

Affinity 991

Chapter 991 Scott's Rage

The duo nodded to the words of the leader of the Faction as one of them stepped on the platform.

His eyes trailed to the body of one of those from the Burchard Family who was at the Peak. He didn't waste any time and challenged the person.

Their battle started off very slow before it started to pick up speed. After almost twenty minutes, the young man from the Nether Faction won. He fought as safe as he possibly could so as to ensure he doesn't get hurt. He needed to preserve his strength for Scott.

The next person soon stepped on stage.

Before the person from the Burchard Family went up, he heard the voice of the Family Head.

"If you can't defeat him, make sure he doesn't have an easy time winning."

The Family Head, as well as the Elders from the Burchard Family already knew the plan of the Nether Faction, defeat the duo, then try to use the advantage of numbers against Scott.

Scott might be powerful, but no one felt he would be able to replicate what Grey had done. This was not them looking down at Scott, but if these two from the Nether Faction fought with their lives on the line, which they believed they would, then things might not be that easy for Scott, even though he was stronger.

The next battle was not as dull as the previous one. Of course it was not on the level of Grey and Bill's battle, it was still amongst the top battles, excluding Grey's battles.

Both fighters fought like their lives depended on it. The youth from the Nether Faction had the slight edge, but that didn't mean he would be able to breeze through the battle.

The young man from the Burchard Family was cunning to the extreme. He traded blow for blow with the youth from the Nether Faction. His intentions were obvious, do as much damage as he possibly could.

And he truly was getting it done. Although he was injured in that process, the youth from the Nether Faction was unscathed. Both fighters were bleeding, and the battle lasted for almost thirty minutes.

The young man from the Burchard Family seemingly wanted to drag the youth from the Nether Faction down with him.

Even after losing, he still dragged his body off the platform with a wide smile on his face. His bleeding face didn't make his smile look good, but he didn't care.

He strodded off and went to his seat to recover.

The youth from the Nether Faction clenched his fists tightly, he was incensed. This young man had ruined their plans. With his current state, he couldn't hold out against Scott for long. And everyone present knew that the first person Scott would pick was him.

He hurried back to his seat and the Faction Leader covered him with a white light while giving him something that looked like a pill.

"Stay for as long as you can before stepping up. You need to heal..."

The Faction Leader had not even finished his statement when Scott's voice resounded from the platform.

"You, come up."

Scott had an aggressive look. It was evident that he was annoyed. After watching his comrades die at the start of the competition, then seeing how those from the Nether Faction were bullying Grey, he had been itching to give someone a beating for a long time. Now, he finally had the chance.

The youth from the Nether Faction pretended he wasn't the one Scott was talking to as he continued to heal. Greedily absorbing what was inside the pill, as well as the light that still enveloped him.

"Elder." Scott turned to the old man.

The old man knew what those from the Nether Faction were trying to do, he could only shake his head. The Burchard Family did something like this as well when Grey was being challenged nonstop.

With a sigh, he said, "If he doesn't come up within the next thirty seconds, he will be eliminated."

The youth from the Nether Faction stayed till the time was almost up before stepping on stage against Scott.

"I thought you were strong?" He asked with a smirk.

He wanted to engage Scott in a conversation so he could get more time.

Scott didn't reply to him, he only turned his head to the old man, waiting for him to give the go-ahead for the start of the battle.

The old man didn't say anything more and nodded for the battle to begin.

Scott attacked the moment it started.

The youth from the Nether Faction knew that he was not on Scott's level, nor was he in the best condition to even try to fight against him. He hastily retreated as he dodged and blocked Scott's attacks.

Scott attacked aggressively, but against someone who was hellbent on defending and dodging, even if the platform was small, he could barely do much. Especially given the speed advantage his opponent had over him.

As the youth dodged, he tried to rile Scott up by abusing him.

Scott stayed collected as he didn't rush into anything. Attacking in the same manner as the first time. Each attack was deadly and precise.

The youth was forced to take an attack head-on after falling for Scott's scheme. The force of the attack forced him back, and before he could regain his balance, Scott was all over him.

An attack came from almost all angles, and Scott was not even done.

The youth scrambled to block the attacks with all his might. Unleashing lightning attacks.

This youth was proficient in arrays, but he was not an Inscriber like Grey. While he was running, he set up an array on the platform.

Just when everything was going Scott's way, the array lit up on the platform.

Scott was about to attack when he sensed danger, he hurriedly retreated.

The young man from the Nether Faction laughed in excitement as he coughed up a mouthful of blood in the process. Scott had done some serious damages to his body, but he could still fight.

Chapter 992 Do You Think I'm A Fool?

Scott looked at the array that was on the ground, it was dangerous, he could tell. This wasn't something that could kill him, but if he was careless, then it would make winning this competition too difficult.

Grey was still unconscious, well, he was still all bones. Although he was already slightly recovering, he didn't think Grey could fight again.

'He has done enough, I'll end this. His efforts must not be in vain.' Scott repeated in his head.

His driving force at the moment was not just winning the competition, but seeing how far Grey was willing to go made his blood boil. If Grey, someone who was not from their Family could go this hard, then he didn't mind risking his life just to make sure they were victorious.

What was worse was that Grey had even removed the toughest obstacles, leaving the weaker ones for him. If he couldn't complete the task in this state, then he was more than useless.

Taking big strides, he stopped restraining himself. He would use his full strength now.

Boom!

The battle heated up immediately.

On the side of the Burchard Family, Lucas was not even paying attention to Scott or anything that was not Grey. His brows were furrowed as he studied the extent of Grey's injuries.

'It's healing, that should be a good sign...' He felt a headache as he looked at his son.

Grey's cracked cores were healing, but for some reason, they were shrinking in size. On another person, it would be a miracle that he was already healing his cracked cores, and shrinking means that he was consolidating them. This would make the person grow stronger.

However, Grey wasn't normal, not just that, but Grey's cores were being filled with a black substance. When he used his spiritual senses to try to investigate it, he felt the thing almost eat away that part of his spiritual senses. He didn't need to take a second look before he knew what it was... poison miasma.

'How did this thing enter his body?'

He felt his head banging from these things. He didn't know how to solve this since miasma was something that was dangerous even to powerhouses like himself. The miasma in Grey's body was even stronger than some of the ones he had encountered.

With his strength, unless he stayed in a place filled with miasma for too long, then he wouldn't have any problems with it. But the one in Grey's body almost harmed him with the first contact.

He looked around, he could sense the eyes of the old man, the Family Head of the Burchard Family, the Leader of the Nether Faction, as well as some of the Elders.

The main reason he showed himself was Grey, if these people had been the one to take him after he fell unconscious, they would've known his secret. This was something that would definitely endanger Grey's life, so he didn't want to take the risk.

Not just that, but he missed his son. The figure guarding Grey told them of Grey's plan to attend this competition, so he left immediately, leaving his wife behind.

When he got here, Grey had already started to fight. So he watched pretty much all of Grey's battles. He couldn't hide the shock in his eyes when he saw how powerful Grey was. The truth was, he didn't really know the extent of the orb he put in Grey's body, he only knew it would give him all the elements, well, that was what it said.

Seeing Grey only use four elements, he was a bit skeptical. It was only after he checked Grey's body did he notice the other four cores. This means that Grey was hiding his true strength. He was impressed by Grey's foresight.

'Thank you, Martha. He has grown up so much because of you.' He smiled softly.

Although he hated to admit it, he knew he didn't have much of a say in Grey's upbringing, hence he appreciated Martha for her hard work. Of course Martha still left Grey alone after he passed fifteen, but some of her teachings must have already been inbuilt into Grey's mind.

He studied Grey some more and noticed Grey's shriveled body was his own doing. Other than the cracks which were healing up, Grey should be fine after some rest. Calming his mind, he looked at the Head of the Burchard Family and gave him a nod.

The Head of the Burchard Family heaved a sigh of relief before focusing on Scott's battle. He had been so worried about Grey's well-being that he barely glanced at Scott who was fighting. Now that he knew that Grey was fine, he faced the battle again.

The battle was already getting very heated. Scott had taken some hits, but not enough to cause him any serious issues.

The youth from the Nether Faction wasn't doing any better. He still hadn't recovered from his previous battle, and after being struck multiple times by Scott's attacks, he was bleeding all over. A large chunk of the flesh on his back was missing as a result of taking an attack from Scott.

He was hanging on by a thread, he knew he hadn't done any significant damage to Scott, so leaving now would not help the young man who was left. He had to make sure that Scott was at least injured, not any superficial injuries, but a serious one that would affect his combat power.

He soon came to a decision and decided to take the risk of getting another hit just to ensure he manages to harm Scott.

Gritting his teeth and hoping he doesn't die from the attack, he charged at Scott, neglecting everything else.

Scott noticed the menacing look in his eyes and he soon understood what he wanted to do.

'Do you think I'm a fool?' He thought internally with a grin.

There was something he had been hiding all this while.

Seeing the young man charge at him, he didn't hold back and attacked.

Boom!

The attack connected with the young man, but the young man forced himself through the pain, and after getting within striking distance, he attacked.

Chapter 993 Reunited

The young man rushed after Scott, and just as he was about to attack, Scott's body was covered with a ray of light.

Before the young man could react, Scott was nowhere to be seen.

'Huh?'

Confusion appeared on his face as he looked around, visibly confused as to what just happened. If his guess was right, then Scott just used the light element. But there had not been reports of Scott using his light element before.

Those from the Nether Faction had shocked expressions, but looking at the faces of those from the Burchard Family, they knew this was not something unknown to them.

The leader of the Nether Faction felt a tinge of annoyance. This young man's effort had gone to waste all because of their lack of information.

"Those morons can't do anything right." He cursed under his breath.

He naturally had people watching the Burchard Family hence giving them most of the information they needed. He never thought that the person had never come across Scott or even heard of him having the light element.

Now the young man was going to suffer because of it.

Back on the platform.

After dodging the young man's attack, Scott appeared behind him and attacked once again. The young man was already bleeding heavily from the previous attack which he took head-on just to get a chance to attack Scott, now, he was unable to protect himself once again and his back was hit by Scott's attack.

He crashed to the ground and immediately went unconscious on the platform.

Scott didn't attack any further, since his attack couldn't kill the young man, there was no use attacking again since it would be against the rules of the competition.

After defeating his first opponent, it was time to move on to the next. He didn't really need to rest since he preserved most of his strength during the first battle.

The leader of the Burchard Family clenched his fists angrily as he looked at the young man left. Seeing how energetic Scott was, he couldn't help but shake his head. He knew this competition was over from the moment Grey defeated Bill.

In fact, Grey's appearance threw the competition off its feet and the predicted winners didn't win because of a single anomaly on the other side.

Just as expected, the young man stepped on stage with Scott and undoubtedly lost after almost ten minutes. The battle wasn't too intense since the young man was trying his best to ensure he didn't get injured too early.

With the competition coming to an end, Scott and those from the Burchard Family fixed their attention back on Grey who was still unconscious, although his appearance was not the same as before. He had visibly added flesh and was not all bones and skin anymore.

"Lucas..." The Head of the Burchard Family spoke up.

Lucas, who had his eyes on Grey, raised his head to look at the Head of the Burchard Family.

"How's he doing now?"

"Fine, he'll be good in no time."

"Alright. Thanks to him we defeated the Nether Faction. Naturally, he has every right in entering the secret realm whenever he wants to. Also, since he's from the Dawson Family, you can send ten youngsters over to train in this secret realm." The Head of the Burchard Family said.

He was truly grateful to Grey, not just him, but the entire Burchard Family.

"I'll think about it. Since the competition is over, I'll be leaving with my son now. I'll send him over once he recovers so he can train there." Lucas stood up with Grey.

He couldn't leave him here since they would probably try to check for the abnormalities with Grey.

Before anyone else could say a word, Lucas vanished with Grey.

Those from the Burchard Family exchanged glances before shaking their heads wryly. Lucas was known for not being much of a socialist. He rarely communicated with people, and although very modest, he was a genius, so he wasn't without pride.

...

The days went by in a flash and before long, two weeks had gone by in the blink of an eye.

The Western Continent, in the Upoya Region.

This was the place where the Dawson Family was located.

In a cave, three figures could be seen speaking, while a youth could be seen lying on an ice bed.

"How could you be so careless and allow him to hurt himself to this extent?"

The voice of an enraged lady sounded out in the cave.

"It's not that I allowed him to hurt himself to this extent. If I stopped him, he would've lost the battle."

A man tried to explain with an apologetic tone.

"Is winning more important than my son's health?" The lady asked again, this time, clearly more infuriated by the man's response.

"Martha..." The man called out softly.

The trio in the cave were none other than Lucas Dawson, Martha, and the man guarding Grey. Grey was the one lying on the ice bed.

When Lucas returned to the Western Continent, he stayed for a while and finally decided to call Martha over. When she arrived, she naturally exploded when she saw Grey's situation.

Lucas has been trying to calm her down for almost an hour now, but he hasn't really been successful.

"He'll be fine."

"I know, I just hate the fact that he's in such a situation when I meet him." Martha replied with a downcast expression.

"What did you say about necromancers?" She suddenly recalled something and turned to Grey's guardian.

"Yes, he was marked. Not just by a necromancer, but one of those guys increased the range of the mark." Grey's guardian replied.

"Hmph! Those filthy things, they should pray I don't get my hands on them." Martha snorted coldly.

"I'll advise he doesn't go to the secret realm of the Burchard Family, we all know that place has a portal connecting to the realm of that race. If they sense the mark on him, he will be in danger." Grey's guardian said.

Martha and Lucas exchanged glances, before turning to look at Grey.

"That will be his decision to make." Lucas said. He would never interfere with Grey's decisions, this was the reason he allowed Grey to fight with Bill even when he was harming himself.

This doesn't mean he would let him do as he pleases in a situation that might take his life.

Chapter 994 Reunited II

One more week went by in a flash.

Lucas and Martha frequented where Grey was being kept while his guardian was always there.

Grey's condition was relatively better now compared to before and there even seemed to be an improvement in his cultivation.

Void had been hiding in Grey's storage ring all this while. He naturally would not let them take Grey away without him.

Some time went by and Grey finally made some movements. His eyes twitched repeatedly before snapping open.

He stared at the same position for some time. After about a minute or so, he turned his head to properly see the place he was located. Seeing the unfamiliar scenery, he tried to get up hastily, but he was shocked when he noticed he couldn't freely move his body.

'Void...'

He called out to Void. This was the only one he could count on at times like these.

'You're awake!'

Void's voice sounded in his ears after some time.

'Yeah, and I don't feel so good.'

Grey replied as he finally managed to get to a seating position.

'You won't believe what happened...'

Void was still in the middle of speaking when a figure stepped into the cave where Grey was being kept. It was a middle-aged man with a handsome face that had an uncanny resemblance to Grey. The man stood just over two meters tall and had a well-built body.

"Oh, you're awake." The man said.

Grey looked at the man in front of him who was very familiar, yet quite distant to him. It took him some time, neglecting Void's voice in his head, he murmured in a somewhat confused voice, "Dad?"

"Grey." Lucas nodded with a smile before sending out his spiritual senses to check on Grey's condition.

However, he didn't try to move closer to Grey since he felt guilty for leaving him alone with his wife for so long.

Grey was a bit apprehensive when the spiritual sense was about to touch him, but after thinking about it, he let it be.

"You're alive?" Grey blurted out unconsciously.

Although he hoped for this, he was also a bit shocked by their reunion. To be honest, he didn't think that when he would eventually meet his father, it would be after waking up from a coma. According to his plan, he would search for his parents and find them somewhere.

"Your mother didn't tell you I was fine?" Lucas asked, stunned by Grey's question.

"Well..." Grey paused.

He didn't really know how to communicate with his father who he hadn't seen for over ten years. If he recalled correctly, his father left when he was around eight or so, now he was almost twenty-two. If not for the resemblance he had with his father, he wouldn't have even recalled the figure standing in front of him.

"I know you have a lot of questions, you'll get your answer." Lucas said when he noticed Grey wasn't saying anything.

"You left me and mom alone, for years." Grey finally spoke after some time.

"I'm sorry for that, but I was powerless." Lucas apologized, he knew multiple things were running through Grey's head at the moment, so he wasn't in a hurry to speak much. He wanted to hear everything Grey had to say first.

"Why?" Grey asked, this was the only question that had been going through his head for so long.

Lucas looked Grey in the eyes, "You see, it all started before your birth..."

Lucas went on to explain the reason for his departure and why he couldn't go back to his wife and son even after so long.

He was avoiding one of the major issues that came with coming from a top Family, and that was fighting for the position of the Family Head. Given his talent, he would be the one to get it undoubtedly, but he didn't want it. His parents as well as the Elders though, thought otherwise.

Even when one of his brothers wanted the position, they refused him, saying it was only right for Lucas to take up the position.

This caused hatred to grow in the mind of his brother and he decided to leave with his wife and go into hiding. The truth was, he wanted peace. All his life, he had been fighting. Even when he didn't want to fight, he had been forced to fight due to some circumstances.

After getting married, he didn't want that life for his family. He wanted a peaceful and happy life, unfortunately, that was not the case. Grey's birth changed everything.

While Lucas explained everything, Grey listened attentively, making sure he digested all the things his father was saying.

Lucas just finished explaining when Martha walked into the cave.

"Mom..." Grey called out, a little more affectionately compared to when he spoke with his father.

The truth was, after staying with his mother for a longer time, especially during the period after his first test, he was closer to her than his father.

Martha looked at Grey with teary eyes as she walked closer to him and gave him a tight hug, gently caressing his hair.

Grey was already slightly taller than her at the moment, but it didn't stop her from giving him the same treatment as she usually did when he was younger.

"How are you feeling now?" Martha disregarded Lucas' presence as she studied her son.

It had been so long since she saw him and had been worried about his well-being.

"Better, I guess." Grey replied after his mother finally let go of him.

"Where am I?" He asked soon after.

"Close to the Dawson Family." Martha replied before casting a glance at Lucas, "Someone is afraid of taking you to the Family Manor."

Grey chuckled slightly when he saw his father's helpless expression. Surprisingly, they hadn't changed much. Other than his father being a little distant, he was still as close to his mother as always.

"Martha, you know the situation there more than I do. Taking him there will not do him any good." Lucas explained wearily.

Chapter 995 Reunited III

It took a while but Grey finally started speaking with his father once again. He wasn't really too annoyed with him, especially after he gave him a detailed explanation.

When stepping out of the cave, Grey saw a familiar figure standing outside.

"It's you!" He exclaimed softly.

"Hello, Young Lord." The man standing outside bowed to Grey with a smile.

"Allow me to formally introduce myself, my name is Arlys Orvyn."

"Guardian?" Grey asked with a raise of his brows.

"I guessed you already knew. But yes, I was tasked to make sure you don't die." Arlys replied.

"To think I had such a powerful guardian with me all this while and I was chased across the entire Azure Continent." Grey shook his head with a wry smile.

He had tried to sense the cultivation of Arlys, but he couldn't sense it. He was currently in the Sage Plane, almost in the late stages. With his current strength, he could run riot in the Azure Continent, as long as he doesn't go to the depths of the al Beasts' Forest, then he was good. Yet he couldn't sense the cultivation of his guardian, which should put Arlys in the Elemental Venerable Plane at the very least.

"Why do you think you never came across an opponent above your strength?" Arlys asked with a smile.

He took care of a lot of Grey's enemies, and even if Grey doesn't know how many people he took care of, he still wanted to make sure Grey knew he did well.

"You were chased across the continent?" Martha asked as she stepped out, overhearing the duo's conversation.

"Yeah, they were looking for Teacher, since I was his only student, I pretty much became their enemy. Not just that, but the news of me getting the Great Earth Essence Liquid from the Trial Land spread out as well." Grey explained.

"Wait, you have a Teacher?" Martha was a little shocked.

"Remember that senior that came to take me to the Lunar Faction?" Grey asked.

"Good, you have great eyes." Martha nodded. In the Azure Continent, Chris was one of the few people she thought highly of.

'Actually, he wanted me to become his student because of my cooking skills.' Grey said internally.

He didn't say this out loud since it would make his parents think otherwise of Chris. From the start, he knew Chris only wanted him for his cooking skill, he wasn't that dumb not to realize it. With nothing to do, Chris taught him most of the things he knew, including inscribing and being a great array master.

They spoke a little longer before Grey turned to his parents.

'Oh! Void, come out, why are you hiding?'

After getting the go-ahead from Grey, Void appeared on his shoulder.

"I've been wondering where you went." Arlys spoke up when Void appeared.

"Your pet?" Martha asked, staring at the cute-looking Void.

"Partner, actually. He's quite resourceful." Grey replied.

"Hello, Grey's parents." Void spoke out with his small voice.

Neither of the duo showed a strange expression. This was not their first time encountering a al Beast that could speak. The only thing that caught their attention was that they knew nothing of Void's breed.

From a glance, they could tell he was different.

"Where did you get him?" Lucas asked as he tried to grab Void, but before his eyes, Void tried to escape with the space element. He smiled but didn't retract his hand.

Void, who thought he had vanished from Grey's shoulder, was stunned when he felt a large hand grabbing him. He tried to struggle, but it was futile.

'Don't resist, he won't harm you.' Grey calmed Void down.

"An egg." Grey replied to his father's question.

"Oh, odd." Lucas said as he continued staring at Void with his curious eyes.

"Such a strange cat. It's like the void." He muttered.

"His name's surprising, Void." Grey said with a chuckle.

"I can see why." Lucas replied.

He tried to peer into Void's body, but all he could sense was an endless void. No matter where he looked, all he saw was nothingness.

He let go of Void, who hurriedly went back to Grey's shoulder.

Staring at his parents, Grey had a sense of loss. Originally, this had been one of his tasks, growing strong enough to sweep the entire Aurora Continent in search of his parents, now, he found out that they had been aware of his movements for some time now, and he was a little lost.

'What now?' He questioned himself internally.

"Grey, are you alright?" Martha noticed Grey had gone silent and seemed to be lost in his thoughts.

"I'm fine, I guess..." Grey told them his plan to search for them after growing stronger.

Finding them now seemed to change some of his plans.

"That's not really a problem. Oh, I forgot to ask, I heard you've had dealings with necromancers." Lucas brought the matter of necromancers up.

"Not just them, there are these short guys that they call their ancestors, those guys seem to want me dead. Well, one of them was almost successful some time ago." Grey replied.

"Hmm..." Lucas fell deep in thought.

"Is anything wrong?" Grey asked.

"The secret realm you want to enter has a portal that leads to that race. So you would be seeing those guys there. Given the mark on you, you're technically a magnet to them." Martha explained.

"Eh?" Grey looked at them, confused.

Only after some seconds did he recall he was fighting in a competition before passing out.

"Oh... that. Did they win?" He asked.

"Yes, with you taking out that young man, the rest was pretty much easy." Lucas replied.

"Good, had my efforts been wasted, I wouldn't have forgiven them." Grey heaved a sigh.

"You should be careful next time. The secret your body holds will bring calamity to you if it spreads. Don't give people the chance to check your body." Lucas warned.

"I didn't think it would be this bad." Grey replied with a wry smile.

This was the first time he used the Fusion State to this level, so he didn't think he would go unconscious for so long.

Chapter 996 I'll Introduce You Next Time

"I can see you grew stronger." Lucas commented as he studied Grey.

From being in the Fifth stage of the Sage Plane, Grey had gone to the Sixth, getting really close to the Seventh stage.

If Lucas knew that Grey was only in the Fourth stage a few weeks ago, he would be stumped.

"Can you tell me what it's like?" Lucas suddenly asked.

"Huh?" Grey looked at him, a little confused.

"The orb in your body, what's it like?" Lucas asked.

Martha looked at Lucas, before giving a glance at Arlys.

"I should go check on my wife." Arlys knew that was the cue to leave, without waiting for anything else, he vanished.

"There's no need to chase him, he probably knows more about it than we do." Lucas said.

Arlys had been with Grey for so long, so he should pretty much have found out about almost everything. This was the reason he didn't bother about him, since there was no need to.

"It's still better to be on the safer side." Martha replied.

"You're right." Lucas nodded.

"Well, there's this senior I saw in my consciousness after it activated..." Grey went on to tell them pretty much everything about the orb.

His father was the one who placed it in his body in the first place, so hiding it from him was not really useful. Seeing the shocked expression on their faces as he told him about the secrets of the orb, he was a little amazed they knew pretty much nothing about it.

Originally, even though his mother told him his father found it in an underground cave, he still didn't think they would have pretty much no knowledge of it.

'Aren't they a little too careless?' He asked Void, feeling a bit sad.

There was a probability that the orb would have a dangerous side effect on him, and his father placed it on his body without even knowing.

'In their defense, you were already dying. It wasn't like there was anything else they could do.' Void replied.

'Yeah, you have a point.' Grey nodded to Void's words.

Void was in the storage ring, so he heard everything Lucas said when speaking with Grey.

"There's a space inside the orb?" Lucas asked again when Grey told him how he could enter the place to check his elemental grades.

"Yeah, it's pretty big actually. I've explored it a few times, but only saw a vast expanse of land with nothing else. Other than mountains and trees, there is also water inside, it's quite incredible. But I've not seen a living thing inside though..." Grey explained.

During one of the days he was free, he decided to explore the place. Apparently, the higher his cultivation grew, the more lifelike the place seemed to be.

When he first explored it, there were only mountains and trees, but now, he saw water during his last trip.

"Definitely a God Plane Elementalist." Lucas muttered.

"Not any ordinary God Plane Elementalist. It takes great power to create such a place. It's almost equivalent to those secret realms." Martha added.

"Yes. Did you say it looked more lifelike the stronger you get?" Lucas asked.

Grey nodded.

Lucas fell deep in thought, after a while he asked again, "What did this senior you saw say to you?"

Grey didn't remember word for word what he said, but he pretty much got the crux of what he said and told that to his parents.

"Just that?" Lucas asked to be sure.

"Yes." Grey nodded.

"Alright. Keep this a secret, I heard you have some incredible friends, I'd like to meet them someday." Martha said with a smile.

"Alright mom, they are around the same location. I can invite them over if you want." Grey suggested.

Honestly, he wanted to celebrate finding his parents with his friends. Well, technically, he didn't find his parents since they came to him, but it was the same thing. They were finally reunited.

"I'll have to go now. You still have to decide if you want to go into that secret realm." Lucas said after some time.

"I'm definitely going." Grey said.

He fought that hard because he wanted to make it into that secret realm. He had already exerted his revenge on the person he wanted to fight, for the rest of the battle, it was purely his desire to win and also go into the secret realm.

"You already know the dangers there, if you still want to go, then I won't stop you." Lucas nodded, not arguing with his son's decision.

It might be difficult for Grey to move there, but with his strength, and also his head, he should be fine. Grey is a scheming individual, even though he hadn't been with him, from how he tricked Bill into admitting defeat even when he couldn't fight any longer showed it.

If those guys thought they would be able to easily get him, then they were in for a surprise.

"Arlys will take you back to the Burchard Family, they should be waiting for your arrival." Lucas said as he turned around, preparing to walk away.

"Okay." Grey nodded, not too surprised his father didn't suggest they headed to the Dawson Family.

"I'll introduce you to the Family when you return. Try to get to the Elemental Venerable Plane before you return." Lucas vanished after saying this.

"Don't mind your father, he's just paranoid." Martha gently caressed his cheek before following in her husband's footsteps, leaving Grey alone to his thoughts.

"I can't believe my parents are actually this powerful." Grey muttered to himself.

This was out of his expectations. He knew they were Elementalists from their time in Red City, but it was still a shock to him that they were this strong. His father is literally someone that was respected across the entire Aurora Continent, someone tagged as a generational talent.

"It's better than them being weaker than you if you ask me." Void commented.

Grey and Void continued speaking before Arlys arrived.

"Let's go."

Chapter 997 Dark Gnomes

Arlys took Grey back to the Middle Continent, heading to the Burchard Family.

Compared to when Grey was traveling on his own, their speed was much faster. The cultivation level of the person taking him was much higher than his own.

While they were going, they encountered three necromancers, all in the Early stages of the Elemental Venerable Plane, but Arlys easily took care of them.

Some days later, Grey and Arlys arrived in the Burchard Family manor. When the guard outside saw Grey, they welcomed him inside and hurriedly went over to inform the Family Head of the Burchard Family.

"You're back. I didn't think you would recover so early." The Family Head said as he approached Grey.

"I'm stronger than I look." Grey chuckled.

"I can see that." The Family Head said.

"I guess you're here to enter the secret realm, correct?" He asked.

Grey nodded. This was his plan from the start, he wanted to enter the secret realm, especially since it's said to be one of the best in the Aurora Continent.

"You came just in time. The first batch of people are about to head in, you can go with them. Some of those who went with you to the competition are heading in now." The Family Head said.

"Oh." Grey didn't say much, he followed them over to where the group was gathered.

Sylvia was with the group, when she saw Grey walking over with the Family Head, she couldn't help but smile. She was genuinely happy that Grey recovered so early and would even follow the first batch of people inside the secret realm.

"You shouldn't have pushed yourself so hard." She said when Grey walked up to them.

"At least it was worth it, right?" Grey asked with a grin.

"I can't say it wasn't, it is. And everyone is grateful for your sacrifice." Sylvia thanked Grey for his hard work.

The fact that Grey made things too easy for them could not be denied, so she had to thank him.

Scott walked over to Grey, "Thank you. But how come you're okay already?"

Even though he was happy Grey had recovered, it was quite shocking that Grey recovered from such an injury within the space of three weeks or so. Getting help from the Dawson Family was taken into account, but Grey recovered way too fast.

Grey smiled but didn't respond to that question. Well, he couldn't really tell them that his cores were cracked, and then they not only recovered but they seemed way better than they were.

"You only noticed that?" Sylvia rolled her eyes.

"Huh?" Scott looked at her with a confused expression.

"He's already in the Sixth stage of the Sage Plane. When he came here, he was in the Fourth stage, and that was a week before the competition." Sylvia replied.

When everyone heard this, they looked at Grey, stunned, then disbelief washed over their faces.

In the space of just around a month or two, Grey moved from the Fourth stage to the Sixth stage, and he was injured for around three weeks or so. That meant he broke through when he was unconscious.

"What the hell?!" Scott couldn't help but exclaim.

Grey was already so strong in the Fifth stage, they couldn't help but imagine how strong he would be now.

Grey smiled but didn't say anything to them.

"We should get going." He suggested when he noticed none of them were making any effort in leaving.

"Oh, right." Sylvia said.

"I already told them about the place, but since you're just coming, I guess I'll have to tell you about it. The place is a realm that has portals leading to three different races..."

Sylvia went on to tell Grey about the place as they headed out.

The secret realm is very special due to the fact that it was separated into three different stages or Planes. There is a place for those in the Overlord Plane, Sage Plane, and Elemental Venerables. Once an Elementalist breaks through to a higher Plane, he would have to leave the lower realm else their core would be corrupted if they stay there for too long.

There are times when people from a higher Plane head to a lower realm to kill someone from another race. In fact, it's quite common in this secret realm. If an unparalleled genius appears in a lower realm from another race, those from other races try to kill them.

Given the enmity between humans and the Dark Gnomes, it was quite natural that they would want to eliminate those geniuses that might stand a chance to go against them once again.

The name of the race that brought necromancy to humans, and also invaded the human realm thousands of years ago was the Dark Gnomes.

The only way for someone in a higher realm to go to a lower realm is through a weak point in the seal differentiating the lower and higher realms. These weak points are very hard to find, and after finding them, breaking them was also not easy to achieve.

Grey listened attentively to Sylvia's explanation. After getting a clear understanding of the place, he knew he had to tread carefully. Given his mark, he would be targeted by the Dark Gnomes. What was worse was that hiding from them was not going to be easy.

'I need to remove this darn mark.' He complained internally.

He already had a method to remove it, but since it involved killing people, he couldn't wantonly kill people for his benefit.

"Oh, I forgot to tell you. You'll be in danger the moment you enter, you know, with the mark." Sylvia recalled this and said to Grey.

"Yeah, I already have a plan in mind." Grey replied.

"Good."

They soon got to the place where the portal to the secret realm was located.

"Alright, we will part ways here for now. When you all step inside, remember to watch out for each other, take care." The Head of the Burchard Family didn't say much.

After some pleasantries with those keeping guard at the portal, the youths were allowed entry.

Chapter 998 Whoever Kills Him Gets A Reward

Grey stepped into the portal with the others, a flash covered them and before long, they vanished from everyone's view.

"I hope they all make it back alive." The Head of the Burchard Family commented.

Even though it has been a long time, there was a universal rule in the realm that allowed only a given number of people from each race inside the place.

Presently, only twenty people in the Sage Plane could go inside. This was the number those from the Burchard Family could allow inside, other Factions and Families would still send their geniuses inside, so the number would increase over time.

Some people tend to stay there until they break through to the next major realm. There are people in the Early stages of the Sage Plane that the Burchard Family sent inside, some of them will come out before breaking through, while others will leave even before they break through. The unfortunate ones will meet their demise in this land of opportunity.

"I don't think it will be good if any of them stick with Grey." Sylvia suddenly said with a dark expression.

"Why?" The Head of the Burchard Family asked, the Elders close to him also had confused expressions.

"He's marked by a necromancer. So, generally, he's a magnet to trouble there." Sylvia explained.

The expressions of the Elders as well as the Head of the Burchard Family changed.

When they thought of the time since Sylvia arrived, they couldn't help but be shocked. If Grey traveled alone for such a long time, then he would naturally be in trouble with the necromancers. Although they are few, they are well divided in the Continent, so it would be hard for Grey to travel peacefully in the Continent.

After thinking for a while, they recalled who Grey was. Being the son of someone regarded as a once-in-a-hundred-years genius, he would naturally be protected.

Sylvia couldn't help but wonder how lucky she was when she forcefully followed Grey and forced him into competitions. At first, she was just having fun whilst also accessing Grey's talent and strength. Only after the first few battles did she stop taking it as a means of entertainment, and tried to help him.

But thinking at the possibility that Lucas was following Grey and he decided to attack her then, she couldn't help but shiver. Even her father dared not to claim that he was stronger than Lucas, much less her, who wasn't even a match for her father.

"Going down there is suicidal, why didn't you stop him?" An Elder couldn't help but ask.

"He already knows the danger, but since he wants to go, who am I to stop him?" Sylvia replied with a shrug.

It was Grey's choice, it had nothing to do with her. Even after knowing the dangers of entering the secret realm, he still decided to go, there was nothing she could do.

The Elders exchanged glances with each other.

"Staying with the group would be better for him."

....

In the secret realm. The group just appeared in a forest area.

"I'll be leaving on my own, it will be best if we don't travel together." Grey said after taking in the new scenery.

"Huh?" Scott was a little confused.

"I don't like traveling in groups." Grey responded in a direct manner.

He wasn't obligated to travel with them in the first place, and since he has that mark, he felt he would have a greater chance at survival if he was on his own. If he traveled in a group and they were ambushed, he would not be able to escape until he was certain those with him were safe. He didn't want that type of responsibility in this place.

His aim here was simple, breakthrough to the Elemental Venerable Plane.

Some of those traveling with the group looked at Grey with annoyed expressions, especially those who didn't watch him in the competition. They felt he was being too arrogant.

"Since you want that, then I hope you stay safe." Scott replied.

He would also travel on his own eventually, so he wasn't really against Grey's decision. Besides, it's natural for people like Grey to adventure alone. The only reason he was still with the group was that this was their first time entering this place in a while, so they needed time to get to know the place.

Taking a peek at the black cat on Grey's shoulder, he couldn't help but wonder what its use was.

Grey nodded to the group before walking off.

'So, what's the plan?' Void asked as the duo ventured off alone.

'Well, first thing first, I need to get this mark off me. I'm certain they are already aware of my presence here, so trouble would be coming soon.' Grey replied.

His only problem now was how to remove the mark. The method he devised had to do with using human life force as its core, but since there are few people here, it meant he couldn't kill the humans here.

Void agreed to Grey's words.

...

Somewhere in the secret realm.

At the time Grey and the others appeared, a group of youths could be seen walking. They were all short, with black skins.

"Did anyone sense that?" One of them asked.

"You sensed it as well?" Another asked in shock.

"Yes." The others nodded.

"It must be a human." Another said.

Of the three races entering this place, humans were the only ones the people of the Dark Gnome race would take the effort of marking. Compared to necromancers who have to sacrifice their lives, although it looked easier for Dark Gnomes, it wasn't entirely the case.

"Whoever it is must be a threat, since the mark is this potent." Another one of them said.

"Fine, since this person dared to come here, they are willing to die. Whoever kills this person gets a reward."

With that, they separated, but they were all headed in the same direction, the place where they sensed the mark coming from.

Chapter 999 What If I Was Marked By Mistake?

Boom!

"Damn it! How did they find me so fast?"

Grey complained as he tried to escape from the pursuit of the person chasing after him.

It hadn't been more than twenty-four hours since he entered the secret realm, but he had already encountered the first person from the Dark Gnome race. It was a young lady at the Peak of the Sage Plane. She was surprisingly very strong.

Since he was just recovering from excessively using the Fusion State, he didn't want to carelessly use it.

"You're marked, remember?" Void mocked.

It was obvious he was enjoying Grey's plight.

At the moment, if the duo decided to go all-out without Grey using the Fusion State, they stood a small chance of winning. Void had already gotten to the Late stages of being a Rank Six al Beast, and his strength was by no means any weaker than an Eighth or even a Ninth stage Sage Plane human Elementalist. With Grey helping out, they stood a good chance of fighting against this young lady.

Unfortunately, they could tell that since this young lady found them so fast, others would not be far behind.

'I hate this.' Grey couldn't help but complain.

What was worse at the moment was that no matter how he ran, the young lady would still be able to track him down. His only hope right now was getting into another dimension. He could only do that if there was a small space in this place.

'That's it!'

Grey's eyes lit up. He recalled that when Sylvia was talking about this place, she spoke of some hidden spaces that had special treasures in them. Some of these places are like buildings, once an Elementalist enters the place, they would be cut off from the rest of the world and there would be almost no way to contact them.

He told Void of his plan. Luckily for him, during the past twenty-four hours, he had been scouting the place, trying to get a general idea of the place, so he had naturally encountered a few buildings. His only prayer now was that one of them was like such buildings that could cut him off from the world.

Without wasting any more time, he bolted straight for the closest building. It was around six to ten thousand kilometers away from where he was currently located.

As he ran through the forest, he encountered some beasts, but he didn't even bat an eye for them, going past them in a flash.

As he was running, something caught the side of his eyes.

'Is that... Damn it!'

He didn't even get the time to think before sensing an attack coming from behind him. He hurriedly dodged it and used the Great Void technique to escape into the void, appearing a thousand kilometers away. This had been the reason he hadn't been entangled with the young lady from the Gnome race by now. Whenever she gets too close, he would use it and escape a far distance away.

"Stop running you shrimp!" The young lady from the Gnome race gnawed her teeth angrily.

She had been chasing Grey for almost thirty minutes now. Some people would have given up since they knew they couldn't outrun her, but Grey was different, he was running, and he was doing it in a somewhat carefree manner.

Unknown to her, Grey was already very used to running away. While he was in the Trial Land, he did it often. Even after coming out, he still continued running for his life, so he could be said to be a pro when it came to running away from people.

While the young lady angrily chased after Grey, others from the Gnome race were also headed in his direction.

....

Thousands of kilometers away.

Scott was still with those who followed him into the secret realm.

"Strange, I thought we would encounter the Gnome race right after we entered, but even after an entire day, we haven't seen a glimpse of them. Do you think they are here?" Scott looked around curiously.

The main reason the group stayed together without each heading out for a fortuitous encounter of their own was because of the danger of being ganged up on by those from the Gnome race. But apparently, not a single person from the Gnome race had been spotted which was quite surprising.

"Maybe they are busy searching for treasures." Someone commented.

Forgetting their rivalry, one of the main reasons this place was created was so that youths from each race would get the chance to encounter a great opportunity to boost their strength. Even after so many years, this secret realm still held treasures that could not be seen in the Aurora Continent or the world of the Gnome race.

"Probably, we'll travel together for a while longer, if we still don't encounter any of them then we can go different ways." Scott said.

The others agreed to his words and continued venturing further into the secret realm.

...

While those from the Burchard Family were still searching for the people of the Gnome race, another figure had joined the pursuit.

A young man and the previous young lady were chasing after Grey now. Luckily, the new person was only in the Eighth stage of the Sage Plane, but the figure felt he had a good chance against Grey who was only in the Sixth stage.

'The number of your fans will continuously increase, it's been a while since I saw you in such a state.' Void gloated when he saw that someone else had joined in on the chase.

'I get the fact that I'm marked, but does having this mark mean that they would only try to kill me? I mean, what if I was marked by mistake, do they even think about this possibility?' Grey asked, a little annoyed.

'Why don't you stop and ask them?' Void said with a grin.

'No need, a building is already in sight.'

In front of the duo, a large building could be seen.

Chapter 1000 Short Exchange

The building in front of them had an archaic look, well, all of them felt this way as well.

When he got close to the building, it felt like he was standing in front of something as old as time. For a moment, he didn't take a step, a little shocked by what was in front of him, this was the first time he was getting close to one of these buildings.

The building looked exceptionally strong, even with its ancient look.

Grey soon snapped out of his reverie and rushed into the building.

'It better have a small dimension I can hide in, or else I'll be in a whole lot of trouble.'

Grey knew entering this building would give his pursuers a chance to get closer to him, but it presented a chance for him to escape from their pursuit, so he couldn't afford to miss the chance. After all, the life of Elementarists was a risk in itself.

The large double doors closed shut after he went in, giving him a small sense of hope that this place might have what he wanted.

He continued moving forward, the inside of the building was extremely large, compared to how it looked from the outside, it was easily twice the size of the building outside.

Even though he was in a hurry, he wouldn't be so careless that he would rush through this place. There might be dangers in the building.

He left the large hall and stepped into the passageway, seeing the doors leading to rooms, he was very cautious. He was not the least bit tempted to open any of the doors since it might bring more trouble for him.

Just as he was walking, he heard the door slam shut behind him.

'Guess this place isn't it.' He thought to himself.

'Void, check which of them came in.'

Void vanished from Grey's shoulder and appeared in the large hall, he saw a young man.

'It's the guy in the Eighth stage.' Void reported.

'How long do you think it would take before we take him out?' Grey asked.

'Two minutes tops.' Void replied confidently.

He could defeat the young man on his own, adding Grey to the mix would make things faster.

'Alright, the sooner the better.'

Grey soon started to prepare arrays, he wanted to ambush the young man. With Void hiding behind the young man, there was no way he could escape from their pincer attack.

The young man soon chased after Grey, but he was just as careful as Grey since he knew how dangerous such buildings were.

He followed the mark and soon got to where Grey was standing, waiting for him.

"Where's your comrade?" Grey asked curiously.

He was very calm, staring at the young man as if he was staring into his soul.

"I'm more than enough to kill you. Before she comes, your corpse will be on the ground." The young man said confidently.

Grey chuckled before shaking his head, "Well, here I am."

He spread his arms, waiting for the young man to attack.

The young man took a step forward, then paused. The thought of Grey setting up an ambush crossed his mind, but then again, he looked at Grey and felt they were not on the same level. He was in the Eighth stage while Grey was only in the Sixth stage.

Although he was confident, he didn't dare to underestimate Grey, he cautiously advanced while preparing to defend with full force. He was covered by a black mist as he advanced.

"So cautious." Grey chuckled before snapping his finger.

The walls, floor, as well as ceiling lit up with array lines.

The young man allowed the mist surrounding him to spread out, and with a powerful roar, the mist started to thicken, going into a somewhat liquid state.

Grey took a step forward and the passageway was covered by a large stream of fire. He used his fire domain. Since he wanted to make sure he was on the safer side, he used the icy flames.

Ice started to form in the mist covering the young man.

However, before it could get through, the mist not only blocked it but also started to devour it.

'Void...'

Grey called out to Void while doing a slashing motion with his hand.

Void appeared behind the young man and also attacked. He used spatial distortions to break through the defensive mist set up by the young man.

The mist started to show signs of breaking apart, a worried expression appeared on the face of the young man when he noticed this. Just as he was about to reinforce the part where Void's attack came from, Grey's dimensional slash attack hit the mist from the other side.

A large hole opened up in the mist, giving Grey the opportunity he was waiting for.

Stretching his hand forward, a lightning bolt shot through the hole. When the lightning entered the mist, it quickly spread apart, forming Grey's lightning domain.

The young man screamed when the lightning started to rampage all over his body.

An item appeared on his hand and he crushed it.

"Stop him!"

Grey and Void moved out simultaneously, and just as they were about to attack, the young man vanished.

"Damn it, I didn't get the chance to mark him." Grey complained as he felt a bit annoyed that the young man escaped.

The reason he was feeling annoyed was that after exchanging blows with the young man, he already knew some of his techniques, so he would be able to inform the others from the Gnome race about Grey and his strength.

"We should get going too, I think I heard the door slamming shut." Void said when Grey was still rueing his wasted chance.

Grey nodded and followed after Void, heading in another direction.

There were other doors to leave this place, so they wanted to take it.

As the duo was leaving, the young lady at the Peak of the Sage Plane had just entered the building. She soon sensed where Grey was located and chased after them.