

Affinity 961

Chapter 961 The Nether Faction

961 The Nether Faction

Grey listened attentively, this was the first time he was hearing anything about the God Plane since he started cultivating. He had read some things about it, but there wasn't much in the books.

"If this place has such opportunities, why is it only in the hands of your Family or that Faction? If I'm correct, given its value, it should be a place where geniuses from other Factions and Families get to enter and train." He said after some time.

He didn't want to speak of the God Plane for now because there was nothing to be said. As much as he would want to learn about it, it's still too far away from him.

"In older times, it was, but there was a conflict and it fell into my Family's hands. Of course we still have to let some geniuses from other Families and Factions enter, but their quotas are quite low. The same can be said for the Nether Faction, but they reduced the quota compared to when it was in our control." Sylvia explained.

"Can't the other Factions and Families just decide to get it back for your Family? After all, it's more beneficial that way." Grey didn't see the sense in leaving such a valuable Holy Land for cultivation in the hands of people who didn't want to help others with it. Yes, he felt it was a Holy Land for cultivation if what Sylvia said was true.

"That place is a double-edged sword, having it means that you have to not only fight against those from other races, but you have to make sure the survival of those geniuses from other Factions and Families is also high. Even though everyone knows the survival of an individual rests solely in the hands of said individual, some Families and Factions might use that as an excuse to find fault with the guardians. The more people who go in, the more dangerous it is. But if too few people go in, then it would be dangerous for them against those from that race."

"And each Family and Faction have its Holy Land for cultivation, so even if this place was enticing, it wasn't to the level of going to war with a powerful opponent. Although no one is afraid of the Nether Faction, it was better not to offend them." Sylvia explained carefully to Grey.

"Is there anything worth taking note of when I go there?" Grey asked.

"You'll know after we get the right to the place. But for now, this is all I can tell you." Sylvia replied.

Grey nodded before asking about the other participants, as well as the geniuses he would have to fight against from the Nether Faction.

Sylvia did her best to tell him all he needed to know. After hearing about them, Grey asked about a particular person. From the way Grey was able to describe this person, Sylvia was left astonished.

"Have you seen him before?" She couldn't help but ask.

"Yeah, once." Grey didn't hide it and told her of when he was attacked by a certain young man after they parted ways.

"The audacity." Sylvia was incensed when she heard this.

"To be honest, he's the reason I came for this competition." Grey said after Sylvia calmed down.

Sylvia's expression was a little strange, she didn't know if she should be happy that Grey was attacked or not. She had high hopes for Grey and wanted him to take part in the competition, but finding out that he only decided to come after being attacked was out of her expectations.

She soon threw the thought of how Grey came here to the back of her mind. Since Grey was here, that was all that mattered.

From Grey's last battle, she was still a little pessimistic, but after thinking about it, she knew that Grey didn't show his full strength. There was no way he was going to struggle against an opponent who was only two stages or so above him. She had seen him fighting while at the Peak of the Origin Plane and knew at least to some extent, what he was capable of.

After growing by so much, it was not odd if he was even stronger than what she expected. He already passed the level she thought he would be in, that was already one surprise.

They spoke a while longer before she left. She couldn't spend too much time with him, he wasn't the only one she brought over. Of the five external people, two of the people she brought got in. It was quite a remarkable feat. This showed that she had a good eye for talent.

She spoke with the young lady before leaving the courtyard they were staying in.

Grey, just like when he first came, went inside to study. He didn't bother to cultivate since he knew he wouldn't make any improvements in the short time. He focused his attention on comprehending the elements and also testing out his knowledge of arrays.

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Time went by in a flash and it was soon time for them to head off to the place where the competition was going to be held.

"Remember, you're not to say a word. You will all follow Scott's command, he'll tell you all how you will head into battle..." The Elder who came to the courtyard where Grey and the others were staying gave them a series of orders as they walked.

He didn't even bother about what they felt since he didn't think much of them. He also looked at Grey and the young lady in the group with cold eyes.

Seeing his gaze, Grey didn't even bother to think of the reason why this Elder had an issue with him. Once he was done with the battle, he would get into the secret realm and train. That was all that was important to him.

The young lady on the other hand was a little frightened by the gaze and moved closer to Grey and whispered, "Did you see how he looked at us?"

"Huh? Oh, I wasn't paying attention." Grey looked at her with a blank look, stunning her.

She didn't think that he wouldn't be paying attention to what the Elder was saying.

Chapter 962 The Nether Faction II

The young lady tried communicating with Grey as they walked, she felt since they were brought over by the same person, it was best if they formed a team or something. Grey entertained her conversation, but he didn't really input much as they walked to an open field in the Burchard Manor.

When they got there, they saw a group of youths around their age. All of them were in the Sage Plane.

'The age limit is twenty-five.' Grey thought as he looked at the youths in front of him.

In total, there were fifteen youths, and of them, there were two who were already at the Peak of the Sage Plane.

To get to the Peak of the Sage Plane before hitting twenty-five was an amazing thing. Grey felt he wouldn't need that long to do it since he was already in the Fifth stage, but he couldn't be compared to others.

Normally, it would take at least four to ten years to go through the entire Sage Plane. But for people like Grey and some other special people, it wouldn't even take more than two years. There are some who even go through the entire Plane in as little as a year.

Sylvia nodded at Grey and the young lady. She felt a little relieved seeing that the two of them were talking to each other.

The group walked over and the Elder introduced them to their leader, Scott.

He was one of the youths who were at the Peak of the Sage Plane. He had a short beard and narrow eyes which almost seemed like they were shut. His hair was around Grey's hair length, with brown eyes.

Scott looked at the group of youths walking in their direction. Seeing that there was someone amongst the externals who was below the Late stages of the Sage Plane, he couldn't help but raise his brow.

"Fifth Elder, why would someone below the Late stages be with the group?" He asked.

His tone was one of arrogance, but he was genuinely curious about the matter. Normally, they would go for a genius who was around the Late stages or even the Peak of the Sage Plane, however, there was someone in the Fifth stage of the Sage Plane in the group, and it was quite surprising.

"He was brought here by your sister, you can ask her about it." The Fifth Elder replied, clearly not happy with Grey's being able to join in.

Scott turned to look at Sylvia.

"Do you want a beating?" Sylvia asked with a snicker when she saw Scott giving her an inquisitive look.

Scott withdrew his head like a turtle and didn't ask about it any longer. He knew his sister's personality. Also, from what he knew, there was no way his sister would do something that would bring shame to the Family.

Although he didn't chase the matter any longer, it didn't stop the others from looking at Grey.

Having the lowest stage, Grey knew he would attract a lot of attention, so seeing how they were all studying him, he couldn't help but feel a headache. If even the people he was going with were already looking down on him, then what would happen when he gets to the place of the competition?

'Hehe, she's fiery.' Void laughed when he saw how Sylvia handled Scott.

'I wonder how much she bullies him.' Grey could help but say. From how fast Scott retracted his head when Sylvia asked the question showed how much he feared her.

The entourage waited a little longer, and five more people appeared. A middle-aged man who had the same appearance as Scott alongside two old men and old women.

"Let's go."

As soon as he arrived, he said, before casually waving his hand. Grey felt a powerful suction force coming his way, and before he knew it, his vision went blank.

Time slowly went by, and Grey didn't know how long it took before he saw light again. He noticed they were standing in another place at the moment, looking around, he realized they were standing at the top of a mountain.

"You're early once again. Looks like the results will be the same as the last time." A mocking voice came from the surrounding before a figure stepped out of the void, behind him was a group of youths as well.

Just like the group Grey was in, there were twenty youths below the age of twenty-five, all in the Late stages of the Sage Plane.

Grey's eyes trailed from each of them before stopping at a familiar figure. The young man who attacked him the last time. His gaze changed a little when he realized the young man was unexpectedly in the Ninth stage of the Sage Plane.

'Thought they said he was in the Seventh stage?' Grey asked Void to confirm.

When he first came and asked around about the young man, it was said that he was in the Seventh stage of the Sage Plane. How long has it been since then? Yet he was already in the Ninth stage.

'Yeah, you didn't hear wrong. Either our informant is a little behind in getting news, or he didn't know his true stage and assumed.' Void replied.

Sensing a gaze, the young man looked in Grey's direction. He was originally looking at the youths, his Faction's opponents, but sensing a strange gaze he turned to look at the source.

When his eyes met with Grey, he paused for some time, seemingly trying to recall where he had seen his face before. After some time, his eyes enlarged and it was evident that he remembered something. His

gaze towards Grey turned murderous for only a quarter of a second. He smiled before moving his gaze away.

Grey didn't miss the intent to kill that flashed through the eyes of the young man, but he wasn't bothered, he looked around and his vision fell on one of the six youths who were at the Peak of the Sage Plane. The Burchard Family had only four people at the Peak of the Sage Plane while the Nether Faction had six people at the Peak. Unlike the Burchard Family, they didn't have any external helpers, all twenty members were from the Nether Faction.

This showed the strength of the Nether Faction.

Chapter 963 One Battle, One Death

Grey's eyes trailed on the body of the six Peak Sage Plane Elementalists from the Nether Faction. Of the six, four were young men while the other two were young ladies.

He was still trying to figure out who Bill was when Sylvia leaned over and whispered, "You see that guy with the bushy eyebrows?"

Grey looked at the figure Sylvia spoke of and nodded.

"That's Bill. No matter what happens, if you come up against him, give up." Sylvia warned.

Grey raised his brow but didn't say anything. If he really decided to put his all, he didn't feel he would lose against Bill.

"The competition has not started yet, but just as usual, you're trying to dampen the spirit of my group." The leader of the Burchard Family group replied with a straight face, his expression didn't change one bit.

The leader of the group from the Nether Faction laughed out loud before turning to his group, "Remember to go easy on them, we don't want any accidents, like the last time."

When saying this, his voice wasn't particularly loud, but since everyone here was either in the Sage Plane or above, they had no issues hearing his words.

The faces of the Elders from the Burchard Family changed when they heard this. During the last competition, five people died, two from their Family and three externals. Not just that, but two more people were crippled.

Although they hated to admit it, those from the Burchard Family knew that their chances of winning this competition weren't up to thirty percent. Some of them even felt their chances had reduced since there was actually someone below the Late stages of the Sage Plane in their ranks.

The few Elders who watched Grey's battle felt that he won by luck.

Grey and those geniuses from the Burchard Family were not the only ones studying their opponents, those from the Nether Faction were doing the same, and as expected, Grey was the one who caught the most attention, the reason for this was simple, his realm was just too low.

"They even brought someone in the Fifth stage, how badly do they want to lose?" Bill smirked when he saw Grey as he commented.

"It's natural. Instead of wasting too much time, they should give up early."

The geniuses from the Nether Faction were brewing with confidence, and it was clear they didn't think much of their opponents. To them, they had already won the competition and all they wanted to do at the moment was to step into the secret realm and train, breaking through to the Elemental Venerable Plane as fast as they could.

Both groups separated, each heading to their sides. Just like in the case of the Pyrmond and Syphilis Factions battle, there was a third party here as well to make sure the situation was kept under control.

A single individual appeared, but the faces of the leaders of both groups changed, and respect appeared in their eyes. In this world, strength reigned supreme, and the figure who stepped out of the Void was an old expert from the number one Faction in the Aurora Continent.

His eyes were hollow, and his hair white. He wore a white robe, with both hands placed behind him.

When he appeared, he didn't speak a word, nodding to both leaders before going to take a seat on the highest seat set up.

After he took his seat, both groups took their positions.

The rules were quickly stated and Grey's expression couldn't help but change.

'Why do they always make it hard for the weaker side?' He couldn't help but complain.

'It's life, the strong are always favored.' Void said calmly.

The rule of the contest was simple, there would be a one-on-one battle, and whichever side has more people wins. Given the advantage the other side has in terms of cultivation stage, it means that they have a higher chance of winning more battles.

Take for instance, of the twenty people on the other side, fifteen were to win, which means fifteen people who fight against the remaining five people from the other side. When both sides are on the same level, it was a fair rule, but with as much as a small difference in strength, the stronger side had a higher chance of winning.

Those from the Burchard Family already knew the rules, and so did most of those participating. Since it was two sides against each other, it was almost always like this.

After the rule was stated, it was time for the battle to start. Since the Nether Faction is the previous winner, they had the privilege of challenging first.

Bill was the first to step on stage. His eyes trailed on the body of those at the Peak of the Sage Plane before looking away. He knew the plan, and he had to follow it. His eyes moved to those in the Seventh and Eighth stages, after some time, he picked a young lady in the Eighth stage of the Sage Plane.

He didn't even bat an eye for Grey since he felt it was beneath him.

The young lady stepped on the platform. In such a battle, life and death could be decided in seconds. As long as the other party does not give up, one could continue attacking. The only time they were not allowed to attack was when they saw that the other party couldn't defend any longer. If they attacked after that, they risked getting killed by the old man at the side.

With both fighters on the platform, the battle started.

Bill moved like a lightning bolt, before the young lady could make a sound he was already standing before her.

Boom!

With a reverberating explosion, the young lady was sent flying.

The figure of the young lady crashed into the ground, lifeless.

Insta-kill.

Bill killed his opponent with a single, ruthless strike.

Grey sucked in a cold breath when he saw this. It was almost impossible for a Peak Sage Plane Elementalist to insta-kill someone in the Eighth stage, but Bill pulled it off with ease.

'He's strong.'

Chapter 964 Brutal Battle

Grey had to admit it, Bill was stronger than he anticipated. If he were to fight against Bill without using the full power of the Fusion State, he would stand zero chances of winning. He had a few things that could help him survive his first attack, but winning was out of the picture. The only way he could win was if he was also at the Peak of the Sage Plane.

'Maybe he only has explosive power.' Void commented on the side.

Grey thought about it and nodded. This might be the case. There are some people with terrifying explosive force, once they explode out, their attack power would be frightening, however, in the long run, they were not that powerful.

Nevertheless, he didn't dare to underestimate Bill at the moment. No matter what, he would have to go all-out from the start if he were to fight against such an opponent.

The faces of those from the Burchard Family turned dark, only the leader of the group still had a blank face.

On the side of the Nether Faction, there were smiles all around. The person killed was from the Burchard Family, not an external member, so those youths from the Burchard Family were angered by this, and this boosted the morale of those from the Nether Faction.

Bill left the platform and walked back to his seat. It was soon the turn of the Burchard Family. Scott, the leader of the youths stepped forward and glanced coldly at those from the Nether Faction.

His eyes rested on the body of a young man in the Ninth stage of the Sage Plane. The young man shivered slightly, but Bill tapped him on the shoulder as if to tell him he would be fine.

"Resist the first attacks and you can admit defeat."

This was his order, he knew he stood no chance against an infuriated Scott, but he had to step on the platform first, and only after the battle had started could he give up.

The battle started and Scott immediately went on the offensive. The young man was already prepared for this and had already taken his defensive pose, preparing everything he could to survive the first series of attacks from Scott.

Boom! Bang! Bam!

Scott's first attack destroyed his entire defense, before he could prepare for the next set of attacks, it had already gotten to him. Striking him cleanly, he was cut into two by the shocking fire blade.

The glow in his eyes faded off and he died instantly.

Another instant-kill.

The first two battles showed the stance of both sides, kill from my side, and I'll kill from your side.

Grey took a glance at Scott, before taking in a deep breath.

'It seems like those I've been encountering are not the true geniuses of this Continent.'

Scott's display of strength was even more domineering than that of Bill. Bill killed an Eighth stage Sage Plane Elementalist, while Scott directly killed someone in the Ninth stage.

Grey couldn't help but wonder who would be victorious if the duo fought against each other. They were both top fighters at the Peak and there might be a chance that they were not equal in terms of strength.

Scott walked back to his seat, even though he had killed someone from the other side, he didn't feel good. One of his relatives was dead, and if things continued in this manner, more would follow suit. What was worse was that compared to them, the Nether Faction had two more Peak Sage Plane Elementalist, which meant having two extra chances of killing their opponents.

Of course, not everyone was as strong as he and Bill. But the chances of them killing those in the Seventh stage were not low.

His eyes trailed to the handsome youth sitting on the side who had a comparably calm demeanor even after witnessing how brutal the battle was. Of everyone here, he should be the weakest, yet, he was the calmest, there didn't seem to be any ripple in his eyes.

He had studied Grey from Bill's first attack, and he noticed his blank expression hadn't changed.

'Could his face be deformed or something?' He thought to himself.

Even the Elders have had a change in expression, but Grey's face has been the same from the first time he saw him.

One person from the Nether Faction stepped forward and challenged someone in the Seventh stage of the Sage Plane. Their plan was simple: kill them before they could give up.

The result of this battle was just like the rest, it ended with the weaker person dying even before they could admit defeat.

The battle continued in this order and before long, all the Peak Sage Plane Elementalists from the Burchard Family had fought a battle, and they had killed their opponents. The same could be said for the Nether Faction, the only difference was that they had two more people at the Peak.

So they could challenge two more times.

They both stepped out and only one of them managed to kill his opponent, the other was unsuccessful.

In this battle, there had been nine deaths, five from the Burchard Family side and four from the Nether Faction. However, of the Burchard Family's original twenty participants, six had been eliminated, leaving only fourteen, while the other side had two more people.

With those at the Peak done, it was time for those in the Ninth stage to step onto the platform and challenge an opponent. Originally, the Nether Faction had seven people in the Ninth stage, but now they had one less. The Burchard Family had only five people in the Ninth stage of the Sage Plane, so once again, they were on the weaker side in terms of numbers.

The first person who stepped on stage was none other than the young man who attacked Grey the last time.

When he stood on the platform, his eyes stopped on Grey's body for a while before letting out a smirk.

"Come out."

Chapter 965 Not Allowed To Kill

Everyone turned to look in the direction the young man was looking and their eyes fell on the body of the young man sitting close to Grey. The young man was among the externals, he was one of the few Eighth stage Sage Plane Elementalists on the side of the Burchard Family.

The young man stood up and walked straight to the platform, he knew what was coming and he had to prepare himself to survive the young man's first attacks. As long as he successfully defends, he could give up later.

"Look around properly, this will be the last time you see anyone." The young man said, while saying that, his eyes didn't leave Grey's body.

He felt after his attack, Grey wouldn't show up, he didn't think he would even when his realm was still so low.

'I'll let someone else kill him. If he survives till the next round, I'll personally kill him.' He thought internally.

The only reason he didn't pick Grey was that there were weaker people in his group, even though the Nether Faction was strong, there were still a few Seventh stage Sage Plane Elementalists who came, so he was leaving Grey for them.

However, he knew Grey was no pushover, especially after Grey managed to survive his attack even though he was in the Origin Plane, a Plane lower than him at that time. Now Grey had advanced at a speed that shocked him to the core. Although he hid it, he was astounded when he realized Grey was already in the Fifth stage of the Sage Plane.

When they last saw each other, there was a gap of almost an entire Plane. However, the gap was only four stages now, and he only broke through to the Ninth stage of the Sage Plane a week ago.

If Grey can successfully defeat his opponent, then he wouldn't mind fighting against him next.

He threw the thought of fighting against Grey to the back of his mind and focused on the figure in front of him. He wanted to assert his dominance, and killing his opponent with a quick move was the best choice.

The start of the battle was announced, and he moved with the fastest speed possible.

His body was covered with the lightning element as he charged at a terrifying speed toward his opponent.

The young man he challenged was already prepared for a relentless first assault so he prepared all the defensive skills he had.

When the young man got close to him, he unleashed them, trying to fight for his life.

The young man attacking didn't see his defenses as anything, without even blinking, he blazed through it with an attack.

Seeing the attack, Grey recalled what he was attacked with. It was the same technique, a single strike, but holding unimaginable power.

After getting to the Sage Plane, the young man's strength and mastery of these attacks were on another level.

The attack cleanly struck the young man from the Burchard Family and he was sent flying.

Before his body could touch the ground, the young man from the Nether Faction who was on a move from the start was already upon him.

Boom!

He attacked once again.

Against an opponent who couldn't fight back, it was easy to see who the clear winner was.

Just as the figure of the young man was about to hit the ground, it was covered by a light and it flew away from the platform, landing beside those from the Burchard Family.

"You're not allowed to kill a defenseless opponent. "

An aged voice sounded in the area, and everyone turned to where the old man was sitting.

The old man had a nonchalant expression, but it was obvious that he was the one who saved the life of the young man a few seconds ago.

"I'm sorry Elder, I didn't know he couldn't defend any longer." The young man from the Nether Faction apologized with a soft expression.

He felt a bit indignant inside, but against such an old figure, he didn't dare to show it. Originally, he thought his first strike would be enough, but the young man was able to survive it, even though it caused horrific injuries to him.

The old man snorted coldly before looking away as if uninterested in the whole event.

Grey on the other hand looked at the young man from the Nether Faction with a serious expression. From his assessment, he wasn't that far off from those at the Peak of the Sage Plane.

If Grey were to know that he only broke through to the Ninth stage a week ago, he would also be astounded at the talent of the young man.

Nevertheless, no matter how high the young man's talent was, it didn't change the fact that he tried to kill Grey once, and Grey would never let that slide. Even if he showed most of his cards here, he wouldn't mind it as long as he took down someone he perceived as an enemy.

The young man glanced at Grey before walking away, heading back to the side of the Nether Faction.

Of the twenty people the Burchard Family brought over, four had advanced to the next round while six had been eliminated, adding this young man who managed to escape with his life thanks to the old man, seven had been, leaving only nine left.

From those on the side of the Nether Faction, seven had advanced to the next round while only four had been eliminated. In contrast to the numbers on the side of the Burchard Family, they had a clearer advantage.

The other five at the Ninth stage of the Sage Plane naturally challenged those of lower stages, and only two of them had to challenge those in the Ninth stage since they all felt that they had to leave Grey for someone in a lower stages.

One of those from the Burchard Family managed to defeat the person who challenged her, and she moved on to the next round without having to challenge anyone.

Only four of them won, and in total, eleven of those from the Burchard Family were eliminated, leaving only five who had advanced, and four who hadn't challenged anyone.

Chapter 966 Odd Thoughts

The faces of those from the Burchard Family weren't pretty. Looking at the options they had left, they felt a tinge of sadness. Of only four people left, two were in the Ninth stage, one was in the Eighth stage, and the last person was Grey, the young man who was in the Fifth stage of the Sage Plane. Although he managed to qualify for this, his opponent was merely in the Seventh stage of the Sage Plane.

In a battle of high ranks, they had little to no faith in him.

On the side of the Nether Faction, they still had the same number of people left, and three of them were in the Eighth stage of the Sage Plane, while the last one was in the Seventh stage.

As things stand, they felt there was a chance that Grey might win his battle since he had defeated someone in the Seventh stage once, but that wouldn't be relevant once he advances to the next round. From that round onwards, there would only be people in the Eighth stage and above.

The Ninth stage Sage Plane Elementalist from the Burchard Family stepped out and challenged someone in the Eighth stage. He won easily. The next person won easily as well.

With both Ninth stage fighters from the Burchard Family winning their battles, it was time for those in the Eighth stage, and just like before, the Nether Faction was the first to challenge.

They had one person left in the Eighth stage of the Sage Plane, and one in the Seventh stage.

Both parties had the same number of fighters, one in the Eighth stage each, while the others were in the Seventh and Fifth stages respectively.

"How confident are you in fighting against someone in the Ninth stage?"

Bill walked up to the young lady in the Eighth stage and asked. This was the last person in the Eighth stage for them. She was quite powerful, and if he had a choice, he would prefer she didn't take the risk of fighting the person in the Eighth stage from the Burchard Family.

"About eighty percent. I can't fight against someone on his level though." She pointed at the young man who attacked Grey the last time.

"That's enough. Challenge the guy in the Fifth stage." Bill said before walking away.

It would be right for her to challenge the other person in the Eighth stage since she was more powerful, but Bill didn't want any complications and felt this was the best choice. Although doing this will mean an Eighth stage Elementalist from the Burchard Family would advance easily, he wasn't bothered about him.

The young lady nodded and walked to the platform. Stepping on the platform, she pointed at Grey.

"You, come out."

Grey was a little taken aback, and the faces of the old men from the Burchard Family changed once again before most of them sighed in defeat. The only chance of Grey advancing had been cut off.

Actually, they didn't have too much hope for him, what they wanted was for the young lady to challenge their Eighth stage Sage Plane Elementalist and if she was defeated, and Grey manages to defeat the other, it would make things easier for them.

Grey didn't say anything, taking a small glance at the young lady, he walked to the platform nonchalantly. His expression, the same as usual, blank.

Standing before the young lady, he didn't show a shred of emotion, simply waiting for the battle to start.

When the old man saw that they were ready, he announced the start of the battle.

The young lady moved immediately, she was a Lightning Elementalist, like most from the Nether Faction.

Grey was already prepared for her attacks. Just as she was about to get close to him, he vanished.

The young lady only paused for a quarter of a second before charging in another direction.

Boom!

She attacked, and Grey's figure was sent sliding back.

Although he managed to block, he was pushed to the edge of the platform.

His hands felt numb from blocking the attack, and small cuts could be seen on them.

He moved his hands as if to get the blood flowing on them once again before taking a glance at his opponent.

The young lady looked at Grey with a little smile before attacking once again.

Grey didn't waste any time and used the Fusion State without hesitation. It was acceptable to use this technique as long as it was not help from any outside individual.

Boosting his stage to the Seventh stage of the Sage Plane, he took the young lady's attack head-on.

Boom!

An explosion louder than the first one rang out, and they were actually tied.

Those from the Burchard Family were stunned, while the eyes of the young lady showed doubt.

Although this wasn't her full strength, even a regular Seventh stage Elementalist would not be able to block it.

'He's not simple.' Her heart skipped a beat.

For some reason, she started to have a bad feeling.

If she were told she would ever have such a feeling from challenging someone at a lower stage, she would never believe it.

Bill's expression changed slightly, but it soon went back to the same.

'It's just petty tricks. He won't be able to keep it up for long.'

He was not the only one with this thought in his head. Most of the Elders from the Nether Faction felt the same. As long as the young lady manages to hold him off, then she would win.

For some reason, they all suddenly accepted the fact that Grey had the advantage. What was worse was that none of them felt that it was odd that they felt that way. One has to know that this was more like their first exchange, and Grey was still a stage lower. Yet, they had all placed him higher than his opponent.

Amongst those from the Nether Faction, only one person felt that things might not actually go the way they think it would. It was none other than the young man who attacked him.

He had attacked Grey with almost a complete Plane difference, and Grey survived. Someone like that would definitely have his ways of dealing with an opponent just a stage above him.

Chapter 967 What Can One Man Do?

Grey took the initiative to attack this time, after he blocked the young lady's attack, he started his attacks.

The young lady covered herself with lightning before sending out a powerful bolt of lightning Grey's way.

Grey dodged the attack before closing in on his opponent and using the fire element to attack.

The young lady blocked with the lightning element but was pushed back from the impact of the attack.

This lifted the spirits of those from the Burchard Family, while the eyes of those from the Nether Faction showed shock.

The young lady prepared herself when she saw Grey coming closer once again. This attack showed her that she should not take him lightly.

Grey attacked with a fireball, but she retreated.

'Explode.' Grey said internally as she retreated.

An explosion erupted from the position the young lady was retreating to. Not prepared for the attack, the impact pushed her forward, into the attack in front of her.

She was still covered in lightning, so it helped block most of the attacks. She bolt through the fireball explosion in front of her and shortened the gap between herself and Grey, just as she was about to attack, she suddenly felt a strong pressure on her body.

Bam!

She slammed into the ground.

Grey had unleashed his gravitational force field when the young lady got within its coverage.

This was something that as long as she had never seen him use before would always work as a surprise attack.

Taking advantage of the opportunity the gravitational force field brought about, he appeared beside the young lady and sent her flying with a kick, packed with the strength of his fire element.

The young lady was still trying to adjust to what just happened when she saw Grey's incoming kick, she used all her strength to set up a lightning defensive wall that covered her, but she was still sent flying by the kick.

She slammed on the platform before rolling a few times.

Grey stood on the same spot, staring at her with his blank eyes.

The young lady stood up and stared at Grey with furious eyes. Even though she felt Grey wasn't ordinary, she didn't think he would be able to overpower her so easily.

"I'm done playing." She spat out the small bits of blood in her mouth before the clouds started to change, it was as if a storm was brewing.

Grey raised his head to look at the sky, a smirk appeared on his lips before lightning started to dance across his body.

The young lady who prepared to attack almost stumbled to the ground when she saw this. Grey had already used three elements, now, he was showing the lightning element which meant he had four.

Elementalists with more than three elements were quite rare.

'We'll see whose lightning is stronger.'

With a cold snort, she moved her hands to perform some seals and the storm suddenly roared fiercely. A bolt of lightning shot out from the storm, heading in Grey's direction.

Not just that, but multiple lightning danced around the body of the young lady that took the shape of a lightning snake and they shot at Grey as well.

Grey took in a deep breath before fire and lightning started to dance around him. Lightning on his left, while fire on his right.

Boom!

The bolt of lightning falling from the sky struck within a moment's notice, but Grey's figure started to fade.

"An afterimage!" The young lady exclaimed softly.

The appearance of an afterimage showed that Grey didn't use the space element to escape, instead, he moved with unprecedented speed.

The young lady hurriedly looked around and tried to find his location.

She soon spotted his movements, but he was already almost in front of her.

He unleashed both his fire and lightning attacks at the same time.

With the aid of the lightning element, the young lady dodged the attack, but she was soon met with another attack from Grey. Scrambling, she dodged again, and again. Before she knew it, she was finding it difficult to keep up with Grey's attacks. She couldn't even defend properly, much less counterattack.

...

In the seating area of the Burchard Family, everyone turned to look at Sylvia with dazzled eyes.

They had seen Grey fight against someone in the Seventh stage and win, so even though they had hopes for him fighting against someone, the person must be in the Seventh stage. Grey was currently doing something out of their expectations.

Suppressing this young lady showed that he was not in any way weaker than a typical Ninth stage Sage Plane Elementalist. Even if he used a secret technique to boost his strength, it was only to the Seventh stage.

"Where did you get such a figure from?" An Elder couldn't help but ask.

"I saw him on the way during one of my travels, I didn't think he would be this good, to be honest." Sylvia replied.

Although she didn't give them too much information, they could already tell that she knew he was powerful, but not on this level.

They continued speaking about Grey.

Scott looked at Grey with surprised eyes.

Those from the Nether Faction were just as shocked. Bill's expression was even worse since he was the one who told the young lady to challenge Grey since he was weaker. His seemingly foolproof plan seemed to be on the verge of crumbling.

'Even if he wins, we still have the advantage.' He consoled himself.

Yes, so what if Grey won this battle? It doesn't change the fact that they had two more Peak Sage Plane Elementalists, and three more Ninth stage Elementalists as well.

'What can one man do?'

This was what he concluded in his head and he gave up on the thought of the young lady winning. From how Grey was suppressing her, it would take a lot from her to come back into the battle.

...

While all these thoughts were running through the heads of multiple people, Grey's attacks were getting fiercer by the second. He didn't want to give his opponent the chance to fight back.

Chapter 968 The Older, The More Experienced

The young lady was sent flying once again, slamming into the platform.

She was still capable of fighting, so the old man didn't try to interfere in the battle since he didn't see a need to.

Grey's figure shot toward the young lady as he wanted to continue his attack.

But a lightning bolt shot at him. The attack forced him to stop for a moment since he had to deal with it.

The young lady used the opportunity to get back on her feet and used a secret technique to boost her strength. Before Grey could even react, her strength had shot to the Ninth stage.

Boom!

A powerful explosive attack shot out from her body and crashed at Grey.

An earth wall rose from the ground and blocked the attack as it was about to hit Grey.

The earth wall soon had cracks running down across it. Grey was in the middle of reinforcing the earth wall when the young lady attacked once again.

Boom!

Another attack struck the earth wall, and the already crumbling earth wall fell apart, revealing Grey.

The impact of the attack didn't die down and almost fifty percent of the attack was still there. It shot at Grey, who was still trying to find his bearings.

The attack struck him, and although he managed to move to the side, he was still grazed by it and pushed to the side.

The young lady attacked once again, but this time, to her surprise, she didn't overwhelm Grey.

Grey steadied himself when he saw her coming, with a tap of his foot, the gravity around him dropped once again.

Even though the young lady already knew of this skill of his, she was still taken by surprise. Grey's timing for using his gravitational force field could be said to be top-notch. He only uses it at the best opportune time, so even if his opponent could defend against it, it would definitely provide the opening he needs to escape, or in this case, attack.

Grey unleashed an orb mixed with the fire and lightning elements.

The young lady had freed herself from the impact of the gravitational force field, but she was directly hit by Grey's attack, even though she managed to set up a defensive wall at the last second, she was still sent flying.

She crashed to the ground and rolled a few times before coming to a stop.

Those from the Burchard Family cheered when they saw this. Grey had once again shocked them. Even when his opponent had increased her strength to the Ninth stage of the Sage Plane, going ahead of him with two stages, he still managed to overpower her. This spoke volumes of his talent.

Of everyone in the Burchard Family group, only a few didn't have excited expressions. The leader had a shocked expression, while two Elders had dark faces.

Sylvia was dumbstruck, she didn't even know what to say. Just when she felt Grey was impressive while fighting against an Eighth stage opponent, he started to do even better by overpowering a Ninth stage opponent.

Grey didn't continue his attack as he waited for the young lady to get back to her feet.

The young lady struggled, but she managed to stand up after almost a minute. She looked at Grey, and her eyes couldn't hide the shock. Just like everyone present, she was dumbstruck.

Originally, she felt she would be able to defeat him from the start after he started to show his terrifying power, she felt once she used her secret technique to increase her strength just like him, then she would beat him up, unfortunately, reality proved to be different. Even with her upgrade, she was still on the losing end.

'I can't lose to an opponent in a lower stage.'

This was the only thing going through her head.

She clenched her fists and with gritted teeth, she started to draw a symbol with lightning that converged on her fingertip.

Grey, seeing this moved out immediately. He could sense a powerful force converging on the symbol the young lady was drawing.

The young lady naturally saw his movements and used her other hand to send out attacks his way.

Grey dodged the attacks as he shortened the gap between them. When he got within twenty meters of her, he unleashed a lightning rain.

His motive was to disrupt whatever she was planning to do.

The young lady created a powerful protective screen above her to block the attack of the lightning rain.

Seeing this, Grey's figure shot to the sky, with both hands spread apart he muttered to himself.

"Meteor descent..."

Large boulders, covered with flames appeared in the sky.

Their appearance amazed those watching.

"She's lost." The leader of the Nether Faction shook his head.

"Not necessarily." Bill commented.

The leader of the Nether Faction looked at Bill but didn't say anything. Compared to Bill, he was more experienced. He knew why Bill said what he said, the young lady was done with the symbol she was making, however, he knew for a fact that Grey's main attack was far stronger than hers.

Only those above the Elemental Venerable Plane could tell what Grey wanted to do, behind this attack of his lies an even more powerful attack.

The symbol the young lady drew sent out a powerful lightning strike in Grey's direction.

It clashed with the boulders shooting down. And it was able to disintegrate the first few boulders with ease.

Just as the attack was about to hit Grey, the young lady felt her heart skip a beat, however, it was too late.

"Dimensional slash."

Grey's somewhat eerie voice resounded softly on the platform.

The lightning attack that was shooting at Grey was cut in two by an almost invisible force that soon turned into a black slash.

The young lady felt a chill run down her spine as she felt an intense threat to her life. No, she knew her life was in danger. If she doesn't block or dodge this attack, she will die. She wouldn't even have the time to admit defeat.

Chapter 969 Difficult Situation For The Burchard Family

With a powerful yell, the young lady summoned all the strength she had left and attacked. Since she couldn't dodge the attack, and the possibility of being able to defend it was very small, she decided to attack.

The impact of the attack might be able to push her away from the jaws of death. This was her only hope at the moment.

Boom!

Both attacks clashed and the impact successfully forced her back, however, she suddenly felt a powerful pull. Before she knew it, instead of leaving the area, she was actually being dragged into the zone of the attacks.

With both attacks exploding at the same time, even a Peak Sage Plane Elementalist would have to tread carefully or they might lose their lives, much less an Eighth stage Sage Plane Elementalist like herself. Even if she boosted her strength, it still didn't change the fact that she was still in the Eighth stage.

"No... I..."

Her shriek was heard from the explosion, it died down some moments later.

Grey stood on the same spot, staring emotionlessly at the place where the explosion occurred.

The explosion died down and the result was evident for all to see. The young lady was dead. Her figure was so badly mutilated by the explosion that it was almost impossible to associate her with the figure who stood proudly on the platform some minutes ago.

"Elder Brook, you let him kill her on purpose."

A voice filled with displeasure rang out. It was the leader of the Nether Faction. When the young man who attacked Grey wanted to kill his opponent, the old man stopped him, but in Grey's case, he let him stop his opponent from escaping.

The old man referred to as Elder Brook turned to look at the leader of the Nether Faction.

"Both cases are not the same." He didn't explain any further and gave the nod for Grey to step down from the platform.

Grey left the platform and headed back to his seat. He had successfully shocked those from the Burchard Family as the surprise was still evident on their faces.

"He's strong." Scott said with a serious expression.

He didn't think Grey had shown his full strength yet. The fact that Grey hasn't shown his full strength while fighting against an opponent three stages ahead of him showed that he was on another level. Even with the help of the Fusion State, Grey was still two stages below the young lady, but he not only won, but he killed his opponent as well.

"Such a terrifying figure, where did Sylvia find such a freak?" An Elder commented.

While those from the Burchard Family had nothing but praise for Grey, the feelings of those from the Nether Faction were different. Two figures had remorse written all over their faces, Bill and the young man who attacked Grey.

"I made a mistake."

"I should've killed him when I got the chance."

One regretted sending the young lady to her death, while the other wished he could go back in time and kill Grey.

The last battle soon started and just as everyone expected, the person from the Burchard Family won easily against his opponent, but he was unable to kill him, unlike what Grey did some time ago.

With that battle completed, the first round was over, and even with Grey, the anomaly, the Nether Faction still had more people which made them confident.

On the side of the Burchard Family, they had nine people who advanced to the next round, four Peak Sage Plane Elementalists, three Ninth stage Sage Plane Elementalists, one Eighth stage, and Grey who was in the Fifth stage.

The Nether Faction had six Peak Sage Plane Elementalists and five in the Ninth stage. With just this alone, they were the clear favorites to win the competition.

The old man quickly called for the start of the next round.

Just like before, those at the Peak would be the first to challenge an opponent, then followed by those in the Ninth stage.

The Nether Faction was the first to go once again.

Bill stepped forward, he gave Grey a long hard look before moving his eyes away. Those from the Burchard Family heaved a sigh of relief since they wanted Grey to fight someone in the Ninth stage of the Sage Plane.

Bill's eyes rested on a young lady in the Ninth stage.

The young lady didn't waste any time and stepped on the platform.

The battle didn't last up to three minutes as Bill was able to bulldoze past his opponent with ease. Luckily for the young lady, she survived his attacks and admitted defeat on her own.

Bill snorted coldly before turning away.

The next person from the Nether Faction stepped out, just like Bill, he challenged someone in the Ninth stage and won.

Before long, there were only two Peak Sage Plane Elementalists from the Nether Faction. The previous four who fought had won their battles. This meant that four people had been eliminated from the side of the Burchard Family, all three Ninth stage Elementalists were gone, and the young lady in the Eighth stage was also eliminated as well. She almost lost her life if not for a timely decision she made, although she lost her right hand, it didn't matter as long as she survived.

Now, there were only five people left on the side of the Burchard Family, and of the five people, all but Grey were at the Peak of the Sage Plane.

At this moment, the result of the battle was almost fixed. The Nether Faction still had seven people who hadn't stepped on stage, and they already had four who had advanced to the next round. If things went this way, they might win with ease.

The next person at the Peak stepped on the platform, he looked at Grey before letting out a smirk. There was no one else below the Peak of the Sage Plane except Grey.

Even if Grey defeated someone in the Ninth stage, no one felt he would be a match for someone at the Peak.

"Come."

Chapter 970 Why Do You Look Familiar?

"He's lost."

Those from the Burchard Family gave up when they saw Grey being challenged.

Once Grey was defeated, they would have only four people left, and all of them were at the Peak. Even if all four were victorious, it still won't put them in a favorable position.

Sylvia and those from the Burchard Family had dull faces. This competition seemed to be taking the same path as the previous ones, ending in their defeat.

Grey walked to the platform, he knew everyone felt he had lost, but he wasn't too concerned, until the battle was fought, no one knew who would win.

'Personally, I'd like to fight against that guy, but unfortunately, I have to show my hand now.' Grey thought, a little sad he didn't get to fight the young man who made him come.

"Are you sure you want to fight this battle? Since you're weaker, you can give up." The old man's voice rang on the platform.

Those from the Burchard Family and the Nether Faction turned to look at the old man. Even Grey was a little confused. Clearly, the old man seemed to be favoring him for some reason unknown to him.

He was certain he had never seen this old man named Brook before, yet the old man was making things easy for him. He even said he could give up.

"Thank you for your concern Elder, I'll go ahead with the battle, if I can't, I'll give up. There's no harm in trying." Grey replied respectfully.

"If you say so." The old man nodded before giving the go ahead for the battle.

On the side of the Burchard Family.

"Are you sure he's just a common person?" The leader of the Burchard Family turned to Sylvia.

"Yes, he confirmed it to me himself. At first, I thought he was associated with the Dawson Family, but when I asked him about it, he told me he had never been to the Western Continent at that time, much less come in contact with them." Sylvia replied.

"What if he was lying?" An Elder asked.

"When I met him, he was still at the Peak of the Origin Plane. Do you think someone of that low realm can lie to me and I won't know? I've also done my research, there's no one in the Dawson Family with his name, and neither was there in the extended family. Do you think the Dawson Family will have such a genius and let him roam this freely without any protection?" Sylvia confirmed to them.

She had her ways of figuring out if someone in a lower realm was lying, so when she said this, none of the Elders tried to argue with her any longer.

"Hmm, do you think there's any chance of him joining us then?" The leader asked.

"Not likely. He only agreed to participate in this competition for a funny reason, revenge." Sylvia said with a wry smile.

Although she hated to admit it, she still felt a bit sad that Grey only came because he wanted revenge and not because she wanted him to come.

"Such a foolish reason. He'll only die then." An Elder who seemed to not be on Grey's side from the start in the Burchard Family snorted coldly.

"I know his character, he's not someone who wouldn't do something he's not sure of. Since he came for revenge, he has his ways of getting it." Sylvia said, she fully believed in Grey.

Well, not when he's fighting against someone at the Peak of the Sage Plane though.

Back on the platform.

Grey was staring at the young man standing in front of him.

"You should've taken the lifeline you were offered." The young man said coldly.

His eyes were red, it was clear that he seemed to have a certain hatred toward Grey.

"Don't worry, the likes of you can't kill me." Grey replied nonchalantly.

"Arrogant, I'll make you beg for death. After that, I'll kill you." The young man said with hate.

"Huh? Why do you look familiar?" Grey suddenly realized something and looked at the young man with a curious expression.

He seemed to fall deep in thoughts, seemingly trying to recall where he saw the young man before and why he felt he was familiar.

"You killed my sister." The young man said through gritted teeth.

"Ha! No wonder you looked so familiar. I've forgotten her face so soon. I'm sorry I didn't think she would not be able to escape from the attack." Grey smacked his thighs in realization.

When the young man heard Grey say, he didn't think she would not be able to escape.

"You dragged her into the explosion, you fiend!" The young man exploded with anger.

Everyone clearly saw the impact of the explosion pushing the young lady away, but Grey used the space element to drag her back into the explosion, killing her in the process. Only a fool would believe Grey's words.

"I did that? Well, let's forget about her. She's in the past now." Grey waved offhandedly.

This infuriated the young man even more.

"Don't worry, you'll also be part of the party soon enough." He said in anger.

Grey shrugged his shoulders as if he was not bothered by the young man's threat. Seeing this made the young man even more annoyed.

The old man called for the start of the battle and the young man charged at Grey.

Grey, already expecting a violent attack from the young man, retreated. Even though he was confident, if he didn't enter the Fusion State, he would undoubtedly lose against such a powerful opponent.

The young man was still a Peak Sage Plane Elementalist, as soon as Grey was retreating, he closed the gap and attacked with the fire element.

Grey vanished from where he was standing, dodging the attack. However, another attack was sent out by the young man, a lightning attack this time.

Grey blocked but was pushed back by the attack. His hands went numb when the attack broke through his earth wall.

'Damn it, this guy is tough.'