

## World Mall 226

### Chapter 226 Strength

Clovis didn't hesitate to take the front, getting the beasts' attention.

"Wait! We have to regroup first!" Ragna tried to stop him, thinking this was too reckless. If Clovis went too far from them, the rear would be in danger.

However, Jay simply ignored his words and chased after Clovis. He lowered his blade as if he didn't plan to swing his sword even once before reaching the deer.

Clovis was soon surrounded by five beasts. The Tier 3 Megaloceros sneered at Clovis, thinking that this would slow him down. And after that, the other beasts would catch up and overwhelm them.

Even Ragna thought the same thing.

In addition, some beasts looped around and headed to Kanaria and Melody.

Clovis took in a light breath, slowing down his vision.

'There are five beasts coming... Two of them are closer than the others. Then...' Clovis stepped to the right.

Seeing this movement, the two beasts on the right sped up and leaped into the air, trying to pounce on him and pin him to the ground.

Clovis waved his right sword right toward the beast's head. The latter tried to stop it with its claw, but Clovis's blade suddenly shifted its direction and cut down the beast's foot instead.

"!!!" The beast was surprised, but the second sword had come from the opposite direction, cutting its head from below.

The second beast thought it could take advantage of the momentum, but Clovis actually threw himself at the beast, messing with his momentum.

The beast hit Clovis's body, but surprisingly, it didn't seem to do anything. In addition, Clovis spun his body and elbowed its head, knocking it down.

He used the momentum to slice the falling beast's neck, killing the second beast. After that, he glanced at the remaining three beasts that had arrived during the two seconds Clovis used to take down the two beasts.

Clovis tossed the short sword to the closest beast. The latter reacted by grabbing the sword with its teeth, but it didn't prepare for the gun Clovis pulled out after that.

\*Bang!\*

\*Bang!\*

The beast died from two shots to the head. In addition, Clovis aimed his gun at the other two beasts, which forced them to leap to the side to avoid it.

Unfortunately, it was only a feint. After all, Clovis closed in when they were distracted and cut down another beast.

After that, he moved toward the last beast, or more like the Tier 3 beast that stood behind it.

The beast tried to use its life to protect the Tier 3 beast, but it was futile. Clovis cut it into pieces in less than a second.

It turned out the Tier 3 deer actually used that positioning to cover Clovis's eyes. When he cut down the last beast, Clovis found the deer standing right in front of him.

The Tier 3 deer waved down its head, smashing Clovis with its giant antlers.

But before those antlers could hit him, Jay used his beast soul and sped up, closing the remaining gap in a single step. He struck the antlers from below, stopping them.

\*Cling!\*

The clash produced a clicking sound as though two metals clashed with each other. It showed that if Jay wanted to destroy the antler, it wouldn't be as easy as he originally thought.

"!!!" The beast was shocked that someone could actually stop him. He tried to push Jay back, but he didn't budge.

Seeing such a situation, the deer hurriedly ordered the other beasts to distract Jay.

But that was when Clovis turned around and started cutting them down.

"..." The deer wasn't the only one who was shocked by this strength. Ragna couldn't believe what he witnessed as well.

Clovis managed to kill several beasts in just a few seconds. In addition, Jay's raw power actually matched that of a Tier 3 beast.

Both of them were actually more terrifying than his previous captain. He even noticed that Clovis looked fine even though he got hit by one of the beasts on the way.

'Is this really the power of Tier 1 humans?' Ragna thought. It was no wonder they were so confident in joining the Rising Star Competition. If they joined the first competition, they would definitely win. For them, this was just a challenge they had to overcome.

And the reason they could leave Melody and Kanaria here was because they had confirmed his ability.

Hence, Ragna couldn't betray their trust.

Kanaria understood it fully as she said, "Don't get distracted. The beasts are coming at us. This is how we usually operate. The two fight to their heart content while we cover them."

"Understood." Ragna's expression turned grim. He had messed up multiple times. It was frustrating, but he couldn't do anything because of his weakness. However, just for this trip, he wanted to produce a result.

Even if it meant he had to go to the hospital, he planned to act as the best guardian and get acknowledged by Clovis and Jay.

\*Cling!\*

\*Cling!\*

\*Cling!\*

Jay and the deer clashed multiple times, but no one managed to gain an advantage. The deer was fully aware that Jay was wary of its antler. As long as it put its antler in front, Jay wouldn't be able to reach the main body.

As long as it persisted for a bit more, the beasts would definitely create an opportunity.

Meanwhile, Clovis had been moving from one position to another, killing all the beasts that came near Jay. Even Kanaria gave some assistance.

However, he began to get overwhelmed by their numbers. Melody said previously that there were more than two hundred beasts in the area.

Even though he had killed dozens of them, it didn't change the fact that there were still a lot of them gathering in this spot.

"Tsk." Clovis clicked his tongue, seeing one beast move past him. "Jay. On your left!"

Jay glanced to the left, which also grabbed the deer's attention. He hurriedly killed the beast in one hit, but that slight gap allowed the deer to charge at him.

The deer's eyes turned bloodshot as it rammed Jay, crushing the tree in its path.

\*Bam!\*

## Chapter 227 Another Threat

\*Bam!\*

The deer snapped the tree's trunk with a single charge. Jay hurriedly leaped back, avoiding it.

Unfortunately for him, the deer continued onward, bulldozing all the trees in its path.

"..." Jay needed at least one second to gather his strength so that he could stop this charge, but the deer didn't plan to give it to him. It planned to chase after Jay until the latter didn't have the stamina to run away anymore.

In addition, if one of the beasts hindered Jay even just for a second, the antlers would hit Jay and smash him to the ground.

Clovis could help him by shooting the deer from behind, but this would just break the promise to Jay.

They both had to take down their respective enemies without getting any help.

Jay couldn't help but recall what Hana's butler said to him back then.

"Your current footwork emphasizes the surge of strength coming from the lower body. While it gives you good explosive strength, it takes too long to charge that energy. Instead of focusing on your legs to stomp the ground, why don't you try moving your entire body down for one or two centimeters?"

After that advice, Jay had been doing it by shifting his center of gravity down. It was indeed faster, but his original footwork remained the foundation. In addition, after shifting the center of gravity, it would push the weight to his feet and give him a surge of strength.

However, the butler's advice actually wanted him to break free from that footwork. No, it could be said that he wanted to make his footwork into something more refined.

Jay couldn't help but glance at Ragna, remembering their sparring.

Back then, Ragna managed to stop him for a while. Normally, a smaller person would have less strength. In addition, Jay was also boosted by his Muscle affinity.

Normally, he should have blasted him away in a single swing. So why could Ragna manage to block him multiple times?

There was only one answer.

Jay turned around and extended his sword, trying to hit the antlers. The deer adjusted its head slightly to block it, but Jay skillfully moved the sword underneath the antlers.



After that, Jay leaped back to match the deer's speed before swinging his blade up. Because he jumped, there was no strength supporting this swing, which resulted in him actually pushing himself down to the ground.

Yes, Jay actually used his opponent's weight to push himself down. That butler said, 'moving your entire body down' instead of lowering his center of gravity. So, it was his misinterpretation.

The only way to push his body down was by using the opponent's attack. This was what Ragna did to block his attacks during sparring.

Now that he had pushed himself down, his feet ended up pressing against the ground and a surge of strength bounced back to his upper body.

Using his legs as a spring, Jay swung his blade up.

\*Reee!\* The deer was stunned when its body was knocked up. It hurriedly pushed its body down before Jay could stab his body, but that was never Jay's intention.

The moment the deer landed back on the ground, Jay struck the antlers from above.

"Haaaa!" He shouted. There was one thing that the deer didn't realize this whole time. Even in the midst of a fierce fight, Jay had been striking the same spot over and over again.

And with this newfound strength, Jay struck that spot once more.

\*Crack!\*

"!!!" The deer widened its eyes and hurriedly lowered its head so that the antlers didn't snap.

However, the battle had shifted greatly as Jay could finally become more aggressive from this point on.

Unknown to him, there was another threat coming to their area.

Clovis, who had been cutting down the beasts to protect Jay, abruptly stopped as though he noticed something. Even Melody called his name out loud.

"Clovis!" Melody panicked while showing the radar.

Even without her saying it, Clovis was actually seeing the movement of the beasts with his own eyes. No, the ones making Melody panic weren't the beasts around them. Instead, there was another wave of beasts approaching from the north.

And Clovis saw a three meter tall bird running at the front. The bird looked like an ostrich, but with a glaring red color. It was spreading its big wings while letting out a cry.

"Not good." Clovis bit his lips. Jay hadn't killed the deer, and there was another opponent coming with at least a hundred beasts.

\*Bang!\*

\*Bang!\*

Several shots echoed from the side, killing the beasts around Clovis.

When he glanced, he saw that Kanaria and Melody were the ones killing these beasts. Both of them had a resolute expression on their faces, saying the same thing.

Clovis couldn't help but smile. Back then, Jay had to fight two Tier 3 beasts by himself in order to give him time to kill the incoming beast wave.

However, they had grown a lot stronger than at that time. They had even fought against the true Tier 3 beasts.

Because it was his first time with the group, Ragna was the only one expressing his emotion as if asking Clovis to retreat.

But he soon got his answer when Clovis smiled.

"I'm going."

Both Kanaria and Melody smiled as they rushed to Jay's position. They would be replacing Clovis's role in protecting Jay from all these beasts.

"Leave it to us!" Kanaria raised her rifle, ready for mid or close range combat in order to kill all the beasts around Jay.

"Hey, new guy. Keep up with us!" Melody smirked, staring at Ragna with a confident expression.

"We should retreat. There are simply too many beasts. He is going to fight a Tier 3 beast along with a hundred beasts, you know!" Ragna shouted.

"You're underestimating our captain too much." Kanaria snorted while Melody added, "We all have our specializations, like Jay's strength, my shooting skill, or Melody's guidance... But in this group, Clovis is known as the killing machine."

Clovis sped up even more and cut down the beasts, advancing much faster than when he carried Jay. In fact, all of them knew that Clovis slowed himself down to match their pace. Now that they didn't have to worry about his team, Clovis could finally unleash his true power.

\*Roar!\*

\*Ro—!\*

\*Arrr—!\*

The beasts couldn't even finish their roars as they had been cut down by Clovis.

In just five seconds, he cut down more than ten beasts and finally arrived in front of the terror bird.

Ragna, who witnessed everything, couldn't help but drop his jaw to the ground.

Chapter 228 Playing Around

'Fast? How can he be so fast?' Ragna gasped, never thinking that such a thing would be possible. Clovis was exhibiting a speed faster than even a Tier 3 human. And they even said Clovis's evolution progress was actually the lowest in the group.

However, there was one question that appeared in his mind. Since Clovis was so strong, why didn't he just go as a mercenary or even train solo? With this, he could be able to get a lot of money for himself instead of giving money to his teammates and investing in the group.

In addition, with how fast he was, he could easily escape from the beasts without worrying about others. Even if he wanted to get someone's help, an operator was all he needed. It didn't have to be a mobile operator.

Clovis paid no attention to his shock. Now that he didn't have to protect Kanaria and Melody, he could go all out.

Once he reached the terror bird, the latter spread its wings and waved them toward him, creating a powerful gale.

Clovis hurriedly leaped to the side and cut down two beasts in his way before looping around the bird.

Shocked, the bird chased after him and extended its head.

Clovis waved his blade in the opposite direction, trying to slash the bird's neck.

However, the bird only needed to tilt its head to the sides in rapid succession, knocking the two swords away.

"!!!" Clovis raised his eyebrows, not expecting the bird to have this kind of strength just by moving its beak. In addition, there were three beasts approaching him from behind.

Clovis had no choice but to spin his body and use the momentum to strike these beasts.

The terror bird saw this as an opportunity and rammed its beak at Clovis's back.

As if knowing what the bird was doing, Clovis slightly tilted his body, causing the beak to actually hit the metallic armband connected to his short sword.

Using the inspiration Ragna showed him last night, Clovis allowed the beak to slide off the armband, missing him completely.

Still, it was pretty hurt and because of the attack, he had a hard time stabilizing his posture, which resulted in him being unable to attack the bird even though there was a big opportunity in front of him.

Clovis hurriedly jumped away and chose to engage with another beast. It was a Tier 2 lizard. The latter tried to pounce on him before Clovis could regain his posture, but the latter skillfully stabbed the long sword to the ground and used it to support his entire body. After that, Clovis impaled the lizard's head from below.

Fighting a lot of enemies while being surrounded like this was definitely harsh. Even when he blocked attacks from one or two directions, the enemies would come from the other two directions, which he couldn't defend.

Last time, Jay had his hand full in just stopping a Tier 3 beast, so the second Tier 3 beast managed to injure him.

After that fight, Clovis had been wondering what kind of tactic he could use to defeat a lot of opponents or even multiple Tier 3 beasts.

Every time that question appeared in his mind, the answer remained the same. It was speed.

As long as he could fight the beasts fast enough and move around, he could limit himself to fighting fewer beasts than he could handle at once.

This whole time, Clovis had been implementing the idea like how he first struck the beasts near the bird instead of the Tier 3 beast.

Once there was no beast around him, Clovis could send a few strikes to the bird before the other beasts arrived.

\*Reee!\*

The bird let out a cry, ordering the rest of the beasts to aim for Clovis.

There were only a dozen beasts going to Kanaria and the others, which was pretty lucky for him.

Since the bird wanted to take him this way, Clovis shifted his direction from the bird to the beasts on his left.



"!!!" The bird was startled and saw Clovis killing multiple beasts while trying to make his escape. Not allowing Clovis to escape, the bird chased after him personally.

\*Roar!\*

\*Ro—!"

The beasts also did the same, but because the terror bird could absolutely not allow Clovis to leave, it just pushed away all the beasts in front of him and reached Clovis.

It spread its wings, trying to capture him.

Clovis couldn't help but smile and shift his direction back to the bird. He closed the gap between them and struck the bird's body multiple times.

\*Reeeee!\* The bird was wailing in pain, but the wings still moved toward each other to capture Clovis.

Clovis swiftly hit the body, especially the joint connecting to its wings.

\*Reee!\*

The bird was screaming in pain, but the wings didn't show any sign of stopping.

'Too shallow, huh?' Clovis muttered. He wanted to thrust the chest, but he didn't know which one would be fatal to this bird. He could aim for the neck, which would be an easier target, but the beak was long and sturdy, so it would be parried.

Clovis had no other choice but to toss the short sword into the air. Fortunately, they were fighting in the forest. The short sword circled around the branch as Clovis jumped into the air before he got captured.

The bird would have been able to capture him if it had hands instead of wings.

Still, the other beasts leaped into the air and tried to chase after him, but Clovis managed to kick every single one of them away due to his vision.

He pulled himself up and stood on the branch while staring at the entire situation. Fortunately, the beasts were fully focused on him, so he didn't have to worry about them going to Kanaria and the others.

In that case, there was only one thing to do.

Since the beasts had gathered around him, the only thing he needed to do was reduce their number. Hence, he leaped to the top of the biggest beast among them.

As he expected, the other beasts immediately tried to climb this beast, putting a smile on his face.

Chapter 229 Killing the Tier 3 Beasts

\*Roar!\*

\*Roar!\*

All the other beasts were rushing to climb this humongous beast. They knocked their competitors away and didn't mind impaling their claws into the beast's skin so that they could climb up.

The enormous beast screamed in pain. The moment its legs gave up, Clovis judged the beast as dying. Hence, he leaped onto another beast, which resulted in the same thing.

The entire time, the smaller beasts chased after him. They ended up injuring themselves or their kin just to reach Clovis.

More importantly, the Tier 3 bird didn't know what it should do now that it had reached this point. The bird wanted to climb as well, but the conditions didn't allow him. In addition, Clovis had injured him.

While the bird was thinking, Clovis simply jumped from one beast after another, injuring more than thirty beasts and killing five beasts in the process.

Once he was done, he leaped outside the encirclement, which caused the beasts to get even more fired up. They rushed to Clovis, but the latter simply used the trees as covers.

Some smaller beasts didn't have the strength to destroy a tree and it wasn't like they had enough space to avoid it. As a result, multiple beasts ended up crashing into the trees before getting squeezed by the rest.

Clovis had changed his approach the moment he saw his slashes weren't enough against the Tier 3 bird.

Now that his plan had started working, he began cutting down the beasts on the outside, decreasing their number.

Clovis was so fully absorbed by the task that he didn't realize that the other battlefield had undergone tremendous change.

...

\*Hieeee!\* The deer let out a shriek when Jay's sword finally crushed its antler.

The left side of its antlers fell down, which caused a slight imbalance on the deer's head.

Still, the most impressive thing would be the fact that Jay managed to hit the same spot over and over again. While it wasn't too accurate, he still managed to crush it after several minutes.

Jay couldn't help but smile. His efforts finally paid off.

The Tier 3 deer panicked, wondering if it had to run away or continue. The deer glanced at the side, wondering what the other Tier 3 beast was doing.

Unfortunately, the Tier 3 beast didn't even bother to look in his direction as it was completely focused on Clovis.

There were still some beasts around, but they were getting hunted down one after another by Kanaria and Melody.

After getting used to their fighting style, Ragna even adjusted his technique. He would block the full charge of the beast for a second before stepping to the side, allowing the beast to trip over, which resulted in Kanaria or Melody killing them.

If the deer chose to leave, Jay and the others would be focusing on the bird.

Hence, the deer tried to strike Jay with half of its antlers in order to buy some time for the terror bird. There was no way the terror bird would lose against a single human that didn't look stronger than the human it currently faced.

Unfortunately for the deer, once half of its antlers were gone, Jay had no more intention of holding back. He had achieved his goal, which was the antler. Hence, the next thing he should aim for was the deer's life.

Jay avoided the antler with a step to the right, where he crushed the antlers. After that, Jay struck the deer with a long, horizontal slash.

The deer utilized the imbalance the loss of antlers gave to tilt its body to the side, but it failed to escape Jay's blade.

It still managed to cut the flesh of the deer, causing massive bleeding.

The deer wanted to escape right away, but this wound made it impossible. Having no other choice, the deer stomped the ground and used the remaining antlers to hit Jay.

Sadly, now that Jay wasn't limited to a single spot anymore, he struck the area that would produce the most inertia for the deer's head, causing the deer to fall on its side.

"You're quite strong," Jay muttered before striking the deer's head, ultimately killing it.

"Hu..." Jay took a light breath before turning to Kanaria and the others. He immediately helped them kill the rest of the scattered beasts.

"You're done?" Kanaria smirked.

"Yeah. After fighting against those strong Tier 3 beasts, the deer doesn't feel like a challenge anymore." Jay nodded.

"You're simply getting used to a higher level." Kanaria shook her head helplessly.

Ragna remained silent, but his expression was telling him, 'No Tier 1 humans can do it like you.'

Melody asked, "Anyway, should we clean up the rest first or do we help Clovis?"

Jay raised his head and saw Clovis's position. "He has kept the lower tier beasts away from me during the fight. So I'll go over there and help him. You guys can clean up here first before catching up."

"That sounds good." Kanaria agreed.

"Got it." Melody nodded.

Since they had reached an agreement, Jay hurried to Clovis's side.

\*Raaa!\*

A series of roars echoed from the rear, causing Clovis to raise his head. He noticed that Melody was updating their position. In other words, the blue dot behind these beasts was Jay.

The terror bird abruptly stopped when it noticed Jay was on a killing spree in the rear. Jay's prowess was so high that he killed multiple beasts in just two slashes. It kept advancing toward him, so the terror bird had no choice but to let out another cry, ordering half of the beasts to turn around and stop Jay.

Unfortunately, this was the last thing the bird should have done. Since there were fewer enemies keeping Clovis at bay, he could begin advancing again.

He rushed forward and struck down multiple beasts swiftly, making his way toward the bird.

Not scared, the terror bird thrust forward with its head like that of a spear. If it were Jay, he would have blocked it.

But this was Clovis. The movement of the bird looked so slow in his eyes, so he slightly tilted his body, barely avoiding the beak. With this, the bird's neck was finally right before his eyes.

Clovis swung his sword.

\*Zab!\*



## Chapter 230 Cleaning Up

\*Clank!\*

The bird somehow managed to twist its head and use that beak to barely block this attack. However, with such an uncomfortable position, Clovis managed to push it a bit further and slice its neck a bit.

It wasn't fatal, but a lot of blood was gushing out of the wound.

The bird tried to hit Clovis with its head, but the latter skillfully took a step back while waving his blades a few times, both to the front and behind him.

\*Roar!\*

The beasts were angry because their sneak attacks failed.

Still, Clovis had the upper hand. With the beak holding the sword back, Clovis kicked the head from below.

"!!!" The bird shuddered as it lost its consciousness for just a split second. The blood seemed to spurt a bit more because of that kick.

The bird hurriedly retracted its head as the beasts began to swarm the area. It was apparent that the bird wanted to escape before the wounds became fatal.

Unfortunately for the bird, Clovis took this chance to strike the wings of the bird which had no choice but to receive the attack if it wanted to survive.

After that, several beasts pounced on him, forcing Clovis to shift his attention to them. The bird took this chance to move back, fleeing.

The bird underestimated Clovis too much.

With several of them coming, Clovis simply sped up and attacked these beasts a few times each within two seconds, freeing himself.

Before the bird left the beast horde, Clovis chased after it. Several more beasts stood in his way, but Clovis simply overwhelmed them with swift yet deadly strikes, catching up to the bird in no time.

To prevent it from escaping, Clovis tossed the short sword at the bird. The latter jumped to the side, avoiding it. However, it didn't have much room to move because all these beasts were around.

Before it could recover, Clovis finally caught up. There were other beasts trying to stop him, but Clovis ignored most of them and just killed the two beasts that directly separated him and the bird.

\*Reee!\* The bird let out a cry. It was impossible to run away from Clovis. Hence, the bird chose to die fighting instead of running away.

The bird waved its beak multiple times, blocking several sword strikes. However, the injury to the neck caused it to slow down the bird's movement, allowing a few of the sword strikes to reach the bird's body.

After that, Clovis avoided the charge of the beast from the left and kicked this beast to the bird, causing the latter to fall down.

Before the bird could stand up, Clovis jumped over the beast and struck the bird's neck once more.

\*Ree—!\* The bird let out its last shriek before it died.

The beasts in the area became enraged as they failed to protect the Tier 3 beast.

"Tsk." Clovis clicked his tongue, knowing that it would be hard to escape while being surrounded by forty beasts at once without a single wound.

All of a sudden, Melody's voice echoed in the transmission, ordering, "Close your ears!"

"!!!" Clovis didn't know what was going on, but he hurriedly did it, fully trusting his friend's decision.

\*Boom!\*

It turned out to be a correct decision as the grenade hit the enemy's rear, causing a ruckus in that area. In addition, several bullets had hit the beasts in that area, leaving only a few of them standing in Clovis's way. Even then, they were distracted by the attacks from the side.

Clovis couldn't help but smile.

Now that the bird had died, the restriction had been lifted. In other words, Kanaria and Melody could finally help him.

Clovis took this chance and cut his way out. The moment he was out, he noticed that Jay had almost killed the beasts in his direction.

Not wanting to lose, Clovis turned around and began to slash the beasts one by one. There were only Tier 1 and Tier 0 remaining, so it wasn't a challenge for Clovis, who had gotten into a comfortable position.

It only took him several minutes to kill the rest of the beasts, which resulted in him completing their objective. He managed to kill the Tier 3 beasts without getting any injuries.

Although the Tier 3 beast was weakened because they weren't too far from the city, it was an amazing feat, considering they had to deal with other beasts as well.

Jay had also completed the same task and dealt with the rest of the beasts together with Clovis.

Just looking at the number alone, Clovis couldn't help but smile.

"How many beasts are there?" Clovis let out a breath of amusement.

"According to the number, there are about 250 beasts." Melody answered while looking at the corpses. Kanaria gave a thumbs up while approaching Clovis, "Good work. It's good that you don't suffer any injuries."

"Mhmm." Clovis nodded. "How's Jay?"

"He's good too."

"In that case, we should clean up soon," said Clovis while checking the radar.

"I will gather their essence!" Ragna hurriedly raised his hand. He should have gone to the front line and blocked the beasts' attacks, which would give an opportunity for Clovis and Jay to attack.

But because he hadn't done anything in this place, he needed to volunteer to gather the essence. It would be bad if Clovis and Jay chose to throw him away.

"You and Jay should get some rest. Even Ragna will have trouble gathering essence from all these monsters by himself, so I and Melody will help." Kanaria waved her hand.

"Alright." Clovis nodded with a smile. He also wanted to think about the next destination in their expedition.

He looked down and contemplated, 'Alright. Today and tomorrow, we will focus on killing a lot of beasts. Before dusk, we will have to leave for our second destination and reach that place before dark. We'll see if we can find the Tier 4 Madtsoiidae or not.'

Although Clovis didn't say it, he really wanted to test his might against a Tier 4 beast.