

World Mall 306

Chapter 306 Outsmarting

Jane was heading straight to the left side, where she only had to fight against one person. She couldn't help but remember what Rafael said yesterday.

"Jane. I'm sure that they will leave Ragna behind and attack with the same formation."

"In that case..." Jane stepped forward while placing her hand on her chest to show her eagerness.

"Yeah. I want you to stop Jay, who will most likely come alone. Melody and Kanaria are good fighters, but they're not as extraordinary as Jay. That's why I want you to stop Jay."

"I understand. I'll definitely stop Jay, even if it costs me everything!" Jane nodded with a serious expression.

"No. It's going to be impossible for you to stop him." Rafael shook his head helplessly.

"But—" She wanted to protest, but Rafael continued, "That's why... if we want to stop him, we will..."

Jane widened her eyes in shock.

When recalling that order, Jane's expression turned serious.

She clenched her weapons while looking at the dot that was approaching her head-on. She still didn't manage to catch a glimpse of his figure, but he would definitely come in less than twenty seconds.

In the center, Farhan continued keeping Clovis at bay. "No matter what you're planning to do, you won't be able to escape from us. We'll definitely stop you here."

"Escape? Do you think I need to leave this place?" Clovis smirked while glancing at Melvin approaching from his left.

Melvin swung his sword horizontally, trying to defeat Clovis while he was distracted by Farhan.

Unfortunately for both of them, Clovis simply sped up, striking Melvin's two-handed greatsword multiple times and ultimately stopping it.

"Kh." Melvin gritted his teeth. The vibration from the clash did indeed make his hands numb.

However, Melvin stomped the ground while continuing the swing that had been stopped once.

"Raaaahhh!" Melvin roared.

"!!!" Clovis raised his eyebrows as if he were being shocked. His blades were being pushed back and eventually Melvin launched him half a meter into the air, pushing him back for more than five meters.

"There he is!" Aran pointed his gun at Clovis, but before he could shoot him, there was another tree that actually stood between them, covering Clovis again. "Did he... know that the tree would hide his body again?"

However, Grace still took her chance. When Clovis' form was unstable in midair, she jumped off the tree and waved her daggers.

Clovis twisted his body a little so that his long sword would protect his back, but the short sword was a little too short.

She struck the long sword in order to stop Clovis from moving it to a different position and blocking her second dagger. She then used her other dagger to stab Clovis in the back of his shoulder.

"Kh." Clovis gritted his teeth, enduring the pain. As soon as he landed on the ground, he hurriedly turned around and swung his blades as swiftly as possible.

Grace immediately leaped back, but she also underestimated Clovis' speed. The long sword still managed to make a quite deep graze on her arm before she managed to get away.

Grace bounced a few times on her feet before jumping back into the top of the tree, thinking, 'That was dangerous. If I were one step too late, my entire arm would have been gone. Even the referee might have to bring me out. But...'

Farhan and Melvin once again surrounded Clovis.

"You're going to stay here until you get taken out." Farhan pointed his spear at him.

"Are you sure you're not going to stay here? It seems that your captain is so confident to be able to fight against two of my teammates." Clovis smirked, provoking them as he had seen the incoming dots. They were already pretty close, so the enemies should get distracted soon.

"You're misunderstanding something." Farhan harrumphed. "You don't understand the fact that your plan has been seen through by Rafael."

"Just ignore him, Farhan. Let's defeat him right now!" Melvin raised his two-handed sword. He lowered his stance as if he were about to charge.

Unexpectedly, instead of running toward Clovis, Melvin turned around and rushed to the side, confronting the two people who wanted to sneak past them. "Kanaria and Melody, huh? I can beat those two women by myself!"

At the same time, Aran also turned around, moving toward the opposite direction. In other words, he wanted to join hands with Jane to defeat this one opponent.

Jane was approaching at the same pace, so she and Aran would be confronting Jay at the same time. Melvin smiled excitedly, knowing that he had the opportunity to defeat two opponents by himself.

All of them couldn't help but remember the continuation of Rafael's plan. "That's why... if we want to stop him, we will... need a sacrifice."

"A sacrifice?" His teammates couldn't help but frown.

"Yeah. Jane will be confronting Jay, but since it's impossible to stop him by herself, Aran will position himself on the left side while stopping Clovis. On the other hand, Melvin will take on the two ladies on the opposite side."

"Hoh?!" Aran smiled. He glanced at Jane, knowing that if both of them joined hands, even if they couldn't defeat Jay, they would definitely be able to stop him.

Melvin shouted excitedly, "Alright. I will defeat those two girls. Tarkan and Gilza couldn't defeat them because they underestimated those girls. But I won't make the same mistake!"

While those three were excited, Farhan and Grace couldn't help but ask, "But... can we actually stop Clovis by ourselves?"

"Of course not. That's why I told you that we needed a sacrifice." Rafael's eyes were locked on Farhan.

"I see. So we let Clovis pass... but to make him think that he does it with her own power, I need to be defeated." Farhan sighed.

"Yeah. After that, I will be the one to stop him. Grace will be stationed between me and Melvin. Find the gap and take out Clovis or those two ladies. Removing either of them would allow us to win!"

Grace nodded with a solemn look, understanding the importance of her role.

After recalling this plan, Melvin smiled when he saw a shadow in the distance. 'There's no need to wait for Grace. I will defeat these two women in an instant!' or so he thought before his body suddenly got flipped around.

"Huh?"

Chapter 307 Swift Plan

"Huh?" Melvin widened his eyes in confusion. His vision was actually getting flipped around, and it didn't seem that he was on the ground. "I'm flying?"

Melvin didn't understand what was actually going on.

Unlike him, Jane and Aran saw the bigger picture, the 'trap' that Clovis had set up.

After all, when they were approaching the incoming Jay, the latter actually moved back as if he were scared.

Obviously, they had to chase after him to avoid Jay coming from an unexpected direction.

But what actually shocked them the most were the gunshots coming from the person they were chasing.

"Watch out!" Aran shouted while hiding behind a tree, avoiding the gunshots. His face became pale, not because he almost got hit by the bullet, but because of one question in his mind. 'Did Jay use a gun?'

The moment he saw through that, he couldn't help but shout, "Not good. It's a trap! Melvin, get away!"

Jane was confused and took a peek, finding a woman figure standing in their way. In other words, the person they had been chasing this whole time was not Jay.

"You..." Jane gasped.

"Yo! To think that you would actually get baited." Kanaria grinned as if everything went according to plan.

'If she is here, then...' Jane looked toward the opposite direction, realizing why Aran was giving that warning.

Unfortunately, it was too late. Melvin couldn't believe what he saw. Yes, the first person he found was Melody. Just like in the previous battle, Melody took the lead.

However, the person behind her was none other than Jay. He used the beast soul to increase his speed, approaching Melvin so fast that he wouldn't have time to react. In fact, there was no way he could react, considering he was expecting a gunner instead of a close combat fighter.

But that was his fault. Jay simply punched Melvin so hard that his body spun upside down.

Melody stopped for a moment. As soon as Jay managed to pass him, she shot Melvin, taking him out of this match.

"Melvin, out!" The referee came and announced.

Rafael trembled, noticing something was wrong with Aran's warning.

He looked to the side where Melvin was stationed and saw Jay's figure coming out of the woods.

'Don't tell me...' Rafael actually predicted it wrong. Of course, he had considered this possibility, but he thought Clovis wouldn't do something like this.

After all, it meant that Kanaria would be taken out as well. By stopping Jay here, he could rearrange his group and make a counterattack with Jane as the center. In other words, Jane would surround Clovis and take him down with sheer numbers. Even with Melody's help, there was no way Clovis could survive.

That was why Rafael believed that Clovis would place Kanaria and Melody together as it was actually a more stable plan.

Sadly for him, there was one thing he never calculated. It was Erwin's help.

Right after Jay came out of the woods, Clovis stepped forward and waved his blades at full speed.

"Kh!" Farhan gritted his teeth, getting overwhelmed. On the one hand, he couldn't endure it much longer. On the other hand, he still had to follow Rafael's order.

Yes, this was Clovis' plan.

Clovis struck Farhan's spear so many times with the assumption that Grace wouldn't use this chance to kill him. Even then, Melody was already moving toward Clovis, fully prepared to stop Grace if she actually tried to defeat him.

"Not good!" Farhan couldn't endure it any longer. His hands had become too numb to even hold his spear.

Clovis struck it two more times, knocking the spear into the air. Then he stepped forward and struck Farhan's head with the sword's body, officially defeating him.

"Gah!" Farhan was knocked back and fell on his back as Clovis ran past him, finally coming out of the forest.

This way, Clovis and Jay made their way out of the woods and headed directly toward Rafael.

The one who was actually smiling at this plan was Erwin.

Erwin still remembered what Clovis wanted to do after giving the Eight Swords' information.

Clovis said, "We'll have to defeat them that way, but I'm not planning to take advantage of Rafael's family issue or Jane's feelings or body. Instead, I'm going to use that absolute obedience."

"!!!" Erwin widened his eyes. The choice was actually quite unique. In their battle, he almost lost the group match because Jay didn't follow his order.

However, Clovis actually wanted to show that absolute obedience was actually something wrong and he had never blamed Jay for disobeying his order.

And this was the result.

Clovis glanced at Jay as both of them were running toward Rafael. Clovis muttered inwardly, 'Yeah. I know. A powerful guardian versus a speedy fighter, Rafael must want to tire me in the group match so that I'll lose in the individual match because I don't have any stamina left.

'That's why he will let me pass even if it means sacrificing his subordinate to make it look real. Absolute obedience? I don't want robots, I want teammates. We can argue, we can have different opinions. It's because each of us has our own thought that we'll become strong.

'By crippling their plans at the same time, Rafael wouldn't be able to give any order, which would cause his subordinates to follow the original orders. In other words, this loss is caused by the fact that people can't make individual decisions even if they are mistakes!'

Rafael raised his sword and shield, planning to fight both Clovis and Jay at the same time.

At the same time, Grace had leaped out of the forest and chased after Clovis.

"You're not getting away!" Melody shot her, but Grace sped up, showing a speed at least double that of Jay when he was using his beast soul. "What is this speed?"

Not a single bullet actually hit Grace.

This was a chance for Rafael. If Grace distracted Clovis just a bit, he could somehow push Jay back.

Unfortunately for him, this was the second miscalculation.

Clovis used the strategy that caused him his flag in the previous round against Rafael. Instead of worrying about Grace, Clovis struck Rafael at full speed, leaving more than twenty strikes.

"Kh!" Rafael gritted his teeth. He wanted to use his sword to stop Jay, but Clovis also struck it too, rendering it useless.

Grace reached Clovis' position and stabbed his head with the back of her dagger as a sign that she had taken him out.

Unfortunately for the Eight Swords, Jay was completely free. He slipped past Rafael and grabbed the flag, marking Libation Fiesta's victory.

Chapter 308 Reactions

Hiss!

The people were completely speechless when they saw Jay grabbing the flag.

"Match ends. Libation Fiesta wins!" The referee had even announced the result.

The Eight Swords were supposed to be an extremely powerful group. However, Libation Fiesta actually defeated them this quickly.

"Why?"

"How did the Eight Swords lose?"

"What actually happened? Why did it end so quickly?"

The audience was stunned. They wanted to react, but they didn't understand what was happening either. How could Jay and Clovis somehow reach the base?

"This is..." Shion had a hard time saying something. The match went from 0 to 100 in an instant. The next thing she realized, the Eight Swords had lost. "W-What is this? The Eight Swords have just lost..."

"Libation Fiesta managed to take down Melvin and Farhan while the Eight Swords defeated Clovis and Kanaria. However, because Libation Fiesta has stolen the flag, they receive three additional points, resulting in a score 5-2 in their favor.

"Let us assess this more calmly. First of all, the Eight Swords used the same strategy, which was to protect their base. Libation Fiesta also attacked in the same position, but with Clovis going first.

"As such, four people were lured away from the base. Even Clovis would be defeated sooner or later if he faced four of them alone.

"That was why his teammates moved forward. They probably wanted to sneak past the Eight Swords' defense while they were occupied by Clovis.

"However, once Jay and the others were about to arrive, Melvin immediately positioned himself to the right to stop two people, while Jane stopped the only person coming from the left with Aran's help.

"The Eight Swords must have known that Libation Fiesta would attack this way. But they didn't realize that Captain Clovis chose to switch Jay and Kanaria's positions so that Jay could go past the forest in an instant.

"At the same time, with the help of Melody, Clovis also broke past Farhan and headed to the base.

"Clovis decided to sacrifice himself to stop Captain Rafael while Jay grabbed the flag. During that clash, Jane must have seen through what would happen and chose to take out Kanaria, which gave them an equalizer in killing points.

"With such positioning, the Eight Swords must want to exhaust Jay and Clovis. However, the Libation Fiesta had seen through their plan and switched their positions.

"This must be what happened on the battlefield." Shion couldn't explain it any better. But she still didn't know why Clovis managed to see through the plan or what actually made him choose this plan.

There was only one thing clear from this battlefield. The Eight Swords had just lost.

Shion added, "However, there is still a chance for the Eight Swords to turn the situation around. With a 3-point gap, the Eight Swords can regain their lead after winning two individual matches and defeat Libation Fiesta if they win all the individual matches. On the other hand, Libation Fiesta only needs to win one!

"This time, the Eight Swords can't be outsmarted again because the Libation Fiesta can send two baits so that they will win the third one. What will the Eight Swords do next?"

It must be hard for Shion to comment, especially with the fact that the team from their city had just lost miserably. The atmosphere in the stadium had turned bad as they realized that they were about to lose. This situation was almost hopeless.

Rafael was glaring at Clovis with a shocked face as if noticing his blunder. Clovis and Jay didn't even bother to look at him. It wasn't that they weren't up for the challenge, they just wanted to get away from the arena right away so that the crowd's anger wouldn't immediately get directed at them.

While going back, Clovis said, "Sorry, Jay... for making you do that."

"Are you talking about the fact that I haven't done much during this battle other than grab the flag? You don't have to worry about that. Consider this an apology for my mistake in the previous match. And it's better this way. I can fight against him when we both are at our peak." Jay shrugged. "You should comfort Kanaria.

While it's tactical and this is just a competition, not a life-and-death battle, you still..."

"I know." Clovis nodded. If this was a life-and-death battle, Kanaria would have lost her life. That was also why he was one of the two people that got taken down by the opponent in this match. Clovis patted Jay's shoulder, saying, "I'll leave the rest of the match on your shoulder."

Clovis didn't tell him to win or to be careful. He trusted him to win, so there was nothing to discuss between them.

"Yeah." Jay clenched his hands into fists, feeling the weight of the responsibility. If he ended up losing and Clovis had no choice but to fight, they wouldn't be in the condition to fight Bloody Rose.

That was why his desire to win was the same as that of their opponents.

The group just retreated back inside their waiting room. The audience was screaming, not liking the result.

Even Mayor Revan was looking at them with a wry smile, wondering how to react.

Erwin smiled as if everything had gone according to plan. He couldn't help but mutter, "How is it, Tarkan?"

Tarkan gulped down. "I'm impressed. I've never thought about their obedience as a weakness. If they were to follow my plan, they would definitely receive a lot more anger from the crowd... to the point where the stadium would be like hell during the individual match."

"I see." Erwin closed his eyes, satisfied with the result.

On the other side of the stadium, Aileen bit her lips. "Erwin was so nosy. How could he have the heart to actually help his opponent right after he lost to them? Wasn't he supposed to be a prideful guy?"

Lana, who saw her reaction, couldn't help but chuckle as if she had found amusement between Erwin and Aileen.

Chapter 309 Decision

Tak!

Tak!

The clicking sound from the heel of their boots echoed inside the corridor, despite the loud screams of the people outside.

Jane bit her lips. After gaining some courage, she raised her head and said, "I apologize, sir Rafael. If I—"

Jane couldn't complete her words because Rafael replied with a cold tone, "Shut up for a moment, Jane."

Jane was tongue-tied, her body shivering because of that cold voice. Aran bit his lips, remembering what happened earlier.

...

A moment ago.

"We have to defeat her, Aran. Right now, while we still have time!" Jane shouted while moving forward, using the tree to block Kanaria's bullets.

"Huh?" Aran was confused at that time, but because Jane's authority was second highest, he ended up following her instructions. There was no order from Rafael as well, so he simply had no choice.

Kanaria fought back by unleashing all the bullets she had. But the moment she stopped to reload her magazine, Jane and Aran moved forward, closing the gap between them.

Kanaria only took less than a second to reload her magazine and start shooting Jane, the closest one to her. However, Aran came from the side and shot her multiple times, resulting in her defeat.

"!!!" Aran suddenly noticed something was amiss, especially with how Kanaria didn't even bother to react to his shots. If this was a normal fight, she would have noticed him with those sharp senses, but she didn't.

Because of it, he realized why Jane became desperate to take her down.

And three seconds after they took down Kanaria, the match's result was announced.

It was as if Kanaria had known that it would be time for her to stop fighting back and give them the point.

This was a strategic point they gave to the Eight Swords to lower the crowd's anger.

That was why Aran clenched his fists, thinking, 'It's not your fault that we lose, Jane. It's very clear that without you, we might not even get anything.'

Unfortunately, he couldn't say anything. It would be bad if they angered Rafael even further.

When they reached the waiting room, the atmosphere was suffocating. Rafael was glaring at the empty air as if he were thinking about something.

The rest of the people couldn't help but lower their heads, not knowing what to say in this situation.

Melvin and Farhan felt like this loss was their responsibility. If they didn't let Jay and Clovis defeat them, they wouldn't win like this even if they got the flag.

Farhan was indeed overwhelmed by Clovis, but he should be able to stop him for a bit longer, except for the fact that he was ordered to be defeated. He didn't know it was a mistake because Clovis coordinated his attack with Jay.

Still, they only had ten minutes. Now that the situation had become like this, the question remained. Who would go in the individual matches?

Melvin couldn't help but stand up and raise his voice. "Rafael! Please let me do it. I'll definitely win against them if it costs my life!"

It was clear that he wanted to pay for his mistakes, but Rafael didn't respond for a while.

Jane looked down, contemplating. Since she couldn't say anything meaningless, it was better to give any useful inputs.

It wasn't that hard to figure out Clovis' aim in this match.

"Don't tell me... the Libation Fiesta is aiming for the final while conserving their strength?" Jane gasped.

"!!!" The rest of the members frowned while Aran asked, "What do you mean, Jane?"

"To have the chance of defeating Bloody Rose, the Libation Fiesta will need Clovis to be at his peak. That's why he didn't fight a lot and allowed Grace to take him down in order to finish this match quickly.

"Assuming that Jay would go first and win, this would mean they were able to finish this match just by sacrificing Jay," Jane explained.

"What? Are they serious? Are we being underestimated?" Aran gasped.

"That might be true after looking at how we lost the group match." Farhan trembled.

They all looked at Rafael, who seemed to have figured this out sooner.

If Rafael didn't come out in the first match and let Libation Fiesta win, this would simply look like a surrender.

But if Rafael came out first and won, how about the second and third matches? They would definitely send Ragna and Clovis.

Farhan and Melvin had the chance to fight against Ragna, but even Jane wouldn't have any chance to defeat Clovis. The only one capable of defeating Clovis was Rafael.

But Rafael had no choice but to make his move right away, or they would be humiliated by the citizens due to such a disgraceful defeat.

That was why Rafael's expression had been grim this whole time. Rafael had to choose whether to send Jane to fight Jay, hoping that she would somehow win, or would he do it personally?

The tension remained for the entire break time.

After ten minutes, the arena had become lively again, especially because of the condition.

Shion had no choice but to tone down her excitement so that there wouldn't be any chaos in the stadium.

"Now that the break is over, let's call the participants for the first individual match. From Libation Fiesta, we have Jay Havenson!"

Jay walked into the arena as the entire crowd was booing him.

"Get lost, Jay!"

"You're going to be defeated!"

"Eight Swords is the strongest!"

"They won't lose to you!"

Jay remained calm. This was the first time he felt such pressure coming from the people. It was no wonder some people had a mental breakdown when the people on the Skynet insulted them or even sent death threats. Even if they tried not to listen to them, they would still be affected. Only the ones with strong hearts survived.

Jay took a deep breath and stood in the arena. This was the reason he was here. No matter what, he would win.

Now that Jay was ready, Shion called the second participant. "The one who will represent the Eight Swords this time is... Captain Rafael!"

Chapter 310 Testing Each Other's Strength

Kanaria was staring at the screen intensely while standing next to Clovis.

"Will Jay be able to do it?" Kanaria couldn't help but ask with a worried face. Jay was her childhood friend. She had witnessed his growth, so of course, she was concerned about him. There was one thing that she remembered. It was what Erwin said regarding Jay's trump card.

"Who knows?" Clovis closed his eyes. "Muscle Augmentation, Minotaur's Swing, and Star Method. He has shown everything."

"!!!" Kanaria widened her eyes. "Then, are you saying Jay will lose?"

"I'm not saying that." Clovis shook his head. His eyes contained absolute trust. "All I know is that ever since he became a part of Libation Fiesta, he has swung his blade the longest and the hardest."

Kanaria raised her eyebrows as a scene of Jay swinging his blade appeared in her mind. During the rain, Jay kept swinging his blade. During the intense heat, he continued swinging his blade. Even after a very tiring expedition, he would still find some time to swing his blade.

That was all that mattered. Kanaria clenched her hands into fists, knowing that she had to place her trust in Jay as well.

...

In the arena, Jay and Rafael were staring at each other. None of them was speaking as though they were carrying a huge burden on their shoulders.

For Rafael, a single loss would mean humiliation not only for the team but for this city. For Jay, this battle was a way to apologize to Clovis. If he lost this battle, he might as well give up his position as the vice captain.

"Are both combatants ready?" The referee asked while looking at their faces.

Rafael raised his shield and sword, making a stance that could receive any kind of attack from Jay.

Jay wasn't that different. He raised his blade to the point where the tip was pointed at Rafael's neck, but he soon lowered his blade as though he was trying to receive an attack as well.

"!!!" Rafael squinted his eyes. Jay's fighting style was extremely aggressive, so it was unlike him to use this kind of stance.

Nevertheless, it didn't change what he needed to do.

After seeing their expressions, the referee announced while taking a step back. "Match, start!"

As expected, both of them stood still as if they were waiting for the other party to make the first move.

Jay's expression remained calm as though nothing bothered him anymore. Even the noises from the stadium might have been ignored completely.

Rafael's body twitched. On the one hand, a guardian rarely made the first move. On the other hand, the crowd was expecting him to do something due to the previous result.

If he didn't attack Jay, they would think he was a coward.

While biting his lips, Rafael rushed forward.

This action shocked a few people who knew the true nature of both competitors. Still, it didn't really matter.

Rafael stood behind the pillar between him and Jay.

Rafael also had a muscle affinity, so he simply swung right at the pillar. His sword shattered the pillar and reached Jay.

"Huu..." Jay inhaled and lifted up his blade. He received this sword without making any motion to create momentum.

A clicking sound echoed the moment the two blades collided. Rafael tried to overwhelm Jay with his momentum, but Jay actually tilted his blade up slightly, causing Rafael's sword to slide on his blade and ultimately miss him.

After that, Jay rotated his blade and struck him from the right side, aiming for the gap that appeared when Rafael swung his sword.

However, Rafael was a guardian. Not only was he strong, but his body was also flexible. His left hand reached the right side of his body and put the shield in the blade's way.

Bang!

The banging sound was actually louder than the clicking sound, showing the power put into that swing. Even Rafael couldn't believe it. That swing actually made him adjust his left foot slightly so that he could fully stop the sword's momentum.

As he expected, no one on his team could actually defeat Jay. Then again, he still couldn't afford to lose this match, even if the battle between Libation Fiesta and Eight Swords had been decided.

He skillfully twisted his right wrist and swung the sword from above diagonally so that it would hit Jay while passing over his shield, which would restart his stance.

Jay took a step back to avoid the sword's attack range.

Rafael didn't allow Jay to escape. He immediately chased after him while swinging his sword horizontally.

Jay put his blade in its way, blocking the sword without taking a step. However, that was just a trick.

Rafael used that gap to move past Jay's defense and slammed his shield at Jay's body.

"Raaa!" Rafael swung as hard as possible, trying to launch him into the pillar.

Jay took another step back, but the shield still hit his arms. While the jacket from Clovis had absorbed the damage, the impact still pushed him back for three meters.

Jay hurriedly stabilized his posture as Rafael came again.

This time, he was also closing in, finally becoming a bit more aggressive.

In the first few clashes, he was actually trying to understand Rafael's strength. It was very different for him.

In those swings, Jay could feel the destruction that Rafael possessed. On the other hand, his sword was meant to slash.

Jay raised his saber and struck Rafael diagonally. Rafael did the same and their blades ended up sliding off each other.

Jay's blade actually hit the pillar next to them, cutting the pillar cleanly unlike how Rafael shattered the pillar in his first strike.

Both of them stomped the ground, trying to make another swing.

"!!!" Rafael noticed that Jay was actually one step faster in gathering his strength. As a result, he ended up abandoning his slash and switching his stance, choosing to receive the swing with his shield instead.

"Raaa!" Jay groaned and finally knocked Rafael back for three meters as if this were payback for earlier.