkness Elementalist, so he never expected the attack would be able to make its way past his defense. Had it not been the darkness element, then even if the attack is stronger than his defense, it would've still been able to slow it down.

But the attack regained its speed after passing through the ice wall, being so close to it, there was nothing the youth could do other than stare in shock and

disbelief. He wasn't even able to completely show his disbelief before the attack reached him.

Grey couldn't deny the fact that the young man was strong, but come on, an instant kill? On an opponent at the same stage as you? It's almost unbelievable. This usually mostly happens when you sneak attack your opponent, or maybe your opponent is tired of living and just stands there with open arms waiting for death to take them away.

It's not a new thing for someone to completely overpower an opponent in the same stage, but instant killing is quite rare.

The young man looked at the others with his cold eyes.

"Anyone else?"

He had returned to his previous spot as if nothing happened.

The majority of the people gathered here were still dumbstruck by what happened, and also by the fact that the young man was a Darkness Elementalist. The others who had come out of their states of shock retreated a couple of steps backward. No one wanted to die, especially for a stupid reason as wanting to enter first.

Yes, who enters first gets the advantages when it came to acquiring what was inside. But they shouldn't also forget about the potential danger, one has to remember the one at the front will be the one who would have to clear them. magic

Seeing who the hand belonged to, he relaxed and brought his hands back to its usual position.

"I figured it was you"

A youth said without any emotions.

He couldn't help but feel surprised by Grey's high alertness. The part where Grey placed one of his hand on his back didn't escape him, and he knew if he was an enemy, he would most likely be attacked.

"Oh! It's you, how are you doing?"

Grey smiled while asking.

The youth was surprisingly Damian. Since the time Grey fought with him, he hadn't had any other interactions with him. Damian had already broken through to the First stage of the Origin Plane, so it seems he had also gotten some great rewards over these two months.

If Grey knew among his friends he was the only one who hasn't broken through to the Origin Plane yet, he would curse his bad luck, and the bunnies as well. Because if not for those bunnies, he would have already broken through from quite some time now.

"I'm okay. Are you looking for your friends?"

He remembered seeing Grey together with Alice, Reynolds, and Klaus most of the time. He had already seen the other three, and they were together, so when he saw Grey, he thought maybe they hadn't seen each other yet.

"Yes, did you see them by any chance?"

Grey inquired.

It would be great if he met up with the group before entering the place.

"Yes"

Damian pointed in the direction he saw the group last.

"Thank you, I'll go check it out"

Grey thanked him.

After telling Grey this, Damian walked in the other direction.

Grey guessed there was a reason for his withdrawn nature, but since they couldn't really be called friends, he didn't pry. Although he never expected Damian would approach him to tell him where his friends were, he was grateful to him for his help.

Following the direction Damian pointed him to, he soon got sight of Klaus. And he seemed to be talking about something interesting.

Shaking his head with a little laugh he caught up with them. By the time he got there, Klaus was speaking on how he battled a group of Fire Apes. Everyone

had already gotten over the initial surprise from the battle that took place moments ago, well, except for the dead youth's friend that is.

Since the light was in the process of dying down, they opted it was best not to provoke the Darkness Elementalist. Besides, it wasn't like he was hoarding the place to himself, he only said his group would be the first to enter.

Just as expected, when Grey saw he was the only one still in the Arcane Plane, the first thing that came to his mind was the garden. That was supposed to be what would've guaranteed him a quick breakthrough, but alas, he was chased by a group of bunnies.

'Damn bunnies'

Grey complained.

If not for the fear of destroying the garden, the thought of using elemental fusion crossed his mind. He was confident the attack would wipe out the bunnies, and also his potential loot. So he refrained from it, and when the bunnies started chasing him, he didn't have the time to do it since it required some time and focus.

Two hours later...

The sound of a door slowly opening sounded out.

The light which the door was giving off died down five minutes ago, but the door only opened five minutes after. Everyone was already looking at the door in anticipation, so when the door slowly started opening, they all felt a surge of expectation.

What would they acquire from this strange place?

Just as the first group was about to enter, something strange happened in the trail land.

"Look"

Someone pointed towards the west.

Hearing the shout, everyone looked in the direction she was pointing at, even the first group who was about to enter the place looked towards it curiously.

"Wait! There's more?"

The young man suddenly felt a tinge of frustration.

What annoyed him was the fact that the other light shot up right after this door opened. There was no way he would believe they weren't connected.

"So which one contains the treasure?"

One of the youths among their group asked the question running through their minds.

"Since this is the one we were directed to, then this is the one we'll be entering"

The young man said coldly.

He threw the thought of the other possible door to the back of his head. Since they were already here, what's the use of thinking of the other door?

And so, they went into the place. After they entered, more people started entering slowly. This was a new place to them, and there was also a good chance that it contained great treasures, and also great danger.

The moment Grey and his friends were about to head in, he suddenly froze and looked towards an ordinary-looking rock by the side of the door.

"Grey, what's up?"

"It's nothing, you guys head inside, I'll check something out first"

Grey waved for the others to carry on.

He had a weird feeling when he walked past that rock. It was like there was something there, and he didn't think his senses would be wrong.

'I don't know if it's anything good, it would be a shame if I wasted not just my time but theirs also'

Grey thought.

The thought of telling them to wait for him crossed his mind, but since he had doubts about the feeling, it was best to tell them to head in first since he'll go

in after studying the rock. Besides, what could possibly happen to him while studying an ordinary-looking rock?

He couldn't understand why he suddenly got this sensation from the rock which wasn't any different from the other rocks around.

Thinking of possibly finding something good, he waited for everyone to enter the place. A few moments later everyone had already walked inside, he slowly walked towards the rock.

Getting closer to the rock, he started scrutinizing it. After looking at it for some time and not finding any special, he placed his hand on it. Suddenly, he felt a strong s.u.c.k.i.n.g force from the rock. And before he could take back his hand, he was s.u.c.k.e.d into the rock.

And the valley once again regained its peace...

Chapter 100 - Great Earth Essence Liquid

"There's nothing here"

Someone exclaimed while looking at the vast expanse of whiteness in front of him.

"Where are the treasures?"

Another person asked in a stunned manner.

The people outside had all passed through the black door. After stepping through the door, they felt like they were transported to an entirely different location separate from the trial lands. It was a huge space and looking around, it seemed boundless. The atmosphere was heavy and dull, with mist filling the entire space.

For the majority of the people, this was the first time they were experiencing this after entering the trial land. Although they prepared themselves mentally before stepping through the door, it still left them somewhat panicky.

Looking below them, there was nothing to be seen. It was like they were all standing in the empty night sky, floating to be more precise because everything below them was pitch black nothingness. This further increased the agitation some of them were feeling towards the place.

"Where are we?"

One of the youths from the first group asked in a confused state.

"This seems to be a separate space entirely from where we came from"

The young man said while looking around curiously.

He was also curious about this place. They were supposed to find a treasure here, but now, there was nothing to be seen, at all.

Amongst the crowd, some weren't as agitated as the majority of the crowd were though. Klaus, Reynolds, and Alice were amongst the few.

"It's just like that palace we encountered during the first period we entered the trial land"

Klaus said to his friends.

They were relatively more relaxed compared to most of the people here. Not just them, there were also a few groups who didn't seem bothered by this, seemed like they had also experienced something like the palace also.

"Yeah, only, this place feels more complicated"

Reynolds nodded.

At least at the palace, they could still see some things, this place, on the other hand, had nothing. There were no buildings, no nothing. It was like they were transported to an empire of nothingness.

Everyone felt like they had entered into an illusory space, the idea of moving forward didn't come across their minds. Under such situations, it would render one aimless even if they had the will to seek for treasures.

Boom!

"It's a stone slab!"

Someone yelled out.

A fiery red light shone off the slab. The people all squinted their eyes while staring at the stone slab.

This stone slab is most likely connected to the treasure here, so everyone held great curiosity towards it.

After some seconds, the light slowly started fading.

"Look, there are words on the stone slab"

Someone exclaimed after the lights slowly started dying down.

As the light continuously died down, more people started noticing the rows of words written on the stone slab.

When the light died down completely, the words on the surface of the stone slab showed themselves completely.

"This Old One isn't able to come to fruition in the end, this Old One's life affinity with Fire is left behind along with this Old One's legacy. When all is said and done, there are still fifty-four difficulties. This place has fifty-four ancient paths. Each path is full of danger, however, this Old One has hidden the treasure of my lifetime in the fifty-four ancient paths. Once you enter this place, you have to go through trials before obtaining the treasure left by me. And at the end of the ancient paths, there will be nine drops of Great Earth Essence Liquid left by me. Anyone with great luck will be able to obtain it"

Every golden word in the slab was strong and powerful, giving one an incomparable heavy feeling. magic

When everyone saw the four huge words 'Great Earth Essence Liquid', their breathing began to turn heavy, and their eyes began to blaze with d.e.s.i.r.e.

They all wanted to acquire it.

"Gods! A Great Earth Essence Liquid, and nine drops. With this, we'll be able to rise to the peak. Hahaha"

The young man exclaimed in excitement.

He wasn't even bothered with the legacy which was here, what mattered more was the Great Earth Essence Liquid. This was something none of them dreamed of finding here.

It was generally known that the grade of everyone's elemental affinity was fixed. Once you're tested and your grade is pink, orange, purple, or blue, it

would stay that way till the Elementalist died. But according to legends, there were extremely rare treasures that could increase the grade of one's elemental grade, and this was one of them.

One has to know, except for Grey's special ability, no one else could increase their grade. But with this liquid, they would be able to increase it.

With this, those with Blue grades would be able to reach the fabled violet grade of legends. In the history of the Azure continent, there have only been three people who had that grade, two went on to be peerless Elementalist before they died, and the last one was killed at a young age. The reason was that at the time he was tested, the Azure continent had already been divided into four empires. The youth was from the Stellar empire.

'If I could acquire it and possibly increase my darkness element to the violet grade, then within ten years, no, five years even, I would have no equals'

The young man thought excitedly.

Since there were nine here, there was no way he would not be able to consume at least one. Given his extraordinary abilities, the family might even decide to give him three, so his strength would increase at an unrivaled speed.

His eyes had nearly turned bloodshot. Not just him, everyone here was all thinking about the same thing, they had to acquire it, greed was starting to consume their minds.

Even the youths he came with were starting to have other thoughts.

Now, the thought of not taking it back was starting to creep into their minds, they were not from the family anyway. All they had to do was go into hiding, and in the next ten years or so, they would be able to look at the family in disdain.

The young man looked at his group coldly. Sensing his gaze, they tried to hide their greed.

"You better keep your heads straight, or you'll lose them"

He said coldly.

A chill ran down their spines. Keeping their thoughts straight, they nodded. They were trained by the family anyway, and without the family, they wouldn't have been here.

"There's still no signs of Grey. Don't tell me he's going to miss this treasure"

Klaus said looking around.

They had been here for some time now, but Grey still hasn't appeared. Had the door still been visible, he would have gone back out and searched for him.

Fifty-four ancient paths suddenly appeared out of nowhere.

Now, they were all thinking of which path to choose. According to the words, there were treasures and dangers in each path. Some are more fruitful, and others were more dangerous. Also, one of the paths held the legacy the man spoke about.

"Which path would we take now?"

Some asked looking at the ancient paths.

"Just pick randomly"

Another one said.

"*Sigh* There's nothing we can do about it now. Let's each choose a separate path"

Alice sighed before suggesting.

Since Grey wasn't here, they couldn't stay here and wait when others had already started picking different paths and entering.

Klaus and Reynolds nodded before each choosing a path.

Soon, everyone had picked a path and entered.

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Back at the valley...

"This is the place"

A youth said calmly.

Looking closer, the door was about to shut close. The youth quickly dashed towards the door and passed through before it closed shut.

Entering the space, everyone had already picked a path, the youth read the words before randomly choosing a path and entering.

Had Grey or his friends been here, they would have been able to recognize the youth. It was none other than Jonas.

After Jonas vanished, the stone slab and the ancient paths disappeared as well. It only showed how lucky Jonas was, had he come moments later, he would have missed this opportunity.