

## **Affinity 971**

### Chapter 971 Fearsome Strength

The young man continued his attack on Grey, not wanting to give him the chance he was looking for. He knew Grey would need a small chance to use his special technique that could boost his strength, but he didn't want that. The weaker Grey was, the easier it was to kill him.

Grey dodged the attacks as he retreated, making sure he didn't get into the attack range of the young man.

"Die! Die! Die!" The young man screamed repeatedly as he attacked Grey viciously.

Grey kept a cool head as he studied the situation. As things stand, he wouldn't be able to use the Fusion State as he wanted, so he had to go for the next best thing, inscriptions.

Two symbols lit up in the sky and they attacked the young man who was focused on chasing after Grey.

The young man sensed the attack at the last moment and dodged to the right.

This presented the opportunity Grey had been waiting for, seeing that he finally had the chance, he hastily used the Fusion State. He boosted it to the Eighth stage, unlike the previous time when he only stopped on the Seventh stage.

The sudden boost of Grey's strength shocked everyone. They already thought that the Seventh stage was the limit Grey could get to, but now, he actually forced it to the Eighth stage. Had he used this when fighting against the young lady the last time, he would've been able to finish her off in a shorter time.

The young man looked at Grey with a little shock, but he still didn't think much of it.

"So you still have some hidden cards? I'll kill you regardless of whatever you show." He snorted coldly.

Grey might've boosted his strength, but nevertheless, he was still only in the Eighth stage of the Sage Plane. Compared to a Peak Sage Plane Elementalist, he was still a little lacking, well, this was what everyone thought.

"You're not on my level." Grey replied with a smirk.

After saying this, he attacked.

The young man was already prepared for this and used the lightning element to boost his speed before leaving an afterimage.

Grey's eyes widened a bit, this was the first time he was fighting against someone who could actually leave behind an afterimage.

Boom! Bang! Bam!

They started to exchange attacks. Grey mainly used the fire element, while the young man used the lightning element.

A fire bird attacked Grey, but it was blown to bits by a lightning bolt that shot out from one of the inscriptions. Grey tried to use the space element to send a quick attack with his fire element, teleporting the attack right in front of the young man, but the young man managed to react quickly, blocking it with hands covered in lightning.

The attack forced him back, but he was fine, not affected by it.

Grey followed up with an earth pillar that he smashed in the direction of the young man.

The young man slashed a large lightning sword to cut the pillar into two before attacking Grey once again with the lightning sword.

Grey created an earth wall, but it was sliced apart. He vanished, hoping to dodge the attack. But the young man was already prepared for this and a lightning arrow shot at Grey, even faster than he could teleport.

Grey caught sight of the lightning arrow a little late and it hit him squarely on his chest, sending him flying.

The young man's eyes brightened when he saw this.

"Hehe, I told you, I'll kill you." He snickered hatefully.

Just as he moved closer to Grey, he suddenly felt a powerful pressure descend on him and his figure almost dropped to the ground.

Boom!

A large fire rose from Grey's body, shooting in all directions.

The young man tried to retreat, but he was caught by the attack and sent flying.

He did a backflip mid-air and landed on his feet.

Just as his feet touched the ground, a beam shot at it. It was made up of the fire and the lightning element.

The beam exuded a shocking aura.

Seeing the beam, the young man knew he shouldn't dare to be negligent.

Preparing himself, he unleashed an even scarier attack that collided with the beam.

The strength of both attacks colliding was on another scale.

Those watching the battle were all on the edge of their seats. This was the most heated battle so far, and to think that it was between a Fifth stage Sage Plane Elementalist who used some special technique to boost his strength and a Peak Sage Plane Elementalist was even more shocking.

Those from the Burchard Family looked at each other with stunned eyes, Grey had shocked them once again. Even if he doesn't win the battle in the end, he had already proven to them that compared to most of the geniuses here, he was miles ahead. An Eighth stage fighting against a Peak Sage Plane Elementalist was something they wouldn't really think of being possible before. Only a few people in the history of the continent might be able to achieve such a feat.

Even those from the Nether Faction were looking at Grey with different eyes. The young man who attacked Grey felt a chill run down his spine. Yes, he could fight against someone at the Peak of the Sage Plane, but the main problem was that he didn't think this was Grey's full strength.

If there was a way for Grey to actually use a strength that was superior to this, then it would shock the entire world. A Fifth stage Sage Plane Elementalist fighting those over three stages ahead of him was already shocking enough. One has to know that the gap between a Peak Sage Plane Elementalist was quite large, only a selected few could cross that gap while still in the Ninth stage and fight on equal footing.

Grey, even though he boosted his strength, was still in the Eighth stage, so he was technically still not on the level where he should be able to fight a Peak Sage Plane Elementalist to this stage.

Chapter 972 He Tried

Boom!

The attack died down and both Grey and the young man came into view. They were both standing in the same spot as before, staring dead at each other. Now, the young man didn't exude the level of confidence he did at the start of the battle.

From their short exchange, he knew there was no way he would be able to kill Grey. He had to defeat Grey first before he should even think of killing him.

Grey was also staring at the young man, multiple thoughts running through his head. He knew this was not the full strength of the young man standing before him, but he was also confident that he would be able to defeat him.

Also, he didn't want to show his full card, he still had to think of a way to kill the young man who attacked him the last time. If he were to go up against that young man, he wanted to use his full strength to kill him in a single attack.

The young man calmed himself and instead of his previous rushed state, he started slowly this time.

He threw a fireball at Grey, knowing fully well that it wouldn't do anything to him.

Grey didn't bother with the attack as he retreated back.

The young man followed up with a shot of lightning bolt that sped through the fireball which just exploded.

Grey saw the attack a little late, but he still managed to dodge to the side, leaving behind an afterimage.

After dodging, he unleashed an attack of his own, with earth spikes shooting out of the ground, aiming for the young man.

The young man dodged the attack, but he sensed another attack from behind him, it was a fire attack. This attack was released by the inscription that appeared behind him.

Although he blocked the attack, he was still pushed forward, heading in Grey's direction.

When he noticed this, he hastily forced his body to come to a halt since he knew going too close to Grey would be dangerous. The gravitational force field was something even though he knew he could fight against it, it would still be able to slow him down for a second.

Just as his body was about to come to a stop, he felt a powerful suction force, and his figure was dragged toward Grey. This time, he had zero control over his body. All he could do was watch himself shoot toward Grey.

When his figure got close to Grey's, he exploded with the lightning element, sending off lightning sparks in all directions. A rain of lightning fell from the sky, aiming at where they were.

Grey was forced to leave him and move back, canceling his technique.

The moment the young man gained control over his body, he attacked.

Grey blocked the attack, but his earth wall was broken to pieces. The young man followed the attack with his fire element.

Grey was kept under constant attacks from him. He didn't want to give Grey any opportunities to attack again, he already knew how deadly Grey was.

The fight soon started to peak with the young man seemingly having the upper hand. It couldn't be helped, even though Grey had a variety of attacks and tricks, when it came to raw attack power, he was still slightly off compared to his opponent.

The young man was more aggressive, and his attack power was stronger than at the start of the battle.

On the side of the Burchard Family.

Worry started to show on the faces of those watching the battle.

They were quite hopeful when Grey started to dominate the battle at one point, but since then, it had been the young man who was controlling the battle. Grey has been forced to dance to his tunes so far.

"Do you think he will be able to win?" Sylvia turned to the leader of their group.

"It's hard to say, he's already done so much but he's still being suppressed. In the end, he's not a true Eighth stage Sage Plane Elementalist." The leader shook his head wryly.

Given Grey's talent, if he were to truly be in the Eighth stage, the leader of this group was confident that Grey would be able to beat his opponent and win comfortably. But since he only used external means to boost his strength to this level, then there was no way he could fully use the strength of a true Eighth stage Elementalist. Of course, he wasn't saying that Grey wouldn't be able to beat an Eighth stage Elementalist, he only meant that if Grey met someone like Grey himself that was in the Eighth stage, he would lose.

"He tried, no one expected he would do this much, to be honest." An Elder complimented Grey's effort so far.

The other Elders nodded to his words when they heard it.

The youths in the group were all awed by Grey's strength. It was out of their expectations that he was this powerful. There were a few people who looked down on him when they first met, there were even some who didn't really think much of him even after he killed that young lady in the Eighth stage.

Now, however, the case was different. Grey was fighting against someone who could be said to be on the same level as some of them. He could even be stronger than a few of them, and he was not losing. Even though he was being suppressed, he hadn't lost yet and had even had flashes of brilliance where he suppressed his opponent.

Unbeknownst to all of them present, Grey was hiding most of his cards because he wanted to make sure the young man would challenge him so he could insta-kill him. If he were to really use most of his cards, even without increasing his strength to the Ninth stage, he would be able to fight the young man in a much better state and not be suppressed by this much.

#### Chapter 973 Cunning Move

The young man continued attacking, it had been over five minutes now, and without the inscriptions, Grey hadn't been able to attack the young man. The young man had neutralized him.

An attack soon came flying in that sent Grey in another direction.

Grey's figure slammed into the ground and the aura of an Eighth stage Elementalist started to fade from his body, before long, he was back to the Fifth stage.

"Admit..."

"Not yet." Grey interrupted the young man through ragged breath. It was obvious he was already at his limit.

The old man didn't interfere any longer. He was trying to help Grey, but Grey seemed to be foolish for some reason. He even went as far as somewhat disrespecting him.

"Haha, I like your type. Now I can kill you with pleasure." The young man laughed.

Grey stood up and looked at the young man, "You really think you can kill me?"

The young man laughed before releasing an attack that sent Grey flying again.

Grey spat out a mouthful of blood as he slammed into the ground.

"To think I was starting to get worried." The young man scoffed when he saw Grey lying on the ground.

He walked closer to Grey, to him, Grey was finished. He was a bit cautious, but he also didn't think Grey would be able to hold on much.

Everyone could tell that this last attack took a lot out of Grey, who was bleeding from his mouth, nose, and in multiple places on his body.

When he was around five meters away from Grey, his expression changed drastically.

Not just him, but everyone watching the battle noticed something off as well and their eyes turned to Grey who was previously lying on the ground. He was no longer there.



'A trap!'

This was the only thing that ran through the heads of everyone.

The young man tried to move but he noticed his movements were a bit sluggish.

Grey appeared behind him, a smirk on his face.

"You really think you could kill me?"

Before his voice died down, he had already thrown a punch that connected cleanly on the back of the young man. This punch was enforced with his fire, lightning, and earth element, so the strength it packed was on another level.

Being struck so closely by the attack, the young man spat out a mouthful of blood.

When everyone looked at Grey, they noticed that he was back to the Eighth stage of the Sage Plane, and he looked to be as strong as before, if not stronger.

Just as the audience were still thinking of something, Grey moved again. This time, he was faster than he previously was.

A fire orb shot at the young man. As he tried to block it, he was sent flying by it.

Everyone noticed the visible change in Grey's attack power. It was on another level.

Only after inspection did those above the Sage Plane realize what was going on.

"He has been creating an array. Such a cunning fellow. Even I didn't notice it." The old man muttered to himself.

For Grey to hide something like this from the eyes of so many experts, showed how cunning he was. Not just that, but his skill in terms of array creation was on another level.

"Such a young and talented individual. He's..." The leader of the Burchard Family sighed as he looked at those youngsters from his Family. He couldn't even compare them to Grey.

Not just them, even most of the Elders couldn't be compared to this youth.

Grey was only around twenty to twenty-two years old, yet he was already a master at arrays, had great judgment when it came to battles, and he made the best decisions.

From his inscriptions, everyone knew he must be good with arrays, but none of them expected him to do something like this.

The young man who attacked Grey on the side of the Nether Faction felt the deepest regret he had ever felt. Had he killed Grey at that time, then he wouldn't have had to face such an opponent in the future.

'I'll have to kill him, no matter what.'

Now, he felt Grey had shown if not all his cards, he must have used his important ones.

They all felt Grey wouldn't be able to keep this state up for long. It was common knowledge that using a technique to boost your strength was the same as causing self-harm, especially one of Grey's level. Most of these techniques only boost an Elementalist's strength by a stage or so, but Grey's own gave him a three stage boost which was unheard of.

Back on the platform.

Grey was still attacking the young man. He wasn't giving him any chance to even recover.

He moved close after sending him flying with a punch and kicked him into the air. His figure vanished and appeared above the young man. A large earth mace appeared and he grabbed it by the hilt and slammed it into the body of the young man.

When it connected with the body of the young man, the young man crashed straight to the platform, and for the first time since the competition started, the platform shook.

The impact of the attack exceeded everyone's expectations.

Grey didn't stop there, this young man wanted to kill him, and of course, he would return the favor.

Large boulders covered with blue flames appeared in the sky and crashed toward the ground.

The young man was just getting to his feet when he saw them raining down on him.

He was about to move when he felt his body slow down, not just that, but a figure appeared in front of him, holding onto a large lightning sword that he used to stab him in the chest.

After Grey stabbed him, he vanished, letting him face the attacks of the boulders.

Despair appeared in the eyes of the young man as he could only watch the boulders slam into his body. He didn't even have the time to admit defeat.

From when Grey used his array till now was not more than a minute. In the space of one minute, the battle seemed to be decided.

Chapter 974 They Know Each Other?

"He won..."

Someone said after a moment of silence. They were all in shock after watching Grey's stunning performance. No one knew what to feel as they saw Grey defeat an opponent at the Peak of the Sage Plane while still in the Eighth stage.

The most shocking thing about this was that not only did Grey win, but he also killed his opponent. It wasn't easy since it took a lot of planning from him, but it was still by no means an easy feat to achieve.

An Eighth stage Sage Plane Elementalist killing a Peak Sage Plane Elementalist was unheard of. If it was by ambush or if the Peak Sage Plane Elementalist was injured, then it was understandable, but Grey killed this person in a one-on-one fight, fair and square.

The people from both sides stared at the lone figure standing on the platform. It was evident that he was tired and injured, but none of that mattered right now.

Grey looked at the corpse of the young man lying on the ground, after a shake of his head, he turned to the old man in charge of the battle, waiting for him to announce the result of the battle. Of course, everyone knew who the winner was, but they still had to wait for the old man's verdict.

The old man only spoke after only a minute, giving Grey the go-ahead to leave the platform and return to his seat.

When he walked back, everyone from the Burchard Family could only look at him, they didn't even have a word to say to him. They were too shaken to even say a word.

He had advanced to the next round, the only person from the Burchard Family who has done that. There were still four people, but all of them were at the Peak of the Sage Plane.

On the side of the Nether Faction, there was a look of disbelief in their eyes, none of them expected Grey to win. At this point, they all regarded him as a threat, and none of them thought of him as just a regular Fifth stage Elementalist, in fact, they all felt he was on the same level as those at the Peak.

'How strong would he be when he's at the Peak? Will he be able to defy the heavens and fight against an Elemental Venerable while still in the Sage Plane?'

This thought flashed through the heads of everyone present. A Sage Plane Elementalist fighting against an Elemental Venerable was something they would never have thought of, but seeing Grey showcase his unfathomable talent and strength, they started to feel maybe it was possible if he was the one.

The young man who tried to kill Grey was currently staring at the corpse on the platform which was currently being removed. That was the corpse of a Peak Sage Plane Elementalist, he was only in the Ninth stage, would he be a match for Grey?

'I'll use a special technique to boost my strength and kill him the moment the battle starts.' He thought to himself.

He won't rest until Grey is dead.

The Nether Faction still had a Peak Sage Plane Elementalist who hadn't challenged anyone. On the side of the Burchard Family, other than the four at the Peak, there was no one else for them to challenge.

The last Peak Sage Plane Elementalist from the Nether Faction stepped forward and challenged the only young lady amongst the Peak Sage Plane Elementalists from the Burchard Family.

After a hard battle, he won by a tiny margin. Unlike Grey, he was unable to kill his opponent.

Now, the Burchard Family had only three people left, adding Grey who had already advanced made it four.

The other three Peak Sage Plane Elementalists challenged one of those in the Ninth stage from the Nether Faction and won, none of them challenged the young man who attacked Grey.

According to the way things usually went, after those at the Peak were done challenging, it would be the turn of those in the Ninth stage.

Everyone turned to the old man, waiting for what he planned to do.

"Everything will go as planned." The old man's voice echoed across the place.

Those from the Ninth stage could only shake their heads with a wry smile, who could they challenge? Those at the Peak? Or the monstrous genius called Grey?

One of them stepped forward, it was none other than the young man who tried to attack Grey.

Standing on the platform, he turned to look in the direction of the old man, "I can challenge any of them, correct?"

"Yes, since they've all advanced, then yes, you can challenge whoever you see fit." The old man replied.

"Alright." The young man bowed before turning in Grey's direction, "Come, we have some unfinished business."

Grey stood up and walked in the direction of the platform, his steps were steady, not too fast, not too slow.

Everyone from the Burchard Family watched his back view as he climbed onto the platform.

It hadn't been more than a minute since his last battle, and although he won, no one felt he had rested enough to be a hundred percent.

"I should've killed you the other time." The young man said when Grey stood opposite him.

"Regret it now?" Grey asked softly.

"I never regret any decision." The young man snorted coldly.

"You will regret this one, I can assure you of that." Grey spoke in a soft tone. It was clear that he wasn't putting in as much emotion as the young man.

"I can see your little performance has gotten to your head, you seem to have forgotten what happened the last time." The young man raised a brow, he didn't attack Grey immediately.

While the duo were exchanging words, everyone was watching them.

"They know each other?"

Someone from the Nether Faction asked.

"Looks like it, and Lucien held back from killing him." Bill said, not happy with Lucien's choice.

The name of the young man who attacked Grey was Lucien.

Chapter 975 Trampling A Genius' Pride

"To think he wasn't lying when he said he came because of revenge." Sylvia muttered to herself.

The Elders by her side also felt the same way. When Sylvia told them that Grey only came because of revenge, they thought he was lying and only came because of the benefits, but now, it seemed to be another case. From the conversation between the two, they could guess that they have clashed in the past, and Lucien let Grey go. Well, although they didn't know the full story, they felt it was within that range.

The old man looked at Grey and Lucien before telling them to start the battle.

Neither of the duo made a move, they squared off, staring at each other before Lucien burst out chuckling.

"How about we follow the same rules as the last time?" He asked.

"With a little tweak." Grey added.

"Yes, this time, instead of you trying to survive my blow, we'll decide the battle within a single attack." Lucien said.

"If we dodge?" Grey asked.

"Then we fight!" Lucien said with his blood raging. It was evident that he had been holding it in for some time now, after seeing someone he beat up like a dead dog fighting so valiantly, he wanted to see if this was the same person as the last time they encountered each other.

Grey smiled and nodded, "Fine. I wouldn't mind exchanging a blow or two with you. But personally, I think one attack will be more than enough."

Seeing Grey oozing with confidence, Lucien chuckled, "I feel the same too."

They both prepared themselves for the attack. Lucien used a special technique just like Grey to increase his strength to the Peak of the Sage Plane, while Grey on the other hand went to the Eighth stage once again.

"How many times can he use this technique?"

Someone from the crowd couldn't help but ask.

It was okay if he used it once since there would be a drawback after using such techniques, but Grey is using it for the fourth time now, it was unbelievable.

"It must be a technique from ancient times." An Elder commented.

When both parties were done charging up their attacks, they moved.

Lucien was covered in lightning, looking like a lightning god as he shot toward Grey. Grey, on the other hand, looked like a normal person with a serene appearance, it was as if he was standing beside a still lake and had become one with it. There was no sign of movement from him.



Only after Lucien had gotten closer did he finally make a move. His figure flashed and he also shot at his opponent.

With the duo almost getting close to each other, they unleashed their attacks.

Grey was a little slower, and Lucien attacked first.

Those on the side of the Burchard Family stood up from their seats when they saw this. They all knew that in a battle between experts, a single second could decide life or death. Grey hesitating before he attacked had already given Lucien the advantage he needed.

"He's lost..."

Some of the Elders were sad by the thought of this. Grey had been a wildcard since the start of the competition, but it seemed like his time was up.

While those from the Burchard Family were feeling depressed, joy rose on the faces of those from the Nether Faction. Grey was the only anomaly, once he was taken out, then they had nothing to fear.

However, the expression of everyone changed. The expected explosion they were waiting for never came, instead, to the shock of everyone, the attack phased right through the body of Grey who still continued his movement and closed in on Lucien.

Everything happened within a second, so most people hadn't even finished expressing their previous emotions when this happened.

With Grey phasing through the attack, he unleashed a fusion orb. It wasn't the original one, but a weaker version since it contained only three elements, lightning, fire, and space elements.

The orb hit Lucien's body and exploded. This time, the expected explosion came, and its power exceeded their imaginations.

Lucien's figure was sent flying before crashing on the ground of the platform.

The entire place was silent, not even the sound of breathing could be heard, it was like a graveyard.

Time went by and the explosion died down, Grey's figure soon came into view. Blood was dripping from the side of his mouth, but other than that, he was fine.

He walked toward the body of Lucien who was still moving.

"Admit defeat." The old man's voice came from the side.

"Ne...ver... not... to... him. I'd rather die." Lucien struggled to speak as he dragged his body up weakly.

"Resilient." Grey remarked.

He didn't expect anything less from a genius though, for him to grow this strong meant that he was not only talented, but he had also gone through countless dangers.

"I can never lose to an opponent that I beat like a dead dog only two years ago." Lucien spat out a mouthful of blood before steadying himself once again.

Grey chuckled when he saw this. He could've easily killed him, but he wanted to make sure that before the young man died, he accepted the fact that they were not on the same level.

"It's funny how things can change in only two years. From almost killing me to barely being able to survive a single attack from me." Grey said with a smile.

"Two years, what can happen within two years?" Lucien asked with a lost look.

"Come, I'll show you what it means to be a true genius." Grey's figure vanished and he appeared in the sky.

"Only when you can achieve half of what I can, then you can call yourself a genius."

Grey's arrogant voice echoed in the sky before everywhere changed.

A roaring sea of flames appeared in the sky, and above the sea of flames was what seemed to be a lightning storm.

"Damn, he's trampling on his pride."

Everyone looked at the sky in awe, even the old man was shaken. Grey's talent was something he had never seen before.

A twenty-two years old Sage Plane Elementalist has actually awoken two domains? And he could use them so freely!

Chapter 976 Keep On Challenging Him

Lucien stood motionless as he watched the colorful scene in the sky, he lost all hope at this moment.

He was already in the Ninth stage of the Sage Plane, but he had not awakened his domain yet, but Grey who was only in the Fifth stage had awoken not just one but two. Just staring at the two told him they were not ordinary but top tier. Thinking about it, he couldn't help but shiver at the thought of Grey awakening another.

Grey has used four elements; if he successfully awakens all of them before he becomes an Elemental Sovereign, then his name would surely shake the entire continent.

All the geniuses in the area were staring at the sky in awe. Even some of the Elemental Sovereigns were still shocked by this. Some of them who had multiple elements had only awakened one, but Grey who was still in the Sage Plane had awoken two. If they knew that he awakened one of them when he was still in the Overlord Plane, then they would freak out even more.

The domains moved down, enveloping Lucien who had dropped all defenses, he knew that against something like this, there was nothing he could do against it. Even if he used all his strength to create a defensive wall, he would still not be able to block it.

Just as the attack was about to eliminate Lucien, he was covered by a protective wall.

"He's defenseless, you win." The old man who had seemed to be on Grey's side said.

Grey extinguished the attack before landing on the ground. He looked at the dazed eyes of Lucien.

"Tch."

He walked back to his seat. Since he was already victorious, there was no need to stand there. He knew that since he had defeated him, there was no need in killing him. Of course it would be better if he killed him, but since he can't kill him with the interference of the old man, he wouldn't force it.

"Thank you, Elder." Lucien bowed to the old man before walking down the platform with a dull look in his eyes. It was evident that this ordeal broke him.

Grey got back to his seat and didn't say a word to anyone, he shut his eyes and entered a state of meditation.

The next person to step on the platform was from the Nether Faction. After the Burchard Family eliminated three of those in the Ninth stage, only two of them were left. Lucien had challenged Grey, and he was defeated. Now, it was the turn of the last person in the Ninth stage.

The young man walked onto the platform, with a broad smile on his face, he pointed at a figure in the crowd of the Burchard Family, "You, step out."

When everyone looked in the direction he was pointing at, only one figure was there, and this figure had his eyes closed. It was none other than Grey.

Grey's last battles had exhausted him, although he had won these battles, everyone could see that he was slowly getting exhausted.

Grey opened his eyes to look at the smug face of the young man.

"Elder, what's this, they can't challenge a single person over and over again." The leader of the Burchard Family finally stood up.

"Actually, they can." The old man replied.

This hadn't happened before, but technically, it was not against the rules.

The leader of the Burchard Family was about to speak when he noticed Grey was walking towards the platform.

'This kid.'

He stopped himself before taking his seat. Since Grey had already stepped forward, then he would let him settle this himself.

"How long can you last in your current state?" The young man asked with a smile.

Grey didn't reply to his words as he took a deep breath. He looked at the old man, waiting for him to give the go-ahead for the battle.

The moment the old man gave the nod, Grey exploded out with terrifying power. This time, even those from the Nether Family couldn't sit still any longer.

Even with all that Grey has been through, the fact that he could still use this much strength was beyond their expectations. Not just that, but Grey's explosive power was on another level. With every battle, the shock Grey gives them is larger than the last one.

The young man seeing Grey use a stronger attack power than what he used before shocked him.

He tried to block the orb coming his way, but he was sent flying by the impact of the attack. He couldn't even block it since the power was more than his own.

Before he could hit the ground, Grey was already standing behind him, grabbing him with one hand, he slammed him into the ground, which already had both domains active.

The young man was covered by the domain, he managed to resist for a little while, but he was soon unable to resist.

The old man snapped his finger and Grey's domain was contained. He didn't forcefully extinguish it since it would cause a backlash on Grey.

Grey seeing this knew it was his cue to stop fighting. He stopped and looked at the young man who barely had his eyes open.

"Longer than you, I presume." He finally answered the young man's question before walking off.

In the space of one hour, this was his third battle. He first fought against someone at the Peak, before fighting against Lucien, and now, he was fighting against another person.

He darted a look at the old man as he was walking off and the old man shook his head at him.

'He doesn't want me to kill people anymore?' He thought to himself as he walked back.

When he first started to fight, the old man allowed him to freely kill his opponents, but after killing two, the old man seemingly didn't want him to kill anyone else.

'Fine, winning is all that's important anyway. I don't think that moron would want to find trouble with me after beating him so much.'

Chapter 977 Why Didn't I Think Of That Sooner?!

The Nether Faction was looking at Grey with a look of shock and hatred. Of eleven people left, Grey had single-handedly eliminated three people. Adding the young lady in the Eighth stage, he had eliminated four people, which was almost one-fourth of all the people from the Nether Faction.

Those at the Peak had only eliminated two people each, but Grey had eliminated double their figures. It was staggering when one realizes he is the one with the lowest level. He was still in the Fifth stage, well, no one believes that anyway.

Grey was already in his seat, his eyes closed. This time, the leader of the Burchard Family approached him.

"Kid, are you okay?" He asked.

"I'm good." Grey opened his eyes to look at the man standing in front of him.

"Take this, it should help with healing your injuries and help you recover your elemental essence." The leader tossed a small orb to him. The orb was only the size of a finger, but Grey could sense the powerful elemental essence stored in it, as well as the healing power it contained.

Grey took it without hesitation, he needed this. Using the Fusion State so many times in such a short amount of time was a little tiring, it was already starting to take its toll on him, but he was trying his best to hide it from the view of people.

Not just that, but he had been injured on some occasions, and even with the Fusion State, these injuries added to his exhaustion.

He swallowed the orb that looked like a small pill before thanking the leader of the Burchard Family and shutting his eyes once again. He needed to make the most of the time he had right now.

Currently, the Nether Faction had only five people, while the Burchard Family had four people. This was a large contrast when compared to the start of the second round when they had two more people. Now, they had only one extra person.

According to the rules, Grey was the next person to challenge someone. When the old man turned to him, Grey shook his head.

"I'll pass."

The old man nodded.

He turned to the Nether Faction's camp, signaling them that it was their turn once again.

Bill wasn't the one to step out this time, rather, it was a young lady who was at the Peak.

When she finished climbing the platform, her eyes trailed on the bodies of those at the Peak on the side of the Burchard Family before stopping on Grey's figure. Once again, he had been challenged.

It was clear that those from the Nether Faction already saw him as a threat and wanted to eliminate him as soon as possible. The strength he had shown so far meant that he was no weaker than a Peak Sage Plane Elementalist, so they wanted to use the exhaustion strategy to eliminate him.

Everyone could tell that he was already exhausted, so fighting against someone at the Peak should be out of bounds for him.

"Such a shameless group, if you know you're strong enough, why don't you challenge me?" Scott scolded.

"What do you mean? I only want a real challenge, and he's the strongest in your group. Do you think I want to lower my standards by fighting you? Dream on." The young lady chuckled.

Her words hit those geniuses from the Burchard Family heavily, however, they couldn't refute it. Grey does seem to be the strongest person in their group, so technically, she wasn't wrong.

"Fight me, let him rest." Scott didn't want to give up.



"Do you have two domains?" The young lady asked with a mocking tone.

"I..." Scott wanted to say something but words couldn't leave his mouth. Yes, he had awakened his domain, but compared to a freakish entity like Grey, he only had one.

"Stay by the side and learn from him, it'll help you." The young lady mocked.

Grey was already on the platform at this time. His body language was the same as when he first stepped on the platform, and his expression, the same.

"You're something." The young lady tried to start up a conversation with him.

Grey looked at her for a second before turning his eyes to the old man. It was obvious that he didn't want to talk to the young lady, not just that, but he also wanted to leave this place as soon as he could.

Seeing Grey's arrogant manner, the young lady snorted coldly.

The old man gave the nod for the battle to start.

The young lady attacked the moment the old man gave the nod for the start of the battle.

Grey was already prepared for something like this as he blocked the attack but was pushed back.

The young lady attacked once again with the lightning element.

Grey used the Fusion State once again before dodging the attacks of the young lady.

The young lady didn't want to give him the time he wanted since they already knew how dangerous he was. From his first battle with the young man at the Peak, they all could tell that he was an experienced fighter. The only thing the young lady felt gave her the advantage right now was that Grey was tired.

Grey didn't start attacking immediately, he only focused on evading and blocking attacks. He was biding his time.

'The array I placed the last time has been wiped out. That cunning man.'

Grey was thinking about how to fight against this person. He knew he could win, but with his current state, exploding out as he did against the young man in the Ninth stage was not a good idea since it will only exhaust him further.

'I'll take her out with a single attack.'

Grey planned his next move as he waited patiently. He was waiting for an opening, one that he could use to take down his opponent without wasting too much energy.

He suddenly recalled something and couldn't help but want to smack his head.

'Why didn't I think of that sooner?!'

Chapter 978 Resorting To Devious Methods

A clear thought out plan appeared in Grey's mind as he planned to implement it as soon as possible. He needed to make sure he eliminated the young lady with the shortest effort.

Everyone watching the battle could tell that he was being suppressed, but for some reason, no one felt that he had lost. Given the surprises he had given them since the start of the competition, they couldn't rule him out from anything, if anything, some of them, especially those from the Burchard Family felt that he would once again produce a miracle.

The battle continued, with the young lady attacking with multiple lightning attacks. Grey evaded and blocked the attacks he could while occasionally countering as well.

He had been hit by a few attacks which had caused him a few injuries.

Just when the young lady was starting to get the confidence that she would be able to take him out, something happened that shocked everyone in the area.

Grey's eyes glowed with a pale blue light as a light beam shot out from his eyes into the eyes of the young lady. It happened so fast that no one expected it.

The young lady froze, seemingly unable to move. Ice crystals started to form around her body as she visibly started to freeze.

Grey used the opportunity he had presented himself and attacked. Three inscriptions appeared in the sky while his domains also appeared.

An orb appeared on his fingertip that he sent in the direction of the young lady.

Boom!

Just as the young lady was about to regain some clarity, she saw the attacks coming her way and tried to block them, but it knocked her flying.

Grey's figure appeared beside her and she felt a powerful repulsion force that sent her in the direction of the explosion.

Grey's plan was clear, he wanted to make sure she suffered from the attack.

The young lady slammed into the area of the explosion and her scream resonated in the area.

The old man sighed with a shake of his head, even he was starting to fear Grey at the moment. With a wave of his hand, he removed the young lady from harm's way.

"You win."

Grey nodded before walking back to his seat.

'Just how many trump cards does he have?'

This was what was going through every single individual's mind. Grey had come up with a trump card in each of his battles to defeat his opponents. What was worse was that he never showed all of them at once. Whenever people thought he had used everything, he would use another one that no one knew of, making life hell for his opponents.

'Icy flames, is that even possible?'

The old man looked at Grey. Grey had used his blue flames which were clearly special flames, but from this mental attack he did just now, everyone saw the ice crystals forming on the body of the young lady. This meant only one thing, Grey had two special flames.

He was the first person they had heard of having such an ability.

'This kid, he's going to shake the world very soon.' The old man kept giving Grey a long look before looking away.

Those from the Burchard Family watched Grey return to his seat with shock on their faces. Every single time he had returned from a battle, shock had appeared on the faces of those from the Burchard Family, it was almost like they didn't know what else to feel.

They couldn't be blamed since every time Grey fought, he shocked them with his abilities.

Now, they were all looking at Sylvia, seemingly wondering how she managed to get such a monster to fight for them.

On the side of the Nether Faction, the faces of everyone, including the youths, were sour. Grey had single-handedly changed the tides of the competition. Even though the competition had not ended, the advantage the Nether Faction had over the Burchard Family was gone.

Now, both sides had four members left, and each person stepping out to challenge someone had only one chance. If one of them lost and someone from the Burchard Family won, that would put them at the disadvantage. From having a large advantage to being equal and even risking being at the disadvantage.

Before coming here, if they were told they would face a situation like this, they wouldn't believe it, especially since the person changing everything was a young man in the Fifth stage.

Scott recalled when he mocked those from the Burchard Family when he sensed Grey's aura at that time. From what has happened, he felt embarrassed at the thought of it. Now he understood why those from the Burchard Family didn't bother with him when he mocked them.

"You're going next, he's exhausted, this is your chance. Eliminate him, use that technique." Scott said to the young man standing close to him.

This young man could be regarded as the second strongest individual from the Nether Faction in the Sage Plane, only below Scott, however, Scott was even telling him to use a secret technique to increase his strength so he could defeat Grey.

The young man nodded his head before walking to the platform. When he stood there, unlike others, he looked at Grey, his intentions were clear, and he wanted to challenge Grey.

Grey, who hadn't even gotten up to three minutes of rest, saw that he was being challenged once again.

"That's not fair, this is too much."

This time, everyone from the Burchard Family stood up. They couldn't afford to allow Grey to lose. They could tell that as long as he rested, then he had a good chance of even challenging Scott. Why would they want their lucky star to risk being eliminated by such devious methods of the Nether Faction?

The last three people who had stepped forward from the Burchard Family had challenged Grey. Adding this young man made it four. If Grey fought four intense battles, they didn't think he would be able to create another miracle after the previous three.

Chapter 979 Can He Still Fight?

"It's not against the rules, unless he's willing to forfeit this round which means he would be eliminated." The old man said.

Although he hated to admit it, this seemed a little too much, but there was nothing he could do about it. It was something that had been agreed upon from the start, and he was sure even the Burchard Family would resort to such means if there was someone of Grey's caliber on the other side that would destroy their chances of winning the competition. Everyone knew how valuable that place was to the Nether Faction.

"Why are you clowns jumping? The person being challenged is walking to the platform." The leader of the Nether Faction said coldly.

When everyone looked, they saw Grey walking to the platform.

Anger rose in the faces of those from the Burchard Family. They all knew that there was no way Grey would want to give up his chance of entering the secret realm after spending so much effort. But fighting against this young man was very dangerous, especially given his current state.

When Grey stepped on the platform, unlike the previous people, this young man didn't say a word, he turned to look at the old man, waiting for the start of the battle.

Grey took in a deep breath and his aura changed instantly.

The old man gave the go-ahead for the start of the battle. Grey didn't want to use the top level of the Fusion State since he didn't want to expose all his cards, but these people were forcing him.

'If only there was a way I could get Void to help me. Damn these people, if not for this old man, I would be killing all of them to deter them from challenging me next time.'

Grey felt aggrieved internally. This was not what he wanted from the start. He thought he would fight a few battles and then win the competition. Now, he had already eliminated five people, that was one-fourth of everyone from the Nether Faction. He had already gotten more than double the eliminations of each person still here. If he were to defeat this young man as well, that would make it six.

The fact that a single person could achieve such a feat in a competition of twenty individuals each was more than remarkable. Grey's battle record at the moment was already regarded as heaven-defying, adding more wins to it would just make him a genius like no other. Well, he's already seen as a genius like no other from what he had done so far.

The young man was a Dual Elementalist. He had both the lightning and darkness element.

He used the lightning element to unleash a thunderbolt at Grey who dodged. However, Grey noticed where he stepped on was covered by total darkness.

'Crap, a domain!'

The first person who had awakened his domain amongst those at the Peak had appeared, and he wasn't holding back one bit. Grey was a dangerous opponent, and he didn't want to take any chances.

In the midst of the darkness, Grey's blue flames exploded out, forcing the darkness back. However, the darkness started to consume the flames and it seemed to start to grow stronger than it previously was.

'Seriously?!'

Grey felt annoyed. He had always hated the darkness element, now, being trapped in a darkness domain was infuriating. He had tried to use the space element to escape, but whenever he opened a spatial tunnel, it would corrode it, making it unstable.

'Damn it!' He complained when he noticed the darkness energy was trying to enter his body to cause damage.

However, it was soon swallowed up by the miasma in his body.

'Oh, I totally forgot about this guy.'

After this, he calmed down and soon prepared for his next attack. He took one step back with his right leg and a sword appeared in his hand, it was none other than that sword he got from the trial land that could use all the elements.

He infused it with the space element, he moved the hand back and slashed forward.

"Dimensional slash!"

A large part of the darkness was cut open and the young man coughed up a mouthful of blood.

After using dimensional slash, Grey followed up with a fire attack that exploded out, disintegrating the rest of the darkness.

Grey's figure who was holding a sword in his hand appeared in view of everyone once again.

Grey's figure flashed and he moved closer to the young man with the sword in his hand. He unleashed another fire attack on the young man. This time, the attack power was more than what it previously was.

The young man tried to block the attack with a darkness screen that appeared in front of him.

The attacks slashed open a hole in the shield as Grey used the lightning attack to pass through the hole he opened.

The young man moved to the left to avoid the attack. However, he was met with a fire beam that shot out from one of the inscriptions in the sky.

The young man blocked it. Since the attack power wasn't on the same level as Grey's usual attack, it didn't cause him any problems.

He continued to move from side to side as he dodged Grey's attack.



Seeing what the young man was planning to do, Grey kept the sword. Just like before, the consumption in the long run was too much for him, so he didn't want to waste his essence.

The young man had noticed that Grey was using the sword sparingly, so he knew there was definitely something wrong with it.

Now that he saw Grey keeping it, he confirmed his guess.

He attacked when after Grey kept it, and with his attack power, Grey was once again put on the defensive.

With the help of the lightning element, the young man moved closer to Grey, but just as he was about to get close, he sensed something and retreated.

"You want to use that thing against me? Heh, do I look like those inexperienced fools?" The young man smirked.

Chapter 980 Who The Hell Is This Kid?

Grey didn't reply to the young man's words. When the young man tried to come close to him, he unleashed the gravitational force trying to catch the young man off guard, but the young man seemed to have been monitoring him for a while, so when he noticed this, he retreated without hesitation.

He stood and looked at the young man who was standing opposite him. The darkness domain the young man had made him one of Grey's toughest opponents so far. Other than that man from another realm who almost killed Grey, this young man was the strongest.

The young man smiled when he saw Grey's expression before sending out a series of lightning bolt attacks at Grey.

Grey dodged the attacks as he countered as well.

With a fireball and fire beams, then there were the inscriptions that were also sending out attacks.

The young man was quite stronger than Grey, and it was evident from his attacks since whenever they collided head-on, Grey would always be pushed back by the impact of the attack. He couldn't fight against it since he was still in the Eighth stage, after all.

Grey's eyes glowed with a pale blue light, but the moment the attack hit the young man, even before the ice started to form on his body, he exploded out with lightning, covering himself with it.

Grey's attack was made futile since it didn't even stop the young man for even a second.

The young man soon released an orb into the sky that exploded. It was made from the darkness element, and as soon as it exploded, it released tiny particles of darkness essence across the platform.

Seeing this, Grey knew his plan, but he wasn't worried about it. The darkness element had little to no effect on him, so he wasn't too bothered with what effects it would have. He focused his efforts on trying to get more chances in attacking, but the young man's darkness element attack power saw an increase of almost twenty percent.

Grey's earth wall was corroded through, and he was open to attacks.

The darkness element was already causing a problem for Grey, with the addition of this darkness essence on the platform, made things worse.

Just as the battle was about to get past the five minutes mark, the platform lit up. Grey had been preparing an array just like before, and just in the same manner, no one noticed him when he was doing this.

The platform lit up and Grey's figure started to move around the platform at an insane speed. The only thing that those below the Ninth stage of the Sage Plane could see were multiple afterimages. They didn't know which one was the real one.

The young man he was fighting against didn't have this problem, although he has been able to keep track, he was a little slower compared to Grey when it came to speed and he wasn't able to attack Grey even when he wanted to.

Grey started to attack with three elements, he focused the space element on moving while he used the others, as well as the earth element to attack the young man.

Seeing that Grey was starting to get the upper hand for the first time in the battle, those from the Burchard Family cheered while those from the Nether Faction had worried looks. If Grey were to defeat this young man as well, that would put the number of people he had defeated to six, a staggering number.

This was not the main issue, the main issue was that the Burchard Family will have four members, while the Nether Faction would have only three left. Of course they were the ones challenging now, but these numbers would not make things easy. If for one thing, Grey had substantially shattered their morale, so even when they want to fight, they wouldn't be on the level they were at first.

"Who the hell is this kid?" The leader of the Nether Faction was fuming.

No one answered his question since none of them knew the answer to it.

Grey seemed to appear out of nowhere, and now, he was looking to be the downfall of the Nether Faction. They couldn't afford to lose the secret realm, unfortunately, their only chance of taking out Grey seems to be on the verge of being wiped out.

If Grey wins this, they could not risk sending out someone else to fight against him. However, if they didn't send someone else to fight him, then they would give him the time he needed to rest, so even if one or two gets to the next round, it wouldn't matter.

"Don't worry, he knows what to do. I've told him to use that technique." Bill said when he saw the leader of the Faction losing it.

"That? Hmm, it's not a loss if both are taken out. Scott has never been your opponent." The leader calmed down visibly.

Back on the platform.

The young man had changed from attack to defense. He knew in terms of speed, he was lacking compared to a Space Elementalist who got a boost from an array.

Grey was using as many techniques as he could, but the young man was standing strong. With every attack Grey sent his way, he would either block or evade.

He didn't dare to allow Grey to get close to him since he knew how impactful the gravitational force field was.

Grey sent out a stream of fire, but it was cut open by a lightning blade. He tried to use an earth hammer to slam the young man into the ground, but he dodged to the left, barely escaping the attack.

He used the space element to get close to him so he could use the gravitational force field, but the moment Grey appeared beside him, the young man moved away.

After watching Grey fight for some time, he was using the experience to fight against him.

'Sneaky guy, unfortunately, you're falling into my trap.' Grey thought internally, not bothered by the young man's movement.