World Mall 286

Chapter 28	36 Next	Match
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"" Tarkan let out a sigh of relief. The situation was actually worse than they expected. They were almost defeated by the unexpected strength of Libation Fiesta.
He couldn't help but take another look at their opponents, thinking, 'The situation is very bad for us right now. According to Erwin, they will send out Clovis, Jay, and Ragna for the individual matches.
'Meanwhile, Erwin, Gilza, and I will be representing our group. If we play our cards right, we might be able to win against them. At the very least, we have to win against Clovis and Ragna while not getting trapped by Jay.'
Tarkan waved his hand to his teammates, gesturing them to regroup with Erwin and discuss their next plan. They only had ten minutes after all.
When they were about to go back, they saw Clovis emerging from the forest. His face remained calm as though he hadn't unleashed his all.
Tarkan couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows. Clovis was indeed the most dangerous one among them. The only person who could defeat him was Erwin.
In the end, they let Clovis pass them before going back to Erwin.

Clovis gathered his group in the waiting room.
Jay's expression turned grim as he couldn't help but stand up before lowering his head.
"I'm sorry, everyone. Everything was my fault." Jay closed his eyes, recalling the match earlier. If he wasn't distracted, his group could actually win this match.
In fact, if not for Melody stopping him, he would have been defeated by the hidden string. After that, they would eliminate everyone except for Clovis before getting the flag. It would be over for their group.
Clovis snorted. "That was my fault! If I hadn't underestimated them, we would have won by getting the flag instead of having ours stolen."
"What? Are you serious, Clovis?" Jay gritted his teeth, glaring at Clovis. It was clear that he was the one at fault, but Clovis made up some excuses to make him look bad.
"Yes. I'm serious! The fault is mine."
"Do you think I will agree to that?" Jay stood right in front of Clovis, but he never raised his hands even just to grab his collar. As someone who aspired to become a captain, his wrong decision earlier would have cost him his group if this were the real battle. That was why he couldn't accept Clovis's excuses.

"Obviously, you wouldn't agree. I don't care if you agree with me on this what I care is that you keep that anger for tomorrow to defeat the Eight Swords." Clovis's expression turned cold.
"" Jay bit his lips. He couldn't deny what Clovis said. The biggest threat was indeed the Eight Swords. If they couldn't win against them, they would have to fight against the loser on the other side for third place.
Jay took a deep breath, calming his heart down. "Alright. I'll definitely bring this team to victory tomorrow. Go all out because you will have a lot of time to rest tomorrow."
Clovis smiled, watching Jay return to his seat.
"Anyway, Ragna will be the first combatant and I will be the second one. That's all we need to win, right?" Clovis turned to Ragna.
Ragna held his spear tightly and nodded his head. "I won't disappoint you."
"Most likely, your opponent will be Tarkan. However, I believe that you can win." Seeing his tense face, Clovis chuckled and said, "No need to be that tense. It's not like Tarkan is more terrifying than a Tier 4 beast."
"That's true" Ragna gave a wry smile. He had a lot of bad rumors around him, so he didn't really want to disappoint the team. "In that case, I'm going."

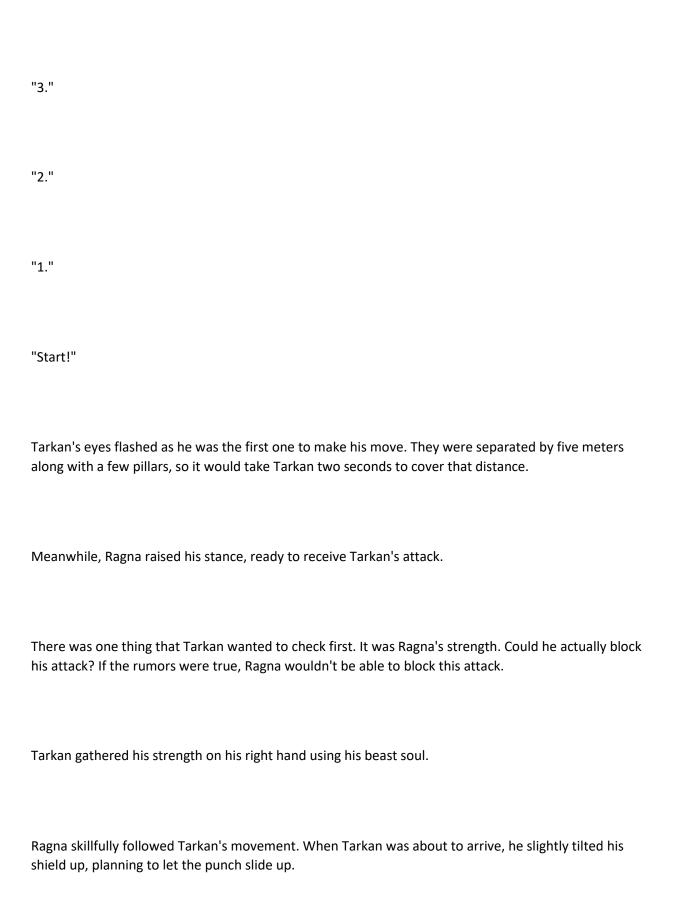
Ragna stood up and started walking. No matter what people said, he still had to use his own hands to dispel those bad rumors. In fact, he might be the most determined person in this match.
Imemine.
"What did you say? Are you saying that I will go first?" Tarkan asked with a shocked face.
"Yeah. Ragna will be your opponent." Erwin nodded. "That's what Clovis said."
"He must be lying. This is just a mind battle." Tarkan bit his lips.
"I originally thought that, but after facing him, I know that Clovis is planning to be the champion. When you take that into consideration, I'm sure that they will use Jay against the Eight Swords. In other words, Jay will have to rest."
"That's" Tarkan couldn't deny it. "What if they want you to think that way?"

"He doesn't seem to be the person who will scheme against me at least not in this match. He makes the assumption that he will be able to defeat me and Ragna is able to win against any person in our group. That's why we have to surpass his imagination." Erwin looked at Tarkan with a serious expression. "You and me. As long as we can win these two matches, we'll be able to advance to the next round."
Tarkan bit his lips. Erwin was very sure that he would meet Ragna in the individual match.
"Besides, even if you end up meeting Jay, you will still have to defeat him if we want to win. That's why it doesn't really matter."
"" Tarkan remained silent for a moment before nodding his head. "Alright. I will defeat Ragna. Make sure you beat Clovis."
"Of course."
Tarkan harrumphed and started walking back to the arena.
The arena had changed. Instead of the forest arena, there was only a barren field this time. Several pillars had been erected as an obstacle.
Shion began talking. "I'm sure that everyone is still excited about the individual matches. Without further ado, we will begin to call the representatives of each team."

Shion looked at the screen as they updated the name.
"Oh?! We've just got the information. Then, I shall announce it to everyone. The person who represents Imemine is Tarkan Ravelli. The person who will fight him is none other than Ragna Book.
"This is a rather unique match. A Martial Artist vs. A Guardian."
Chapter 287 Ragna vs Tarkan (1)
Ragna and Tarkan entered the stage at the same time, their eyes locked on each other.
The people thought Libation Fiesta was throwing the first match as the result was clear.
"As expected, Libation Fiesta is trying to bait Imemine by sending their vice captain. This way, they will lose the first match while their captain, Clovis, will defeat the opponent's captain. After that, Jay will easily defeat his opponent."
"Ragna, huh? He is a very weak guy among guardians. In fact, even if he is a Tier 3 guardian, his actual strength is only Tier 2."
"Right? He is such an unreliable guardian."
"Why does Libation Fiesta even recruit him?"

"Right? Even during that last stand, he was being pushed by Gilza. If he managed to stand on his ground, he would be able to stop Tarkan just for a second, which would result in Kanaria shooting Tarkan down.
The people were looking down on him. They didn't think Ragna could win against Tarkan. Even if he managed to get stronger and become a decent guardian, he would still be a level below Tarkan.
Ragna's face remained calm and collected. He had expected this kind of reaction, but since it was irrelevant to the current him, he just ignored it.
It was true that if he stopped Tarkan even just for a second, it would change the winner of this match.
However, there was one thing they didn't calculate.
Gilza's action was like a suicide. It wasn't what a normal person was supposed to do. In fact, if this was a life-and-death fight, Gilza would have died alongside Tarkan.
However, they took advantage of the rules' loophole just to ensure they managed to win.
Tarkan playfully said, "It seems that people from this town don't like you very much. What do you think?"

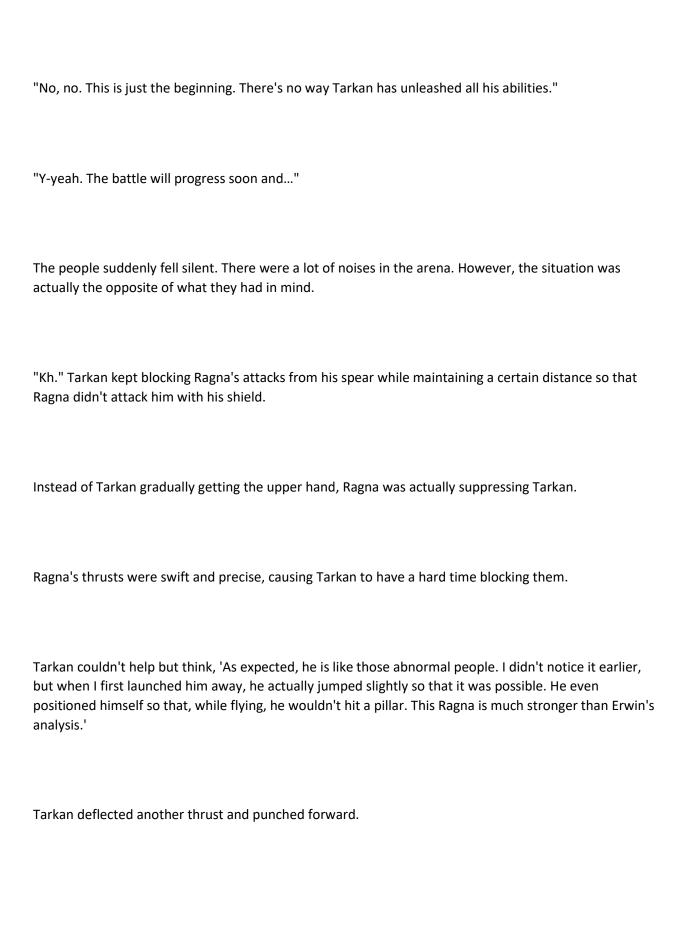
"It can't be helped. How can I deny them when it's true?" Ragna smiled.
Tarkan knew that it wasn't true anymore. But Ragna was able to calmly reply to them without any trace of frustration. It would mean that he couldn't shake his heart off by using people's words.
Tarkan sighed, asking, "Is that why you join Libation Fiesta even if it means leaving this city?"
Ragna remained silent, but the answer was pretty clear at this point.
"Let's have a fair match, shall we?"
Ragna nodded in agreement. There were three referees that would stop them in case the battle became dangerous, so they could fight without any worries.
When both fighters were ready, the referees checked on them first before giving a signal to Shion.
"The two competitors are ready to begin the battle. I bet that everyone is dying to find the conclusion to this match, as it will greatly impact the next battle. Any team that manages to gain two wins will advance to the next round. Will the seeded group prevail, or will the dark horse swallow their opponent? Let's find out." Shion pressed the button for the countdown.
The number appeared on top of the arena as the audience counted together.





"!!!" Tarkan's instinct was screaming as his body tilted to the side. "Kh!"
The spear's movement was swift and deadly. If not for his quick reaction, that thrust would have pierced his throat. Even the referees were on high alert.
'This bastard. He was lying.' Tarkan gritted his teeth. Despite his tilted body, he actually managed to stomp the ground and use it to make his foundation stable. After that, he struck Ragna's shield, planning to launch him away like earlier.
Bam!
This time, Ragna was pushed back by two meters, but he still managed to hold on.
Tarkan thought he would be able to gain some distance with that punch, but he was wrong. 'He is actually able to withstand that punch. I might not have momentum anymore, but that punch should have been enough to blow him away. As expected, he is hiding his strength He might still be hiding a portion of his strength to catch me off guard.'
Ragna was the one moving forward this time, thrusting his spear at Tarkan's chest.
On the other hand, Tarkan raised his stance and received the thrust like he did with Jay's swing.

He let the spear hit the back of his hand before knocking it to the side with a flick of his hand.
The thrust momentum would pull Ragna in, allowing him to punch Ragna's shield once again.
'How about this?' Tarkan punched the shield with his other hand, but Ragna actually slammed his shield against Tarkan's body before that punching motion.
"!!!" Tarkan widened his eyes in shock as the shield hit both his head and body before pushing it back by three meters. "Wha—"
Chapter 288 Ragna vs Tarkan (2)
"This" The audience became silent.
"Isn't Ragna fighting better than expected?"
"But didn't Tarkan manage to blow him away earlier?"
"But Ragna counter-attacked and almost hit his throat"
The people were sucking a cold breath. They thought that the battle would become one-sided.



Surprisingly, Tarkan did the same thing with his shield, causing the clash to actually neutralize each other's force.
"What rumors? You're this strong?" Tarkan grinned in frustration. Their strength was actually equal. Even though he focused more on his technique unlike Gilza, it didn't change the fact that he had Muscle Affinity.
On the other hand, Ragna had a Bones Affinity, which boosted his defensive power. He should be stronger than Ragna.
But the reality couldn't be any more different.
What he didn't know was that the result was achieved through three things. The items from Another World Mall, the Star Method, and the technique book Clovis gave not long ago.
Ragna's eyes were locked on Tarkan as he couldn't help but recall the time he learned the dwarven technique.
"Dwarven Shield is a special technique that utilizes a shield in three different ways. The first is the stance that has a very low gravity, using the ground to absorb some impact. The second is to protect people behind you, the body and the shield have to act as a mountain, unmovable and sturdy.
Last but not least the shield is not a tool to receive attacks but to protect even if it means" Ragna was reading the book at that time.

But recalling such a thing made him fire up. He ran toward Tarkan and bashed him with his shield.
Tarkan also extended both hands, barely stopping the movement. However, his body tilted back due to the impact.
'To attack.' Ragna charged forward, not wanting to let Tarkan go. He rammed his shield on Tarkan and pushed him back like a bull. 'Move like a boulder!'
"Kh." Tarkan gritted his teeth. Ragna was planning to push him to the pillar, which ultimately squashed Tarkan.
Still, Tarkan was the vice captain of Imemine. There was no way he would go down without a fight.
When his back was about to hit the pillar, Tarkan actually kicked the pillar and shattered it.
"!!!" Ragna was startled. At first, he thought that Tarkan planned to use the pillar as a weapon. However, the shattered rocks started falling toward them.
Ragna gritted his teeth and tilted his shield downward, trying to push Tarkan down so that he remained in this position. At the same time, he allowed the rocks to rain on them.

Ragna got hit by multiple rocks: one on his forehead and the others on his arms and shoulders. But because he used this position to stop Tarkan, the latter also got hit by several rocks.
Still, due to their position, it was clear that Ragna got hit more. Even then, Ragna had a special constitution that allowed him to recover from all these injuries quickly. In that way, he would be the ultimate victor.
However, he didn't know that Tarkan was actually a much more terrifying person.
Tarkan suddenly let Ragna push him to the ground, which finally broke Ragna's stance. He used his elastic body and pushed him with both hands and feet into the air.
"!!!" Ragna gasped because Tarkan started grabbing the shattered rocks right after that.
He threw the rocks toward Ragna.
"Kh!" Ragna gritted his teeth and tried to block most of them with his shield midair.
As soon as Ragna landed, Tarkan ran toward him at full speed and jumped into the air while extending his foot forward.
Ragna knew how much momentum he had and the force he would produce in such a situation, so he chose to dodge.

At the same time, Ragna turned around and thrust his spear, trying to get Tarkan.
However, Tarkan simply crushed the pillar and escaped from the spear's reach. He landed right after and grabbed the stones, throwing them again at Ragna.
With a more stable position, Ragna easily blocked all those rocks without taking a single step.
But Tarkan used that chance to close the distance between them and did the same thing.
Seeing the momentum wasn't as fast as the previous kick, Ragna stomped the ground and moved forward, smashing his shield on the foot.
Bam!
The ground underneath them cracked and Tarkan's momentum was completely stopped.
'This is it.' Ragna stepped to the side, trying to stab Tarkan the moment he landed on the ground.
To his surprise, Tarkan actually raised the other leg and stomped on the upper's part of the shield, which actually anchored his position on top of the shield.

"!!!" Ragna raised his head, finding Tarkan tilting his body down and ready to punch him.
"Kh!" Ragna hurriedly let go of his spear so that he could retract his arm, protecting his head.
Tarkan ended up hitting his arm. This should be enough to push back the arm and injure the head, but Ragna actually lowered his body even further, following the momentum of that punch so that the arm didn't touch his head at all.
'He's too good.' Tarkan gritted his teeth. Even in such an advantageous position and taking Ragna by surprise, he still couldn't injure him.
Chapter 289 Ragna vs Tarkan (3)
"This" The people couldn't help but gasp.
"Isn't Ragna kind of fighting pretty well?"
"Y-yeah. Maybe he is not as weak as we think he is?"
"No. He should have been worse. Did he join Libation Fiesta because they managed to transform him into this strong?"

The people were confused by the fight since his improvement was so big that it was hard to believe.
However, the situation in the arena was actually better than what was visible for Libation Fiesta.
Their injuries had caused Tarkan to slow down for a bit.
At the same time, Ragna's condition wasn't that different. He bit his lips. His arm was hit pretty badly, to the point where it was hard to actually hold his spear. Still, this was nothing compared to a Tier 4 beast's attack.
Ragna hurriedly waved his other hand, shaking Tarkan off his shield.
Tarkan jumped back while observing Ragna's condition. 'Are you serious? The injury on his forehead has closed up. I don't know about his stamina, but if I go for mutual destruction, I'll lose. In that case'
Tarkan moved forward as Ragna did the same.
He used his Beast Soul and punched Ragna's shield as the latter bashed him with all his strength.
Bam!

The impact caused a loud sound and produced a small shock wave. However, they were actually equal.
Ragna didn't get pushed back.
Tarkan gritted his teeth. "You're finally showing your true power, huh?"
"I will accompany you until you can't move your hands anymore." Ragna smirked, his confidence starting to build up.
"Then" Tarkan let out a roar as he began punching the shield in rapid succession, each punch contained enough power to shatter those rock pillars.
However, Ragna continued blocking every single attack. His shield didn't flinch, even when it was attacked from an angle to knock it away.
"I'm not done yet!" Tarkan kept punching the shield, either trying to make Ragna's hand numb or knocking his shield away.
Ragna also felt some pain every time Tarkan punched his shield. It showed how much force he used in every single punch. Still, he also noticed that the punching speed kept decreasing. If he continued to persist, Tarkan would definitely get exhausted first.

Clovis, who watched this battle from the screen, couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows. Even he would have a hard time taking all those attacks. If he wanted to stop Tarkan, he would definitely overwhelm him with his speed so that Tarkan had no choice but to block his attacks.
Still, Tarkan was simply tiring himself. He couldn't help but say, "If you think that Ragna is that weak, then you will definitely lose."
Ragna received another ten punches before he noticed that Tarkan's speed had been reduced by a lot. His face had become pale, as though he were short of breath.
Bang!
After taking another punch from Tarkan, Ragna hurriedly swung his shield to the side to open Tarkan's stance. Then he thrust his spear, trying to take him down with a single thrust. There was no way Tarkan could block this thrust.
'I got him,' thought Ragna as his spear was only a few centimeters away from Tarkan's throat.
The people were shocked, but it wasn't because of Ragna's victory. It was because Ragna hadn't achieved that victory.
The one who was actually smiling right now was not Clovis, but Erwin.

After all, when Ragna opened Tarkan's stance, Tarkan couldn't use his hands to block the spear anymore. Sadly, it only restricted his hands, not his legs.
Yes, Tarkan actually used that stance to tilt his upper body back, which gave him more time before that spear reached his neck. At the same time, he did it so that he could lift up his leg, moving it like a whip and kicking Ragna's head from the side.
Bam!
The kick actually produced a shock wave bigger than any of Tarkan's punches as Ragna was sent flying into the air.
Erwin grinned. "You don't know anything, Clovis. The reason why Tarkan is the second strongest person on my team is not because of his profound martial skills it's his legs."
Seven years ago.
Erwin was walking down the corridor of the explorer school he attended. That was when he heard a series of banging sounds, which piqued his interest.



"Anyway, you're wasting your potential. Since I'm the second, I want you to be the third. This way, you're going to be the second loser."
"What are you talking about? Are you insulting me?" Tarkan glared at him.
Erwin simply moved closer and started grabbing Tarkan's legs, feeling them.
"What? Are you gay?" Tarkan tried to pull back, but Erwin simply said, "As expected Despite getting trained, your muscles stay flexible. Why are you fixated so much with those punches when you have such treasures"
"Treasures?" Tarkan didn't understand what he was talking about.
"Tarkan. Be grateful that I will choose you as my friend. Come with me, I'll show you the sight of the second loser."
Tarkan was annoyed at that time as he had never seen anyone have such high self-esteem. But at the same time, he was actually interested in this self-conceited man. Chapter 290 Ragna vs Tarkan (4)
Bam!

Tarkan kicked the sandbag, which actually destroyed it.
"This is" The teacher who assessed his kick couldn't help but gasp. "His foot is so flexible that his kick travels like a whip, producing strength beyond what the leg was capable of. Tarkan, SS Rank!"
After one year following Erwin, he finally got his SS rank assessment. Just like Erwin said, he actually ranked third in the school.
"Good work, Tarkan." Erwin grinned.
Tarkan paused for a moment before smiling. "You're really too much, self-conceited bastard."
"Call me Erwin next time." Erwin harrumphed. "By the way, now that you have become the loser after me, how about learning strategy?"
"Huh?" Tarkan was confused at that time, but he still ended up following his command and succeeding.
Remembering those moments, Erwin couldn't help but smile, believing 100% in Tarkan's victory.
Unfortunately for Erwin, because Tarkan learned strategy and strengthened his leg, he realized that the battle had yet to end.

If that kick was lethal, the referee would have stopped him.
But all those referees saw the same thing.
Right before the kick arrived at Ragna's head, Ragna actually followed his kick and stood on his tiptoes, causing his body to slightly raise.
With a kick coming from such a low angle, the slight rise ended up causing that kick to hit his shoulder instead of his head.
That was what the referees saw.
"!!!" Tarkan widened his eyes in shock when Ragna was still able to stand. His right shoulder was actually dislocated, but his eyes remained sharp as though he could still continue.
In fact, Ragna actually grabbed his dislocated shoulder and fixed it himself without a single sound escaping his mouth.
He just continued to glare at Tarkan as though he was ready for any attacks if he decided to come.

Tarkan couldn't believe what he saw. Ragna did everything as though he had gotten used to it.
Still, he had to defeat Ragna right away before he got used to his new attack pattern.
Before charging toward Ragna, Tarkan raised his foot high before stomping the ground.
The ground shattered and the cracks expanded toward Ragna.
"!!!" Ragna noticed that the ground was slightly indented underground, causing his feet to stand on an angle.
After that stomp, Tarkan jumped toward Ragna and kicked his shield with all his momentum.
Ragna chose to confront Tarkan head-on, trying to test the full extent of his kick. He waved his shield, smacking his opponent's foot.
But to his surprise, the kick felt so heavy that it felt like his arm was being crushed.
"Kh." Ragna gritted his teeth as he was pushed by three meters. He could match his punching strength, so this only meant that his kick was much stronger.

Tarkan didn't let Ragna have time to think. He jumped into the air and launched a drop kick, planning to pin Ragna to the ground.
To his surprise, Ragna actually planted his shield on the ground while lowering his body. This way, Tarkan would hit the shield that was supported directly by the ground.
However, this was perfect for Tarkan. 'In that case, I will bang that shield so hard that you can't pull it out!'
Tarkan changed his aim. As if noticing that slight change, Ragna suddenly let go of his shield, allowing it to fall on his chest. At the same time, his left hand stole the spear from his right hand.
It showed that even though he managed to fix his shoulder, it still took some time to recover from it. This was also why Tarkan was rushing to defeat Ragna.
The only thing that Ragna's right hand could do was barely hold that spear.
"!!!" Tarkan gritted his teeth, twisting his body to change his trajectory, even for a little. After all, instead of the top part of the shield, he would actually impale his own leg into that spear.
"Khh!" Tarkan let out a cry as he managed to barely avoid the spear, leaving only a graze on his calf. At the same time, Tarkan was actually able to utilize that twisting motion to change his drop kick into a side kick.

"Wha—" Ragna tilted his body so that the spear would be the one getting hit instead of his body.
Bam!
Ragna was launched into the air as his back hit the pillar, ultimately stopping him.
He hurriedly switched his spear into his right hand again while grabbing the shield that flew together with him with his left hand.
Tarkan, on the other hand, had closed the gap between them and made another side kick.
Because he was in no position to block it, Ragna ducked, avoiding that kick by a hair's breadth. However, the kick still hit the pillar right behind him, causing the shattered rocks to fall on top of him.
Ragna actually ignored it and charged at Tarkan with his shield in front. Tarkan was standing on one leg, so this would be the best chance to topple him down.
Unfortunately for Ragna, Tarkan moved his leg like a whip. His leg's trajectory instantly curved up and slammed it down.
"Kh!" Ragna gritted his teeth as he almost dropped his shield. Even then, his head was now open for Tarkan.

Tarkan twisted his body and jumped into the air, spinning a few times before extending that leg to perform a hook kick right at Ragna's head.
Ragna gritted his teeth and hurriedly tilted his head a bit, using the hardest part of his head, which was the forehead or frontal bones, to block this kick.
Bang!
The kick launched Ragna into a pillar ten meters away from them.
"!!!" The referees shifted their positions as if they were trying to take a look at Ragna's condition.
To their surprise, Ragna was still able to move. He hadn't let go of his shield and spear. Instead, he used his spear to lift his body up.
His forehead was bleeding because of that spin that produced the friction, but Ragna knew that his skull was still intact and there shouldn't be any injuries.
"Ha Ha" Ragna panted a few times, his eyes still focusing on Ragna. "I can't lose as well."