

## World Mall 216

### Chapter 216 Going to Stellar City

"This is..." Kanaria fell into deep thought. "Are you sure about this?"

"Yep." Clovis nodded with a serious expression. "This city is a bit far from any other holes leading to the Subterranean World. In other words, we can fight a lot of powerful beasts."

"But if we do this, our killing rate will drop significantly. We might not have enough to reach the next tier. I mean, you are the problem!" Kanaria didn't hold back anymore when talking about Clovis's evolution rate.

Clovis shook his head. "Don't worry. It should be fine."

There were two reasons why Clovis could assure her. First of all, they would get some money from the mayor, which allowed him to increase the item limit.

In addition, they would still be hunting a lot of beasts, which would give them a sum of money.

Once they had reached Tier 2, he planned to focus on all the items for his own improvement. It should work out somehow.

Kanaria thought for a moment. "If the leader has decided, then I have no choice but to follow it. However, I'm going to confirm this one thing. Are your decisions considered a calculated risk or reckless plan?"

Clovis gulped down. Kanaria's mood was especially bad today, but he could understand her since he had put her under a lot of stress today. His expression turned serious. "It's a calculated risk. If you think it's the latter and I end up becoming similar to Ivan, feel free to punch me in the face."

Kanaria fell silent for a moment before sighing. "Alright."

"Thank you. Well, the reason I want to do this is because we'll be fighting against those strong people. If we get used to the weakened beasts, we won't be able to fight against them."

"That's true. Our opponents will be either Tier 2 or Tier 3. According to the mayor, there are some participants who are Tier 4. If we can't defeat them, we won't be able to produce any result." Kanaria nodded in understanding. "Well, you and Jay are probably the only ones who can go against them. But the problem with this competition is that the maximum limit of people in one group is six."

"Indeed." Clovis nodded. "Because of this number, we will be at a disadvantage since we only have four people. However, this is a challenge for us as well. I'm planning to build an elite group where each person can go against a hundred. If we can't do this, then we have to know our weakness as quickly as possible."

"Don't tell me, this is your main reason?" Kanaria squinted her eyes.

"Indeed." Clovis nodded with a smile. "If we understand the gap between us and these people, we'll be able to work toward it. I wonder if they are able to fight toe-to-toe against Hana."

"I'm not talking about strength. I'm talking about our lack of numbers." Kanaria pinched the bridge of her nose. "Don't tell me, the reason why you want to visit this city as quickly as possible is to find a new member for our group."

"..." Clovis gulped down before looking away. "No."

"Oi. Why don't you look into my eyes while answering?" Kanaria clicked her tongue. "I understand now. But I have to warn you that it's going to be hard to find a talented person who wants to go with us, you know. The city is vast, and most of the talented people have been seized by the existing groups."

"Indeed. I will try, but we'll see."

"By the way, do you have any expectations for the next person? Like, what's their job or something like that?"

"Well, I do want one of the following: chef, guardian, or doctor." Clovis raised three fingers. "Other than that, I probably want someone older and with a higher tier... no, at least Tier 2. The rest is just like you, having a long term goal that you want to achieve in life."

"I see. That's a rather high standard. We'll have a headache searching for such a person." Kanaria nodded in agreement.

"Anyway, let's continue reviewing the city's information and create a schedule for the next month."

"Yeah."

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The next morning, Clovis and Kanaria escaped from the house through the backyard. They simply jumped away without getting noticed by the reporters.

Jay and Melody had an easier time since Vania was the one bailing them out. They all gathered at the south gate.

Vania gave them a thumbs up. "Go for it. I know that you will succeed. I'm going to visit when the competition is about to start."

"Thank you, Mom. But don't stand out too much when you visit." Kanaria looked at her with an annoyed expression. It seemed that she had an unpleasant memory from the past.

"Hahaha." Vania only laughed it off while helping their group load their luggage into the vehicle. "Do you need money?"

"Nah. We've just got a lot of money recently, so we'll be spending it for comfort in that city... or someone is going to bite me." Kanaria had a troubled face while glancing at Melody. "Anyway, we have to go."

"Take care." Vania waved her hand while seeing them off.

Fortunately, the journey was rather peaceful. While they encountered some beasts on the way, there was no horde, allowing them to reach the Stellar City pretty swiftly.

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Three hours later.

"Your ID please." The soldier extended his hand, stopping them at the city gate.

Jay gave the four IDs to the soldier.

"Mhmm?" The soldier frowned when looking at their data. "You're not from here?"

"Yes."

"Purpose?" The soldier asked.

"The competition is one month from now."

The soldier registered them right away and handed them back their IDs. "Alright. You are free to go. Welcome to the city."

"Thank you." Jay rolled up the window before stepping on the gas. Clovis and Melody, who were in the back seat, couldn't help but take a peek, seeing the city for the first time.

"So... this is the Stellar City." Clovis's eyes turned into stars, feeling the excitement to explore this new city.

Chapter 217 New City

The first place they visited was none other than the hotel. Kanaria took out the group's card and said, "One double room and two single rooms please."

"Huh?" Melody glared at Kanaria with disdain, knowing what Kanaria planned to do. "We still have a lot of money in the group's fund, right? Why don't you just get the suite for our group? There are only four people anyway!"

"What are you talking about?" Kanaria gave a wry smile.

"I don't mind your usual behavior, but this is not your honeymoon!" Melody harrumphed.

"You're still holding a grudge for making you come here?" Kanaria scratched the back of her head. She glanced at Clovis, asking for his help.

However, Clovis only shrugged his shoulders, telling her to do as Melody said. It was unfair for Melody after all.

"Tsk." Kanaria clicked her tongue and changed her plan. "Ruby Suite please. For 35 days."

Melody harrumphed. She couldn't help but remember the other reason for their arrival here.

Once they entered their room, they ordered some food. This was another reason why they chose to take a suite. Their safety and privacy would be guaranteed and they would be taken care of pretty quickly.

"I kind of understand that we're here to find a new member." Melody put down the chopsticks before saying, "But do you understand how hard it is to find that talented person here? And even if we find one, do you think they will agree to join us?"

"I know." Clovis nodded.

"That's why we come up with several plans such as creating a situation like yours," added Kanaria.

"..." Melody shook her head helplessly. There was no way another person would just come like that.

"I don't care about the new members as long as they are not annoying." Jay shrugged. "I don't mind them being smart and hard to control, but I dislike people who are trying to manipulate the entire group. Being greedy is not a big offense; the method to achieve it is."

"I know." Clovis chuckled. "I will be careful when choosing the people."

"For now, we can get some rest. Use today to get used to the city's atmosphere. If you want, you can go around as well," explained Kanaria. She had to confirm the course of their expedition, which would start tomorrow after all.

Clovis nodded in agreement.

"In that case, I will do what you want me to do. Get all the mission catalogs of this city and store their information to see how many missions we can solve in the next couple of days." Melody waved her hand and entered her room.

"I will look around the city and see if there are places to move my body around here." Jay stood up. Since they would be here for a long time, there was no way he would be trapped in this hotel room the whole time.



"I will make some plans for our expeditions and check all the stores in this city." Kanaria raised her hand. Her role was crucial, considering she had to ensure the group's logistics. If they couldn't resupply their bullets, it would be fatal.

"I'll also go out and look around." Clovis nodded, feeling Kanaria's pleading gaze. When she heard his answer, Kanaria couldn't help but smile.

"I will be going this way." Jay pointed to the left.

"We'll go this way." Kanaria pointed in the opposite direction.

Kanaria was visiting a lot of shops, especially weapon shops and tool shops. She had to make sure she got one reliable shop to resupply her bullets and repair their equipment.

Clovis was dragged around... not that he minded about it since he was also looking around the city.

After visiting more than ten shops around the city, they finally settled in one of the shops located not far from the hotel.

Clovis left Kanaria inside as she negotiated with the owner.

He was leaning on the wall while looking at the busy street. As one would expect from a higher tier city, there were more explorers than their city. With a single glance, he could easily spot several people above Tier 1.

However, a group suddenly caught his attention. The group consisted of six people and they had just turned from the corner and headed toward him.

"This is all your fault!" A middle-aged man shouted in anger. Clovis noticed the aura coming from the middle-aged man. He had been familiar with this since he had been fighting beasts and humans of the same level. Yes, the middle-aged man was actually a Tier 3 explorer.

In his group, there were two more people who had Tier 3 strength, and the rest were Tier 2.

In their city, Clovis wouldn't be able to easily spot this level of group, but this kind of high level party must be normal in this place, Clovis thought.

The middle-aged man seemed to be reprimanding a man in his mid twenties.

"I'm sorry." The man apologized.

To Clovis's surprise, the man sounded very feminine and young. His voice didn't sound like he was that old.

In addition, this man's stature was rather peculiar. His body was thin and frail, and his height barely reached 150 cm. Yet he was carrying a shield as big as his entire body

"Clovis?" Kanaria came out of the store, noticing Clovis getting distracted.

"You're done?" Clovis was startled.

"Yeah." Kanaria looked confused. It was rare for Clovis to be distracted like this. "Is there something wrong?"

"If you don't mind, can you take a look at that person? The small one."

"Mhmm?" Kanaria furrowed her eyebrows. "He sounded... so young and feminine. Is he seriously a man? His appearance is quite old..."

Kanaria fell silent for a moment, noticing something was wrong.

"Clovis. This is just my speculation, but is that man..." Kanaria paused as she was a bit hesitant to explain her observation. "...should be younger? I'm not sure, but is there any chance for those beards and wrinkles to be fake?"

"Not sure." Clovis shrugged. "Anyway, take your eyes away from them. We don't want to antagonize the already angry group."

"Okay." Kanaria acted as if she didn't know anything.

When they passed them, Clovis couldn't help but overhear their conversation.

"You are useless. You can block all those beasts, but you are too weak to even hold your ground. If you were a bit better, we would have killed all those beasts. Fuck. I'm starting to regret taking you in."

"D-don't expel me." The man panicked, his face became pale.

"Just shut up!" The middle-aged man gritted his teeth, feeling stressed.

The others were also glaring at the man in disdain.

"I guess there are a lot of good groups in this town, even if they are older," Kanaria muttered with a serious expression. "The competition one month from now might be harder than we originally thought."

"Yeah, but can you keep an eye on them? I mean, try to find their information if possible."

"Them? Are you interested in them? I understand that their group is high level, but our group won't lose to them one month from now."

"No, I'm not talking about that." Clovis looked at the reprimanded guy while saying, "Take a look at his condition."

"Condition?" Kanaria furrowed her eyebrows. She could only see his clothes and arms, but Kanaria soon understood what Clovis meant. "Don't tell me..."

"It seems that you've noticed it too. You should hear what they said earlier. That guy was their guardian and took the hit from the group. Yet they blamed him for being incapable. If he didn't have enough ability, could he actually escape uninjured? No, could he even block all those attacks in the first place?"

"..." Kanaria fell into deep thought. As Clovis said, Kanaria didn't notice any scratch on the guy's body.

If what the middle-aged man said was true, it meant that he was a rather capable guardian. The only problem would be his stature. His height might be the main reason why he didn't manage to hold his ground against the beasts.

Even so, this guy still managed to become a Tier 2 human. In addition to his voice, Kanaria could deduce what Clovis had in mind.

"Is he..."

"Probably. He does seem to be more capable than he looks right now. I don't know much about him though."

"I'll try to take a look, but there's no guarantee since I'm new to this city. Besides, are you sure about this?"

"Depending on his age." Clovis shrugged.

"Alright." Melody nodded. "But it might just be a bad day for them."

"Indeed. I'm just keeping an eye on people. Who knows, he might be someone without a clear goal or something."

"That's true. I guess we'll be going separate ways for the time being."

"I'm counting on you." Clovis nodded while waving his hand.

"Mhmm." Maya nodded and started walking among the crowd, following that group.

Clovis's expression turned serious when he saw their backs. Depending on that person's characteristics and age, he might have found his fifth member.

Chapter 218 New Friend

"Hu... Hu..." Jay panted a few times while running on a treadmill. It was already night and he had to go back soon.

The only thing he did when going out was find this place and just work out.

There was one thing that piqued his mind. A young man had joined him in his workout for the last couple of hours.

His technique and stamina were good, but his muscle was somehow much weaker than he expected. He looked like someone who had done this for years, so it was quite surprising to find his muscles hadn't developed.

The man looked like he was around twenty years old, but the problem was that he was petite, and his face was actually cute like a girl.

If he wore a dress, he might be mistaken as a woman.

More importantly, Jay noticed that this man looked troubled.

When Jay finished with his workout and sent a message to others that he would be returning soon, the guy suddenly approached him while extending his hand. "Hello."

Jay was confused and looked at this guy. "Can I help you?"

"I just want to say that I am amazed. You must have started working out hours before me, yet your stamina can still keep up with those intense workouts. I can't do that... So I wonder if you have any tricks or tips. I'm just asking casually, so if you don't want to answer, it's perfectly fine." The man smiled.

Jay tilted his head in confusion. He actually answered it with another question. "I'm more confused about you. Your technique looks like someone who has been working out for years, but somehow your muscles aren't developed according to that effort. It's not like your training is light and from those eyes, I realize that you are someone who trains every day."

"Ah? Is that so? It's amazing that you are able to figure that out." He scratched the back of his head. "Well, it's a kind of body's condition of mine that doesn't allow me to develop my muscles."

"Sorry." Jay apologized, knowing how hard it was to have such a deficiency.

"Ah, you don't have to worry. It's just a body's condition, not a disability or sufficiency. I do get something out of it as well."

"Mhmm." Jay nodded and finally answered his questions. "I don't understand your body's condition, so I can't really give you tips. From the looks of it, you're very determined. You don't seem to be weak as well... No, maybe you are stronger than me."

"I am Tier 2, yes. It's embarrassing, but I'm not that strong as a Tier 2 human. In my previous group, I did little to nothing and kept messing up. If we fight, I might not be able to defeat you... My instinct is telling me that you're stronger than me."



"Still, it's quite surprising that you're able to reach Tier 2 at that age." Jay shook his head helplessly.

"I think you misunderstand something. Even though I look like this, I am already 19 years old, you know."

"Wha—" Jay blinked a few times in disbelief. "I'm sorry."

"No, no. It's fine. I'm used to it." He pointed at himself. "I am Ragna."

"I'm Jay." Jay extended his hand with a smile.

"Nice to meet you, Jay." Ragna shook his hand firmly.

"Still... your previous group, huh? Why does it sound like you don't have a group anymore?"

"Yes. They kicked me out a few hours ago, so I just tried to throw away my stress here." Ragna shook his head helplessly.

"Is that so? I feel like I have to keep apologizing to you." Jay scratched the back of his head. He had been talking about sensitive topics this whole time.

"It's fine. It doesn't seem like you're a regular here since this is the first time I've seen you."

"Oh. I'm not from this city."

"Really?"

Jay nodded with a serious expression.

"In that case, welcome to the Stellar City. If you have any questions, you can ask me."

"Then, if you don't mind, I'd like to ask if there is any place that allow me to swing my sword. Like a private room or something."

"Oh. If you're talking about that, this gym has one. Do you want to check it?" Ragna asked while pointing at the staff in the corner.

Seeing Jay standing up, Ragna led him to the staff and borrowed their room. He thought that this was just a normal gym, but when Ragna showed his membership, the staff immediately led him to the third floor.

There seemed to be two rooms that took up the entire floor. Each room was spacious enough for sparring.

"This is a sparring room. You're able to rent it for a cheap price." Ragna opened the room.

It was just a simple room. There was some equipment from a sword to armor. In this place, he could swing his sword to his heart's content or even spar with Clovis.

When Jay entered the room to take a look, he couldn't help but pick up a saber. It was wood, but it was heavier than he imagined.

Jay was fired up, wanting to test it.

"It looks like you want to move a bit more. How about having me as your sparring partner? I'll pay for the room."

"Really? But if it's for the room, I will pay for it! You're already kind enough to show me around."

"It's fine. Besides, the only way to rent this room is to get the membership."

"Ah." Jay scratched the back of his head. "In that case, let us grab some food after this. I'll pay."

"Sure." Ragna smiled and hurriedly paid for the room.

Jay was already swinging his saber around, getting used to the sensation.

Meanwhile, Ragna grabbed a spear and a huge shield. When he turned around, he found Jay's shocked face. "Is there something wrong?"

Jay looked at this petite man holding a shield as big as his body. It was rather surprising. "Sorry, I didn't expect you to be a guardian."

"Ahahaha." Ragna let out a hollow laugh. "Let's test it out, shall we?"

"Thank you very much."

Chapter 219 Sparring

Jay was holding the saber with both hands, pointing it at Ragna's neck.

He stomped the ground and took a big leap toward Ragna.

'He is fast,' Ragna thought while holding his shield tight.

Jay lowered his stance to get all the strength he had before striking the shield from below, planning to launch it into the ceiling and end the spar right away.

As if noticing his movement, Ragna skillfully tilted his shield and let the blade hit the tip of the shield.

"!!!" Jay was taken aback. Ragna's shield positioning caused him to be unable to knock the shield up. In fact, he was forced to let the sword slide on the shield's surface if he didn't want to lose his balance.

In addition, Ragna took a step forward, slamming the shield at Jay.

Jay felt the impact, but once again, he realized that, despite such a great technique, Ragna didn't have the strength to actually push him back.

Knowing the same thing, Ragna thrust his spear at Jay's chest.

Because Ragna didn't have enough strength, Jay took a step back and actually kicked the shield.

Ragna tried to tilt the shield again, but Jay had predicted it and turned the kick into a stomp, pushing Ragna to the ground.

Ragna bit his lips, not being able to even withstand Jay's raw strength.

He ended up leaping back to regain some distance.

Jay chased after him and swung his blade with every ounce of his strength.

Ragna once again skillfully wielded his shield to block it, letting the shield deflect Jay's extraordinary swing.

It was clear that Ragna's technique was excellent, but he noticed his weakness. If he couldn't withstand his power, it would be impossible for Ragna to block the opponents' attacks.

This might be the reason why Ragna was expelled by his previous group.

Still, no matter how he struck Ragna's shield, he failed to get a full strike. In addition, Ragna hadn't taken another step back once he understood the gap between their raw strength.

'In that case...' Jay changed his stance. Instead of relying on his strength, he decided to focus on his speed this time. Of course, with the help of Clovis's items.

"!!!" Ragna looked surprised by the sudden change, but he immediately adjusted his stance to receive all of Jay's attacks.

'This is...' Jay squinted his eyes. 'His raw strength is weak due to that body's condition, but his technique and positioning are superb. If he can actually increase his raw strength, he can actually suppress all my attacks.'

While Jay hadn't used all his strength, killing a Tier 2 beast should be easy. Yet he couldn't even gain any advantage against Ragna.

Clovis might be able to overwhelm him with his speed, but Jay didn't have the necessary speed to do it.

Hence, there was only one thing to do.

When Ragna put his shield in front of him, Jay grabbed the tip of the shield and pushed it to the ground.

"!!!" Ragna hurriedly thrust his spear, but Jay had expected this attack and skillfully struck the spear's handle with every ounce of his strength, knocking the spear away.

"Ah!" Ragna let out a long sigh. With his spear being knocked away and his shield suppressed, there was no way he could stop Jay anymore. He lost. "You beat me. I guess I'm really not good. To think that I can't even last a few minutes against a Tier 1 explorer."

"No. If it's an ordinary battle, I will have some trouble defeating you. If it's anyone else, their stamina will be depleted before they can defeat you. In our sparring, I had to resort to grabbing your shield after realizing the difference between our raw strength."

Ragna scratched the back of his head. "Is that so? Well, it doesn't change the fact that I'm not strong. That's the reason my previous group expelled me."

Jay rubbed his chin while looking at Ragna, thinking, 'He is actually a good guardian. He has enough technique to stand on his ground and not take a step back. Besides, with this kind of performance, it's quite insane that he can reach Tier 2 at 19 years old. It can only be achieved with a high evolution rate.

'His only weakness is strength. That's probably why he wants to gain some muscle. If he has enough strength, I might actually lose this sparring. He is a perfect guardian other than that weakness... people might not be able to help him, but Clovis can do it like how he manages to power us up with these weird clothes or accessories.' Jay faced a dilemma.

There was no way he could ask Clovis for a person he barely knew. He wasn't that ungrateful.

Jay couldn't help but say, "I won because I took advantage of your weakness."

"Ahahaha." Ragna shook his head helplessly. "Still, if I persist for a few more months, I should be able to get enough essence to reach Tier 3. I've heard that there is a qualitative leap after Tier 3. Maybe it can somehow boost my strength and fix this weakness."

"What? You are near Tier 3?" Jay gasped. He seemed to have underestimated Ragna's evolution rate.

"Do I not look like it? Well, I have a 98% evolution rate. People have scouted me in the past, but all of them have given up because of my condition. And I will continue to be a guardian, so they kind of



disdain me for wasting my talent... Then again, I can only be a guardian. I told you that my body's condition gave me some advantages too?"

Ragna grabbed his spear and hit his arm as hard as possible.

"What are you doing?!" Jay's heart skipped a beat.

Ragna remained calm. He simply showed his arm to Jay. His arm became red and turned normal within ten seconds.

"This is..."

Ragna nodded. "This is my affinity, Heart. I can't develop my muscles, but my heart is actually stronger than normal. My regenerative power is much more powerful than anyone with the same affinity."

Jay fell into deep thought. This was the first time he had seen such a condition. However, there was one problem. He wasn't the captain.

"To be honest, if I were the captain, I would have recruited you to my group."

"Someone as strong as you are under another person?" Ragna looked shocked.

"I am strong, huh? I hate to admit it, but my captain is much stronger than me. I can only win two times out of ten fights." Jay shook his head helplessly. "Anyway, if you don't mind, I'd like to call my captain first. He said that he is coming here to find a new member anyway, so he might be interested."

Chapter 220 Call

"Hahaha." Clovis laughed while talking with Kanaria and Melody in their room before his Skyphone rang.

"Mhmm?" Clovis couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows.

"What's wrong? Who calls you?" It was rare for Clovis to get a call, so these two couldn't help but get curious.

"It's Jay," Clovis answered while accepting the call. "What's up, Jay?"

"You're trying to find a new member in this city, right? What do you think about a guardian?"

"Yes, that's one of the professions I'm currently seeking. It's rare for you to suddenly talk about this."

"Actually, I've found one with great quality. There are some problems, but I've fought him once... You can say that his talent is ridiculous."

"Ridiculous? Is there such a person?" Clovis became more interested, not expecting Jay to find a potential member.

Jay glanced at Ragna for a bit and walked a little further. "Indeed. According to him, he has a 98% Evolution Rate and Heart Affinity. It's just that his body has a condition where he can't develop his muscles, which causes him to become less of a guardian.

"However, his technique is so polished that I think I will lose if he manages to fix that weakness of his. In addition, his body's condition gives him extraordinary regenerative ability."

Clovis fell silent for a moment. He had turned on the speaker so that everyone could hear it as well.

Melody and Kanaria were staring at Clovis, wondering what his decision was.

"What is his name, age, and strength?"

Jay thought for a moment. "His name is Ragna, I don't know his full name. He is only 19 years old but already reaches Tier 2, close to Tier 3 I think. From my perspective, if he can reach that despite that weakness, his high evolution rate might be true. After all, if he keeps messing up, his share will be low. Yet he still manages to reach that level."

Clovis fell into deep thought. On the one hand, it was indeed amazing to have such a person. On the other hand, he felt that this person was simply too good to be true.

However, he noticed the meaning of the weakness. It seemed that Jay was implying that his items would be a great help for this person.

If Ragna truly became a part of their group, Clovis would definitely spare no effort in solving his weakness. However, he still couldn't fully trust Ragna.

What if he hid his intention and left the group once his problem was solved? It might only be temporary, but he could make a lot of connections during that time frame. If those people knew about the items from Another World Mall, Clovis would be in trouble.

That was why Jay didn't mention a single thing about the items. He just told Clovis that Ragna had a weakness.

It would be up to him whether Clovis wanted to help him or not.

"What do you think?" Clovis asked.

"I don't think it's a problem." Melody shrugged.

"How about meeting him first? Or maybe test him?" Kanaria suggested.

"That's probably what we're going to do now." Clovis nodded in agreement. "Where are you right now, Jay?"

"I'm in..." Jay gave the information.

"Alright. We'll be there right away." Clovis hung up and looked at the two girls. Even Melody followed Clovis this time, feeling a bit curious about this person who managed to pique Jay's interest.

They headed directly to the gym as Jay and Ragna immediately came down to welcome them.

The group headed directly to the sparring room to get some privacy.

"This is the person I'm recommending." Jay pointed his hand at Ragna.

"Hello, I'm Ragna Book. I'm actually surprised that the conversation actually reaches this point."

Kanaria couldn't help but furrow her eyebrows, thinking, 'I feel like I've heard this voice somewhere...'

Clovis observed him for a moment before asking, "Hello, my name is Clovis. I've heard that my friend, Jay, holds you in high regard. I hope you can forgive my rudeness for directly asking this, but why were you expelled from your last group?"

Ragna looked stunned, but at the same time, he could somehow understand where this was coming from. If his last group didn't want him, how could their group want him? His track record was already bad anyway, so he decided to be honest with Clovis.

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A few hours ago.

"Ragna, you're expelled from the group."

Ragna widened his eyes in shock, staring at the captain of the group. "I... I can still help the group. I'm sorry for the previous exploration."

The captain shook his head. "We've decided to expel you from the group. We have already gotten a more reliable guardian than you."

"What?" Ragna widened his eyes in shock. He could accept it if the group expelled him all of a sudden, but the fact that they had prepared his replacement meant they were already planning this long ago.

"You're useless. piss off." The captain didn't even bother to explain his decision. He simply expelled him.

"But I have also contributed a lot of other things for the group."

"Shut up! If you're going to continue talking, I'm going to beat you up and drag you out of this place personally."

Ragna opened his mouth, wanting to say something, but the words stuck in his throat. He looked down as he had no choice but to leave.

"Hahahaha. We are finally free from that little prick. He is useless and only takes our resources for granted."

"Serve him right."

The people were laughing when they saw Ragna leaving the tavern with a dejected face. They continued mocking him even after he was gone.

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After listening to his story, Clovis couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows. "Well, I don't personally care about what people say about your abilities. However, they don't mention anything about your personality, so I think that's a plus. Still, I have no choice but to test you myself since I don't plan to bring an incompetent into the group."

Clovis said it pretty bluntly, but Ragna could understand his stance since if he was competent, he would still be exploring with his previous group.

"I know. Please test me however you want."