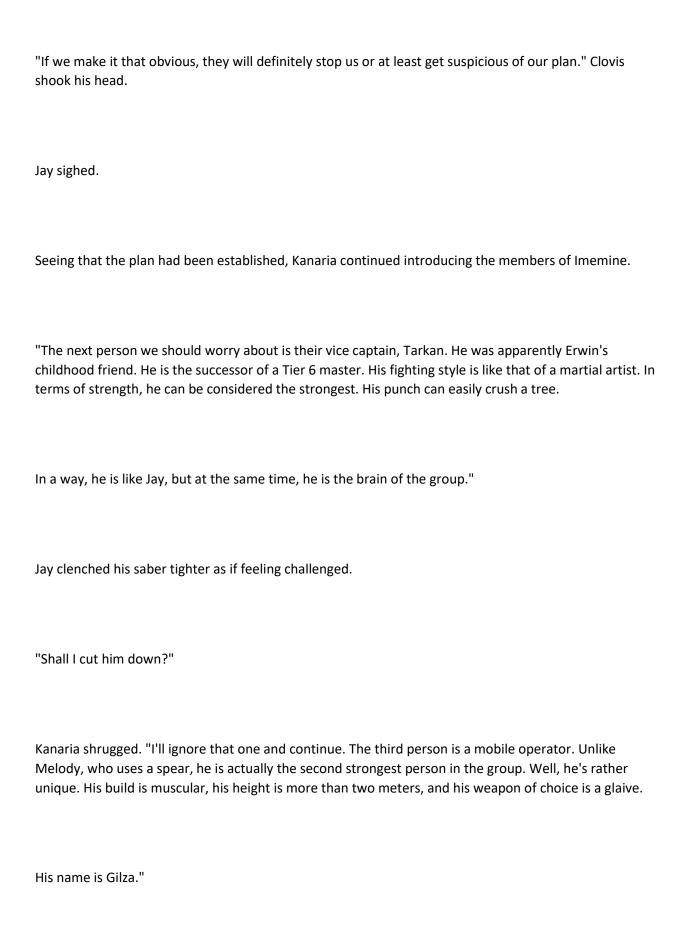
## **World Mall 276**

Chapter 276 Imemine's Members
As expected, Elina, who was among the audience, ended up turning pale after seeing such a performance. There was no way for their group to compete against Libation Fiesta anymore.
The most talented person in the city? Ivan's progress couldn't hold a candle against Clovis, Jay, or Kanaria.
When she glanced to the side, she saw Ivan with a murderous look. Ranked second in the first place was good, but when they compared it to what Clovis had just done, their achievement could easily be forgotten.
As long as Clovis put up a good fight in the second round, even if he lost, everyone would still hold a better opinion compared to their group.
Just like Ivan, the president of the Drake Group was also watching the fight on his screen.
After seeing the result, he couldn't help but flip his table and kick his screen.
"Bastard!"

He was angry because he knew Clovis could actually use this against them once more.
Meanwhile, Clovis had returned to his team and escaped to the inner area for the participants before they were stormed by the reporters.
"Is this your plan?" Kanaria asked. "You're still holding back, right? 17 hits There's no way your progress is that small after becoming a Tier 2. After all, your fastest record as a Tier 1 human is 15 hits."
Clovis shrugged. "You'll see it later. And now, I think it'll be better to think about our plan against Imemine."
"Indeed." Kanaria nodded and projected the information about Imemine. "They are the same as us, only having five members in their team. All of them are Tier 3, but they're also abnormal.
"The person we have to watch out for the most is Erwin Tyska. His weapon of choice is actually extremely unique, giving him a new way of fighting. He is 22 years old and a Tier 3 human. I'm sure he's pretty close to Tier 4. Clovis wants to defeat him, right?"
"Yeah. Just like earlier, I will go by myself in the middle." Clovis nodded. "Jay will take the left while you and Melody take the right."

"I go as well?" Kanaria widened her eyes in surprise. She was a sniper, so she was supposed to stay in the back.
Clovis confirmed it. "Switch to mid-range and cover Melody."
"Instead of Ragna, you're sending Melody, huh?" Kanaria glanced at Ragna and Melody.
"Is your objective to hold the fort? Normally, me and Kanaria would be the best choice to defeat the flag, but Melody would be extremely vulnerable." Ragna paused for a moment. "In that case, you send Kanaria, purposely making our fort weak so that we can bait them there?"
"!!!" Kanaria finally understood the plan. She could easily disengage when covering Melody. This way, she could ambush the attackers in the woods. With Melody's help and Ragna's reaction speed, she could unleash all her bullets, and Ragna would still not get hit a single time.
Clovis nodded. "I don't think Erwin is so weak that I can defeat him swiftly. Hence, we'll have to win against them by getting their flag instead of defeating their members."
"That's not a bad idea." Melody nodded.
Jay's expression turned serious. "In that case, shouldn't you make Kanaria support me? This way, I can break through their rank and head straight to the flag."



"Hmm?" Jay furrowed his eyebrows. This group was actually more unique than he originally thought.
"The fourth person is the one that got defeated in the previous round due to being surrounded by three people at once. An all rounder called Robert. His defense is quite high, so I'm assuming that they will actually position him at the base to protect their flag. If we manage to take him down, it will create a big hole in their lineup.
"Last but not least, Clara. She is one of their gunners. From the footage, she is a very aggressive gunner, often running at the very front. I don't think we can underestimate her." Kanaria glanced at Ragna. "Besides it's most likely that they will send her to grab our flag."
"Don't worry. I won't let anyone get past me." Ragna nodded with a serious expression.
"In that case, we have established our plan. What we need is victory." Clovis's expression turned grim.
"We don't know what they're planning to do. But after seeing their record, I'm sure they're going to stick to their aggressive fighting style. There's a chance that they will do whatever they need to break through our ranks and grab our flag.
"And their captain, Erwin, is still holding back this whole time. The key of this battle is whether Clovis can defeat Erwin or not," Kanaria explained.

Clovis thought for a moment. "If possible, I want Jay to get some good rest for today. His time to shine is tomorrow but I can't really underestimate our opponent."
What Clovis didn't know was that Imemine was actually a much scarier opponent than he originally thought.
He would only find out of their true terror in their match.
Chapter 277 Excitement
Clovis and his group stood in front of Erwin and his teammates. They were glaring at each other as if they had picked out their targets.
The tension was rising, but this was still inside the lobby. It wasn't the place for them to solve their doubts.
"To think that we would have the opportunity to test our might so quickly I don't know whether to thank the competition or not." Erwin harrumphed.
Clovis also didn't know what to say. After all, whoever won this match would fight in the semifinal. Even if they lost, they still had a chance for third place.
On the other hand, the loser would definitely lose everything. Top 8? No one really cared about the top 8 since it only represented a single match in the main competition.

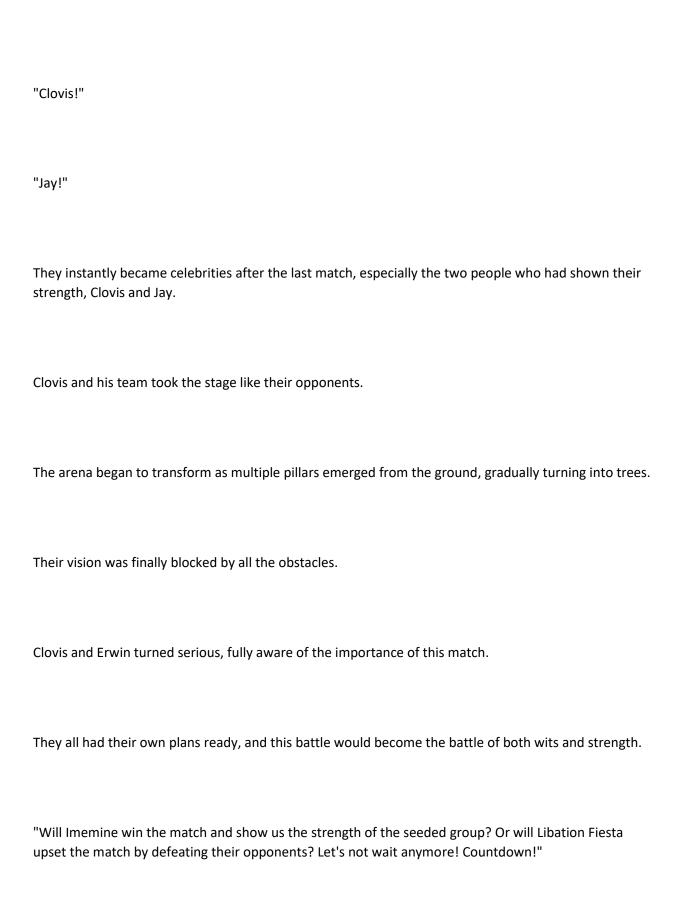
Clovis said, "Well, you should thank them. You might lose before we meet if not for this arrangement."
"!!!" The people in Erwin's group reacted. Two of them stepped forward as if they didn't like that statement, while another one only frowned.
"Hahaha! You have a big mouth, just like mine." Erwin laughed.
Tarkan, his best friend, rolled his eyes while thinking, 'So you know that, self-conceited bastard?'
Erwin shook his head helplessly and said, "Even if I defeat you in this match, how about setting up a small party in a restaurant? I'll pay for it."
Jay only rolled his eyes as if he didn't care about it. The others remained calm as though they had gotten used to hearing such a thing. And the result would be the same. They would claim yet another victory here.
"That's good. But it would be better to move it after the competition is over so as to focus on the semifinals and final. Besides, I'm generous enough to give you one day to let out all the tears you're going to shed after losing to me." Clovis shrugged.
Erwin and Clovis looked at each other before laughing.

"Hahahahaha! This is the first time that I have found someone with the same humor as me." Erwin laughed out loud. After a while, he calmed down and extended his hand. "I'm truly glad to meet you in this competition. Let's settle this in the arena and there won't be any hard feelings no matter the result."
If this was anyone else, Clovis would never take their hand. For example, if Aileen was the one who offered this handshake, Clovis knew that Aileen had multiple hidden intentions.
First of all, the invitation to a party was just her way of forming a good relationship and potentially inviting him back to their city.
However, it was different for Erwin. This self-conceited man was saying it out of his pride.
It was because of that pure intention that Clovis shook his hand firmly.
"No hard feelings." Clovis nodded.
Erwin smiled. He took a step back and turned around. While walking away with his group, he waved his hand without looking back. At the same time, he said, "Their match is about to end soon, so I better go to my position. Let's compete fairly, Clovis and the friends from Libation Fiesta."
Clovis watched his back until he disappeared into the corner. He couldn't help but sigh. "It seems that we'll have some trouble."



"We can only see it in the match. Are you excited?"
"Uooohh!" The people's cheers echoed inside the stadium.
Mayor Revan was watching the arena with a pale face as this was a moment of truth.
If they won this match, the path to glory would be opened wide.
"I can hear your excitement from here. In that case, without further ado, let's call our participants. On the west side" Shion raised her hands. The drums were rolling as Erwin led his group to the stage. "Imemine."
"Uoohhhh!" The people shouted while looking at their confident faces in the screen.
"Good luck, Imemine!"
"li"
"Me!"

"And Mine!"
"Uoohh, Imemine!"
With both Imemine and Bloody Rose coming from the same city, it was no wonder they got a lot of supporters.
However, the excitement didn't die down, even when Shion shifted their attention to the opposite side.
"And on the east side, here comes our challenger! The dark horse of the competition" Shion pumped her fist while shouting, "The challenger, Libation Fiesta!"
The cheers actually erupted even bigger. Everyone loved to see a dark horse upset the competition. More importantly, the dark horse consisted of extremely young talents.
There was no way they wouldn't get excited.
"Libation Fiesta!"
"I don't know what that means, but hooray!"



Chapter 278 First Clash
"3!"
Aileen crossed her arms while watching the two teams.
"2!"
2!
Rafael clenched his fists, fully aware that whoever won this match would become his next opponent.
"1!"
Mayor Revan was already praying on his knees, hoping for the best.
"0! Match, start!" Shion excitedly announced before turning the broadcast off so that she didn't give
away any information to the participants.
The first one to make the move was Clovis.
"What is this? Clovis is moving into the woods. Is he going to replicate the first round? Wait, no! His team is following him while Ragna is guarding the flag." Shion gasped, announcing it to the people who
watched the match outside the stadium. "As for Imemine they haven't taken any steps yet.



This kind of tactic was absurd. Two of them moved toward Jay, while the other two planned to challenge Melody and Kanaria.
Even if he got ganged up, Clovis believed that Jay wouldn't go down so easily. He couldn't help but wonder about the enemy's plan as this was simply beyond reckless.
"Continue! We will continue moving forward. As long as one of us can break through, we will be able to take their flag, ending the match right away!" Clovis made his decision.
The only two people who could potentially break through the enemy's ranks would definitely be either Clovis or Jay. Knowing this fact allowed Kanaria and Melody to move slightly closer to Clovis.
Clovis saw a shadow in his path. That shadow was actually standing in the air.
'No' Clovis squinted his eyes, taking another look. It wasn't in the air. Erwin was actually standing on top of a wire.
In fact, Clovis could see multiple wires that had been set up in the area. This was why Kanaria called Erwin's choice of weapon unique.
There weren't a lot of people fighting with wires, let alone mastering this kind of fighting style.

Erwin smiled confidently, saying, "Welcome to my web, Clovis. I hope that you struggle like an insect entangled in a spider's web."
"" Clovis noticed his weird wording. He glanced to the side. It was very hard to see, but he actually caught a glimpse of several reflections of the sunlight. It must come from the threads that Erwin left behind.
Clovis instantly realized that Erwin was actually planning to trap him. It was no wonder why Erwin moved weirdly after the match began.
Clovis believed that Erwin had set up a U-shaped web so that Clovis wouldn't be able to go anywhere.
In addition, the other four had finally met up with their respective opponents.
Jay had to take on Tarkan and Gilza, the two that were supposed to be the strongest in terms of raw strength.
Meanwhile, Kanaria and Melody were facing Clara and Robert.
"In that case, I will cut you down together with your web." Clovis took a deep breath.
"In that case, I will cut you down together with your web." Clovis took a deep breath.

"Clovis, be careful. Some of those threads are extremely thin. You might end up missing them and getting hit without knowing it." Melody warned him.
"I know. I'll be careful." Clovis moved forward.
As he expected, the first thing that touched him was actually the thread right at his feet.
"" Clovis glanced down. The thread was so durable that it didn't actually snap even under such pressure.
However, two pillars suddenly swung down.
It was a trap. Fortunately, for Clovis, it was just child play. He simply took a single step back, letting the two pillars hit each other.
Bang!
The pillars cracked, but suddenly, Melody warned him. "Watch out!"
"!!!" Clovis raised his eyebrows and jumped back. The pillars were actually a trap to cover his vision. In the radar, Erwin was actually closing in.

With a single wave of his hand, he threw several wires. Surprisingly, each of the wires was actually so durable that the moment Erwin made a gripping motion, the wires that had enveloped the rock actually shattered it.
"Where do you think you're going? Aren't you going for my flag?" Erwin grinned while waving both hands.
Seeing the wires that were surrounding him from two sides, Clovis decided to move closer to Erwin.
Erwin sped up and tried to catch him before Clovis reached him, but the latter actually ducked at the last moment, causing the wires to capture a tree instead.
"Kh!" Erwin made another gripping motion, which actually shattered the tree.
Unfortunately for him, Clovis had closed the gap between them. Without hesitation, Clovis waved his swords seventeen times, trying to cut Erwin down at this opportunity.
While retracting his wires, Erwin actually met Clovis's swings head-on. He extended both hands forward as though he were trying to grab them.
"!!!" Clovis widened his eyes in shock. Even though he completed his swing, the impact didn't feel right. 'What is that?'

Clovis's eyes barely caught it. For other people, it might look like Erwin blocking the swords with his palm. However, Clovis could actually see the threads between his fingers.
With just a movement of his finger, Erwin directed the sword to those threads. It was durable enough to actually block his swords no, all his swings.
"Wha—" Clovis looked shocked. This was the first time he met someone so daring. This kind of fighting style was much different from what he had seen so far.
"What's wrong? My hands couldn't catch up to your speed, but my fingers are different. And it's my turn to attack again!" Erwin waved both hands, sending forth another wave of threads.  Chapter 279 Two Sides
"They're coming!" Melody's expression turned serious as she pointed her gun at the one in the front, Roberto.
Bang!
Bang!
Several gunshots instantly echoed inside the arena. Roberto simply blocked her with his shield and continued onward.

Both Kanaria and Imemine's gunner, Clara, were approaching, but they couldn't be too reckless. A single mistake would definitely let one of those bullets hit their vital area, which would eliminate them from this competition.
The first one to make the move was Kanaria. She came out of her hiding spot, aiming for Roberto's side.
"Tsk." Roberto moved back and used the tree to cover himself, causing the bullets to hit the tree.
Melody pressed on, trying to use this opportunity to somehow destroy Roberto. She also maintained a portion of her attention on the radar, watching out for Clara.
"!!!" Instead of stopping Kanaria's barrage, Clara actually looped around and aimed at her. Melody clicked her tongue and hurriedly looped around the tree, hiding from her. She grabbed the soil underneath his foot while taking out a small paper wrap from her pocket.
Then she tossed this lump of soil toward Roberto.
Roberto panicked and hurriedly moved back with his shield in front. At the same time, Clara hid behind a tree, wondering what kind of grenade it was.
However, this was just a trick. Now that both of them had retreated, it was time for Kanaria and Melody to push on.

While Libation Fiesta had the upper hand on the left side, it was a bit different on the right side.
Jay saw Gilza coming with his glaive. This muscular man was like a bull, charging straight ahead until it hit its target.
"There you are! Jay Havenson! I am Gilza, the strongest man! I'll defeat you!" Gilza shouted, taunting Jay. He stomped the ground while waving his glaive, planning to crush Jay in a single swing.
"Then you better train for another decade." Jay harrumphed and swung his sword downward.
"!!!" Gilza noticed that Jay was actually aiming at his weapon. He suddenly raised his glaive a bit so that Jay couldn't knock it down.
Unfortunately for Gilza, Jay took advantage of the new technique he got from Clovis. While he hadn't mastered it, the way he swung his saber had become a bit different.
The technique optimized the muscle's usage, which significantly increased Jay's swing.
In addition, Jay was aiming for another thing in this swing.
The moment the two blades clashed, the clicking sound echoed as a small shock wave was produced. However, the clash only lasted for an instant as Jay overpowered Gilza in an instant.

"Imposs—" Before Gilza could even finish his reaction, Jay went one step further and shifted the trajectory of his swing, curving it.
"Kh!" Gilza gritted his teeth as his glaive actually got swept around, the handle hitting his legs and ultimately tripping him.
Gilza opened his eyes wide, not believing what had just happened. His swing was powerful enough to contend against a peak Tier 3. Yet he was still overpowered by Jay. It could only mean one thing.
Despite being a Tier 2, Jay's strength had actually surpassed that of a Tier 4.
All the people who watched Jay's clash couldn't help but gasp in disbelief.
"What? Is this the strength of Libation Fiesta? He is actually overwhelming Gilza with Imemine. What is happening?!" Shion shouted. "Is Libation Fiesta the den of monsters?! We have never seen anything like this."
The referee, who was overseeing the clash between the two of them, couldn't help but drop his jaw. It wasn't because Jay's strength was more powerful than Gilza's. It was because he recognized another thing in that swing.

"!!!" Jay's blade ended up missing both Tarkan and Gilza and striking the ground. He hurriedly pulled out his blade, but Tarkan had changed his stance, planning to hit Jay's chest.
"Tsk!" Jay clicked his tongue and used his left arm to block it instead, with most of that force getting absorbed by the clothes provided by Another World Mall.
Bam!
Jay was launched several meters away as his momentum was stopped by a tree.
"Thanks." Gilza breathed out of relief.
"Don't underestimate him," said Tarkan while moving forward, not letting Jay recover. At the same time, he activated his beast soul. 'Arctodus Simus.'
Even Jay felt the danger from Tarkan's right fist and hurriedly moved to the side as Tarkan missed Jay at the last moment and struck the tree.
Bam!
The tree, or more like the pillar, got crushed with a single punch.

Not wanting to lose or continuously get dragged around, Jay spun his body and struck Tarkan on the head, using his own beast soul to speed up.
Tarkan tried to block it the same way by putting his arm between his head and Jay's sword.
Unfortunately for him, Jay's swing actually struck so hard that he ended up spinning like a wheel. But he was more prepared, unlike Gilza, which allowed him to stabilize himself by pushing himself off the ground and landing safely on his feet.
Jay's expression turned grim. It seemed that it wouldn't be that easy to defeat these two as well.  Chapter 280 Unexpected Plan?
"What is this match? This is too intense!" Shion banged the table while shouting, "The battle on the left side might be interesting, but on the right side, Jay is fighting against Tarkan and Gilza. All three of them take pride in their strength.
"Apparently, Jay's strength is higher than them. This is my first time seeing a Tier 2 human with that level of strength. I don't think I can win against him to be honest.
"Meanwhile, Gilza has yet to fully utilize all his power. He has been overwhelmed during the first class, but it also gives them a general measurement of Jay's strength. Tarkan shows it by deflecting Jay's attack perfectly.
"This battle might end up deciding the winner. If Jay is defeated, Gilza and Tarkan can move toward Ragna and steal the flag. This is probably the reason why they chose this extremely aggressive strategy.

"On the other hand, if Jay is able to defeat both of them, he can regroup with his captain and take down the opposite team's captain. In fact, they might be able to eliminate the remaining two first and take the enemy's flag after getting all those points, which would result in their immediate victory.
"Unfortunately, it doesn't seem that it's possible for Gilza or Tarkan to stop Jay alone while the other moves toward the flag. After all, Jay can overwhelm them and they still have Ragna guarding the flag.
"Still the most exciting match is in the center. What's with this battle? I have failed as a commentator as I have a hard time finding words to describe this battle!"
As Shion said, the battle between Clovis and Erwin simply surpassed their tiers.
Clovis swung his swords, trying to take Erwin down. Yet despite the difference in their speed, Erwin could actually take on all of Clovis's attacks.
"Haa Ha" Clovis had a hard time adjusting his pace as no matter how he struck him, Erwin managed to stop his attack.
He couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows, thinking, 'As expected, this guy is insanely strong. He knows that there is a big gap between our speed, considering he has Muscle Affinity.
'However, he is taking on all my attacks a few centimeters from his body. Due to his close posture, he doesn't need to move too much, which bridge the gap between our speeds.

'But having blades a few centimeters away from your body is scary one wrong mistake can end up being fatal.'
As Clovis said, even the referee that watched their battle had to be on high alert. The moment he saw Erwin making a mistake, he would stop Clovis's attack so that it didn't kill Erwin.
Yet Erwin had been keeping up with him for more than a minute.
In addition, Erwin wasn't just defending. He also let out an attack.
"!!!" Clovis suddenly ducked as Erwin sent forth his wires. It missed Clovis and captured yet another tree.
That tree didn't last long, as it was crushed with the movements of Erwin's fingers.
'From what I can see, there are two types of wires. The first one is the durable one, which allow him to block my attack or even crush anything around us. He can even stand on it. The second type is the sharp one, which can actually slice those trees.'
Clovis was trying to think of a way to create a gap in Erwin's defense. However, Erwin seemed to have the same thought, as this was the reason why he chose to show yet another type.

Before he retracted those wires, he actually attached them to the shattered rocks.
"!!!" Clovis felt something was wrong when Erwin made a gesture he had never seen before. It was as though he were pulling something. Clovis glanced back, noticing that the shattered rocks were flying toward him.
He clicked his tongue and threw himself to the side, rolling on the ground once before standing up again.
On the other hand, Erwin jumped back and leaped over his wire. After that, he shattered yet another tree and removed their hologram. Then he pulled them toward his own wires, which abruptly turned into a bowstring.
"Are you serious?" Clovis gritted his teeth as he used his vision to see the rocks' movements clearly. After that, he struck the rocks one by one in rapid succession, deflecting them away from him.
When he succeeded in parrying those bullet-like rocks, Erwin actually stood up on top of his wire as though showing Clovis that Clovis couldn't win in his territory.
"Bastard" Clovis actually smiled excitedly. "What are you? Are you going to call yourself a spiderman next?"
"Come on. I don't want to be a copycat. Call me, Erwin!"

"That's just your name." Clovis's eyebrows twitched. Even though he looked like he was wasting his time, Clovis actually used this time to come up with another plan.
It was clear that going pass him would be hard. In addition, the fact that Erwin had moved around from one side to another meant he had blocked the entire area with his wires. Even if Jay or the others managed to break through, they would still have to be wary of the wires.
'What should I do? With the fact that he has just shown me another type of wire, it's clear that his trick doesn't stop here. There might be another type of wire that I don't know about like an invisible wire of something. Fighting him in his territory would be bad, should I lure him away?'
Clovis had just gotten an idea. Since it would be hard to defeat Erwin, he should change his target while luring Erwin out.
Once Clovis got this new plan, he immediately turned around and ran away.
"What?! Are you running away? You coward! I misjudged you!" Erwin shouted.
"What coward? This is a tactical retreat!" Clovis snorted.
Upon hearing those words, Erwin actually smiled. "Because it's tactical that it can be predicted!"

In that moment, all Imemine's members actually turned around. Roberto covered the rear while chasing after Clara, who was already retreating.
At the same time, Gilza and Tarkan leaped back as though they were trying to gain some distance. But that was just a trick because they instantly ran back.
Only two people from Libation Fiesta realized what was actually happening. It was Melody and Clovis.
Shion dropped her jaw and shouted, "W-What? All Imemine's members are turning around and retreating And their direction is toward Clovis!"