

World Mall 496

Chapter 496 Challenge

"What, what, what?" Utaha dropped her jaw. "There are three club presidents coming to attack? No. Isn't the place random? How unlucky they can be to actually get dropped near three groups with such people leading them."

Hana's expression turned serious. She thought that this would be a perfect time to unleash the power of the beast soul. The enemies wouldn't have expected it, and they could take advantage of the confusion to defeat them.

"What are they going to do?" Utaha asked.

"It seems that you have finally taken this competition seriously." The principal suddenly broke his silence while staring at Hana.

"Well, of course, we should take it seriously. After all, this is an annual event... It's just that those guys are rather unpredictable. Even I can't control or predict what they're going to do. However, I believe that the Libation Fiesta will be using their beast souls at this moment."

"Hoho? We can finally see what kind of product it is." The principal squinted his eyes.

"Indeed. Then again, I'm not the one inventing it. I'm just a partner."

"!!!" The principal widened his eyes in shock, noticing the hidden meaning of those words. "A partner? Don't tell me..."

"Indeed. It's Clovis and his group who found the research, and I just tested everything so that it didn't bring any bad effect to the body." Hana explained.

She didn't want to claim the credit for one reason. Doing so would just annoy Clovis, since the latter wanted to rake up some achievements.

The more valuable he became, the more protected he would be.

Of course, Clovis' original intention to give this research to Hana was to protect himself from those people.

That was why Hana explained it a bit more. "Then again, I'm the one holding the research right now. It's not like they're going to understand it or anything. They're just benefiting from the royalty."

"Hoho. That sounds interesting." The principal nodded, understanding her meaning.

This way, people wouldn't bother Clovis too much, considering Hana was the one holding everything and Clovis didn't even know about the research.

Some would still attack him to force him to get it again from Hana, but that was the risk Clovis was willing to take.

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The people who were watching the live broadcast couldn't help but furrow their eyebrows.

Their reactions were mixed. Some people were watching the battle seriously, wondering what kind of beast soul she planned to introduce. If it was going to be a breakthrough in the beast soul industry, they would definitely come to the OpenSky Company with a proposal.

On the other hand, there were some who didn't care because they were not in the line of business. The most dangerous ones would be both terrorist organizations and people that wanted to kill Clovis.

If this product was a massive hit, the Skylark Conglomerate would definitely do whatever they could to protect Clovis.

The moment Clovis revealed the new product, they would immediately make a move.

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Fallen City.

Looking at the people that surrounded them, Clovis couldn't help but examine them one by one. The strongest would be the man holding a hammer, while the weakest was the guy with gloves.

Jay said, "I'll take care of the strongest one, the one with the hammer. Ragna, you should be able to stop the one with the gloves. Erwin... Although I don't want to say this, you get the woman."

Erwin's eyebrows twitched. "Why do I have to fight the woman?"

"Isn't this a perfect chance for you that you won't see anyone else except for Aileen? Defeating her will prove that point."

"..." Erwin wanted to refute his words, but Jay was indeed true.

"Clovis, Kanaria, and Melody will have to defeat the rest."

"Roger."

The enemies knew that ganging up on them after a big fight was too much. That was why, to avoid ruining their reputation, the three groups didn't attack them right away, letting Clovis and the others catch some breath.

The one with the hammer said, "I am Sando from the Muscle Club. We are the biggest people in the academy. I hope that you, Clovis, will accept my challenge."

"Sando! He is my prey!" A woman holding a spear shouted, glaring at him.

"Melissa. Don't butt in. We both know that I'm the strongest here! It's obvious I'm allowed to fight him first."

"What did you say?"

Both of them were glaring at each other while Clovis simply said, "It seems that the three of you want to fight me, but this is troubling. I can't fight all three of you at the same time. I know my limit. The question is... who will fight me? Since you guys don't attack us right away, how about listening to my proposal?"

"Hmm?" All three club presidents squinted their eyes, wondering what Clovis had to say.

"The rule will be simple. Jay, Ragna, and Erwin... These three will fight one of you. Those who win will fight me." Clovis grinned.

Even though they were underestimated, they didn't get angry. Instead, Sando said, "If we do that, won't you get the upper hand?"

"Nope. I'll be fighting your subordinates... All of them. Let's see whether your groups are defeated first or my people lose first. What do you think?"

All three of them contemplated for a moment before exchanging looks with each other. It seemed that this was the best solution.

They were too weak to take on Clovis' group alone, but they didn't really want to rely on other groups. This was perfect for them.

"I'll take that challenge." Sando nodded.

"I'll do the same."

"Same here."

"That's enough." Clovis smiled. "We'll defeat you then."

"So it's time." Kanaria smirked.

Jay stepped forth and said, "I guess you are unlucky because you'll be the first ones experiencing the new beast soul."

Everyone except for Clovis smiled. They couldn't contain their excitement anymore since they wanted to test how effective the new beast soul was against strong opponents.

All of them activated their new beast soul at the same time.

Chapter 497 Overwhelming

The moment they agreed to such a term, Clovis used his fastest speed to reach the enemies. He had to take down a lot of people after all.

"He's coming!" Sando shouted, warning his teammates.

The others were also raising their weapons, ready to intercept Clovis. On the other hand, Erwin, Ragna, and Jay immediately rushed toward their respective opponents.

Erwin tossed several wires to build up the terrain for his battle while Ragna approached his enemy with his shield in front.

They hurriedly readied their stance to block their initial attack and regained the upper hand, but that was when the shock began.

The first one to reveal the beast soul was actually Melody. On her back suddenly spurted out a pair of butterfly wings, ripping apart the uniform that had been specifically designed to be destroyed for her wings.

"!!!" Everyone couldn't help but widen their eyes, including the teachers. This was the first time they saw a pair of butterfly wings appear from someone's back.

They couldn't help but ask whether this person was actually a human or a butterfly. Did they conduct an experiment that caused this girl to turn into a half-human, half-butterfly?

Before they could react, Melody took off into the sky, her wings flapping like an animal did it. And she really stayed in the air.

"What is that?"

"Someone is flying with butterfly wings?"

"No way. Is that a jetpack or something?"

They simply couldn't believe what was going on, but it didn't really matter.

Melody flew over the enemies while taking out several grenades. "I'll love this. Bombardment!"

Melody just dropped all those grenades on top of the enemies.

They were simply too shocked about her butterfly wings that they almost forgot they were in the middle of the battle.

Some of them managed to snap at the last second, but ten people actually ended up in the blast zone.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

The grenades had been tampered with, but because she used all the grenades in her possessions, there were simply too many paints on their bodies that they couldn't say they were safe from the grenades.

After that, Kanaria shot down two of them in rapid succession while Clovis took down the rest easily. After all, they were still too focused on Melody.

In just a brief moment, all fifteen of them had been eliminated. Of course, Melody had used all her grenades, but they never planned to stay until the very end, so she chose to drop all her grenades here, taking down as many people as possible.

The same applied to the three club presidents.

Ragna was approaching the one wearing gloves. He had the strongest hand-to-hand combat among them. While he wasn't as big as Sando, he was confident that he wouldn't lose.

"It's shocking, but I'm still able to fight." He shouted while punching Ragna's shield, planning to launch him away.

To his surprise, Ragna actually moved his shield to the right and exposed his own arm.

"!!!" His opponent was shocked because this would be a perfect chance to break Ragna's arm. If he could do that, the situation would definitely turn back in their favor.

Without hesitation, the guy punched Ragna's arm with every bit of his strength. "Demon Smash!"

Bam!

The punch was so powerful that it would have destroyed a concrete wall if it had taken that hit head-on, but surprisingly, Ragna was still standing there, not even getting pushed back.

The arm that blocked his punch was still intact.

'What is that?' He widened his eyes in shock when he found the scale that covered Ragna's arm.

The guy immediately snapped back, but the shock had just lowered his reaction speed a little bit. During that time, Ragna smashed his head with the shield. This was what he was planning to do from the beginning.

"Gah!" The guy was knocked back as he wasn't prepared for an attack to hit him, but that wasn't where Ragna stopped. He made one final thrust that hit his shoulder. The teacher should know that he could pierce through his heart, but he chose not to.

On the other hand, Erwin's battle went much easier than Ragna.

Because their strength was at a similar level, there was no need for him to play any tricks.

"I will defeat you!" The woman thrust her speed. Unlike Sullivan's unpredictable spearsmanship, her thrust was fast and sturdy, but that actually made her easier to deal with, at least for Erwin.

Eight spider legs suddenly emerged from Erwin's back, ripping apart the back of his shirt like Melody's clothes.

"!!!" The woman couldn't change the trajectory of her thrust like Sullivan, which allowed Erwin to easily grab the spear with all those legs.

"I can't move—" She couldn't even finish her words before Erwin wrapped her body, arms, and legs with his thread, capturing her. He even pinned her down with four legs while the remaining four lifted him up.

The simplest battle was probably Jay against Sando.

Sando, who was confident in his strength, swung his hammer, trying to best Jay in strength.

Surprisingly, Jay wasn't afraid of him. He used all his strength as if he were trying to release a ranged attack. However, he added one more thing.

His right hand suddenly bulged up, almost tripling the size of his original arm. This was the beast soul that Jay chose, a giant prehistoric ape called Gigantopithecus.

If he used the beast soul in a normal way, he would gain the strength, but not the weight of his arm.

But the Gigantopithecus was known for its size. The size and weight were actually giving him more strength compared to the traditional beast soul.

Jay's eyes flashed as he struck the hammer so hard that Sando couldn't even hold it anymore. He knocked it into the air and placed his saber on his neck.

It wasn't that these guys were weak. They were so surprised that they couldn't even muster thirty percent of their original strength. In addition, Jay and the others were also extremely strong, which resulted in the battle ending instantly.

All that was left was silence.

Chapter 498 Explanation

All the people dropped their jaws. Whether they were students who fought against the Libation Fiesta, the teachers who witnessed their battle, the viewers behind the screen, the principal and the vice principal of the academy, or even the investors, all of them simply couldn't believe it.

Melody could fly, and the others could also use abilities from beasts.

The first thing that came to their mind was definitely a human experiment.

"You... You... Why did you—" The principal wanted to say something, but Hana stopped him by saying, "I told you, didn't I? My new product is a new application of beast souls. It is by no means a fusion between a beast and a human. This new application of beast souls is the same as traditional beast souls, but instead of their unique ability, it is their body features."

"!!!" The principal's body trembled.

Utaha gulped down. There were definitely people that wanted to ask Hana, and she was there to represent all of them as she asked, "Can you explain this new application of beast soul, Miss Hana? I'm sure that all the people would like to hear."

"I'll explain it in simple terms." Hana nodded. "Let's take the butterfly wings for an example. The beast soul of those wings are actually powdery abilities, allowing humans to excrete powder.

"It might not be useful for most people, so we are changing the way it is applied. Instead of using it to excrete powder, what if we just use the organ that produces it, which is the wing? And that's the result.

"Of course, you might wonder how we do that? Are we modifying the human's gene? If that's the case, will we remain as humans? What will differentiate us from the beast in the future?

"And that's where you're wrong. This is probably the biggest downside of the new application of beast souls. It's that you are only able to use it on one part of your body.

"Because before we're putting the beast soul, we are creating a bowl underneath their skin, which is connected to their nerve system, which allows them to control this beast soul at will.

"That bowl will be used to contain the beast soul itself, which will also help in the removal process. Yes, removal process. Unlike the traditional beast soul, this new one can be removed because they're only connected to your body, not a part of your body.

"Removing this will allow you to retain your humanity without a single ounce of fusion, unlike the traditional beast soul.

"By taking this concept, we are able to grow a part of the beast on our body." Hana raised her hand, showing the scythe-like arm that suddenly grew out of nowhere. "And this is temporary. I can remove it if I want.

"Have you ever thought about how it feels to have wings? How will the battle differ if you can just attack them from above? What if you are able to have claws on your hands? There are many more possibilities to explore with this new beast soul. The only thing you need to know is that only the external parts, not the outer parts.

"For example, you can get ears, tails, eyes, wings, and so on, but you can't get their poison sac, their heart, or whatever." Hana ended her explanation with a smile.

The people were stunned. All the people that watched the annual event completely stood still.

In a high-rise building, a middle-aged man wearing a suit suddenly stood up and said, "Where is my car? Hurry up! I need to go to the academy right now! Don't you dare to fucking stop me. Cancel all my schedules!"

In a military base, an old general dropped his cigarette and shouted, "Prepare the military helicopter!"

In another academy, the old principal slammed the table and shouted, "We have been had! All those opportunities are gone!"

In the Skylark Mansion, Hana's grandfather was simply sipping tea while looking at the sky, "Haa... This is just a calm before the storm. I guess I have to step in as well. I can't let those greedy bastards swallow my competent granddaughter."

The forum exploded.

"We have to get the new beast soul!"

"If a scout can fly, they will become much more efficient."

"Just look at Melody, bro. You can bombard the enemy by carrying a bag of explosives."

"No. Look at those spider legs. You can basically attack the enemies with ten different arms, not counting your own legs!"

"This is madness."

"I need to tell my company about this. They need to get a quota... No, they need to cooperate with the OpenSky Company."

It didn't take too long for the new product to become a national sensation. All kinds of media immediately came to the academy to also watch with the rest of the people.

As Hana said, a new way of fighting had just been discovered.

The principal pinched the bridge of his nose and said, "To think that you would even make something like this..."

"I already said, not me. I'm just the one popularizing it."

"The one who discovered it... it wasn't your friend, right?"

"No. He just found the research. As for the researcher... he had passed away. He passed away from old age, and the research was found in a fallen city. And that was the extent of what I could share. Unless I received permission from his family or his teacher, I couldn't reveal more of his personal information."

"It's understandable." The principal let out a long sigh.

"Miss Hana... Will this new beast soul replace the traditional beast soul?"

"No. As I said before, both applications of beast souls have their own advantages and disadvantages. In fact, they might be able to be combined together. Jay's arm, for example. What if you combine it with a beast soul that can improve the strength of your arm? That explosive power will be something you have never seen before.

"This new product is an exoskeleton beast soul, or in short, Beast Soul EX. You will need to train in order to summon it and utilize it, but it shouldn't take too long. This will be the new era of beast souls. Please visit my company if you would like to get one." Hana ended it with a playful wink.

Chapter 499 Overwhelming

When Aisha and Gerald saw the new product, Gerald couldn't help but ask, "Isn't that your disciple..."

"Yeah. I gave her the information about it." Aisha nodded. "He had done a lot of things, so he had to be recognized by the world."

Aisha looked a bit sad since her student had passed away, but that was more reason for him to get the credit he deserved.

"So the era will change, huh? Father doesn't want Clovis to get a beast soul, but at this rate, the gap between them will become pretty big." Gerald frowned.

"I'm not that worried about it. After all, Clovis has the strength similar to a Tier 5. I'm sure that he will do just fine." Aisha shrugged. "Especially if he is capable of harnessing a hundred percent of his unique ability. I just hope he won't go berserk."

Gerald's expression turned solemn, but he didn't make another comment, fully aware that Aisha had prepared everything.

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The students who were defeated and the teachers who oversaw the battle couldn't help but gasp.

"What are those?"

"No way. Are they not humans?"

Clovis shook his head and explained it for them. "No. This is the new concept of a beast soul. Instead of integrating its special ability, it's bringing out the beast's external feature. And it's removable, so you are much more of a human compared to the traditional beast soul.

"If you want to know more about the rest, Hana will probably explain it on the Skynet, so just get the detailed information over there."

They couldn't help but exchange looks, finally understanding why they had been hiding this power the whole time.

Even though they were taken aback by their power, they could see the potential and strength this new concept could bring. They realized that if they could actually get one, they would be able to become even stronger.

Those club presidents might not only have the strength equal to Tier 5, but they could even surpass them with the new beast soul. It would still take some time for them to train it, but the transition from the traditional beast soul to the new one would occur.

Obviously, the enemies couldn't ask anymore, even if they wanted to know. The competition was still going on, so they couldn't hinder Clovis and his team.

Melody had been searching for their flags. After getting all their three flags, he signaled Clovis to move again.

Melody immediately flew to Kanaria, carrying her in the sky. She didn't fly too high to avoid bringing a lot of unnecessary attention.

Meanwhile, Clovis and the others continued onward. Ragna, Jay, and Erwin had retracted their beast souls since, like the traditional beast soul, it took a toll on their bodies.

"Spotted another team!" Melody and Kanaria shouted.

As soon as they heard it, the four guys sped up. Melody dropped Kanaria on top of a building.

On the other hand, the other party looked confused. They could see Clovis and the others, but as one would expect, the first one they saw would be the flying humans.

"What exactly is that? Does someone bring a jetpack or something?"

"But I saw wings. They were flapping!"

"What the—"

Before they could fully grasp the situation, Kanaria had shot one of them, not planning to wait for Clovis and the others.

"Eh?!" The guy fell down to the ground, unable to do anything.

"Don't just stand there. We're in the range of a sniper!" The captain shouted, leading his team to seek shelter.

However, that was a mistake.

As soon as Jay came closer, he swung his saber with everything he got, cutting the wall from the outside.

After that, Ragna charged forward with his shield, bulldozing the wall and opening to the path for the others.

"What—!" The first thing they saw was Erwin with eight spider legs behind him.

They raised their weapons to stop him, but fighting all those legs was impossible. They stopped several of them, but Erwin easily defeated two of the enemies.

In addition, Clovis came out of his back and struck the other two.

Ragna stopped the leader while Jay struck him from the other side, eliminating yet another group.

Even though there were no club presidents among them, there was still one Tier 4 among them. However, the result was simply overwhelming.

"Strong! Super strong! I can't even describe this." Utaha clutched her head, not knowing how to react.

The people were focusing on the Libation Fiesta, wanting to know the true capability of the new beast soul.

However, there was yet a long battle that showcased its true potential.

They only learned two things from the battle. First of all, Kanaria and Clovis hadn't utilized their new beast soul. In Clovis' case, he never had one, so they wouldn't see him with one. But because they never knew, it created the illusion that Clovis kept his beast soul a secret.

On the other hand, Kanaria's beast soul allowed her to see in the dark, so it wasn't useful in a battle like this. That was why they wouldn't see her using it in this tournament.

The second thing they realized was the pace of the Libation Fiesta. They looked like they were in a hurry, as if they were planning to kill as many teams as possible.

At the same time, they ended the battle so quickly that it was hard for them to grasp the beast soul's potential. If their intention was to promote, they would have shown it.

Still, this overwhelming power was also exciting. If no one was able to draw out the full strength of the beast soul, it was worth it to use everything they got to buy this beast soul.

Even without them realizing it, a lot of wealthy people already found a way to purchase beast souls since their price would soar as soon as this competition ended.

However, it didn't take too long for Clovis and his team to meet their match.

Whether it was intentional or not, the Libation Fiesta actually met the student council.

Chapter 500 Giving Up

"Stop them! Stop them! We have to find a way to stop them!"

"What the heck is that?!"

The people were confused as the Libation Fiesta swept their group.

Several of them managed to react, but they were still unable to understand the new fighting style, especially with Kanaria easily moving from one building to another and Melody shooting them from above.

Once they focused on the people in the sky, Clovis and the others swept in, defeating every single person in their way.

As a result, not a single person actually managed to put up a proper fight against them. If they had more numbers, they would probably be able to do something, but the Libation Fiesta was simply too fast.

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"Too strong. Too overwhelming. No one has ever seen this kind of fighting style, so it's obvious that they aren't able to do anything against the Libation Fiesta. If this continues, even if the Libation Fiesta is defeated halfway, they will still get a pretty high ranking or even get the highest one." Utaha gasped, hyping the beast soul even more.

No one really cared about the others after seeing the new beast souls.

"The only way to stop them is to bring a large number, or there is a big strength gap between them and their opponents. And who will be able to stop them now?"

Hana scratched the back of her head, realizing that Clovis had an annoying plan for her. She was secretly messaging her team in the company to prepare for the influx of customers.

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The Libation Fiesta continued dominating the battle, killing a total of sixteen groups in the first forty minutes of the event.

With Jay leading the group, they turned into a killing machine. In fact, this was what Clovis wanted from Jay. He took advantage of that aggressiveness in this tournament.

However, their dominance didn't last long. As Clovis said, they were planning to bail out after killing some groups.

And it seemed that their chance had arrived.

Clovis suddenly stopped, noticing his opponents. This time, the opponents were ready to fight even though they looked confused.

It was clear that they wouldn't be able to defeat them easily. In fact, if they couldn't do anything against them in the next two minutes, the opponents would probably figure out the situation and defeat them.

After all, the group that stood in their way was actually the strongest group in the academy, the student council.

The president squinted his eyes, thinking, 'What is that? A human experiment? If it's illegal, the teachers would have stopped them, so it's not something illegal. We can figure it out later. The biggest problem will be to defeat them.'

While the president remained serious, the vice president actually laughed while asking with an excited tone. "What is that? Are they the new products? This is the first time I've seen them. That's so cool! Are you selling that or something?

Can I really get a quota to try? I want a beast soul for digging so that people can hide in that hole from their embarrassment."

The president's eyebrows twitched, annoyed by the reaction of his vice president.

On the other hand, Clovis was quite surprised that the vice president was this playful.

He couldn't help but say, "Is that so? If I can make you one of the first people to receive this beast soul, will you give up on this event?"

"I want to know whether it's strong or not. If it's strong, it might be worth it. In the end, the annual event is for us to gain something." The vice president smirked.

"Oi!" The president glared at his vice president.

"You are amusing," said Clovis. He could understand what kind of person the vice president was.

"Hahaha. Thank you. If you show me enough reason, I'll probably give up."

"That's not necessary to be honest." Clovis shook his head. "We have achieved our objective in this event."

"To promote that, right? But have you shown their true potential?"

"That won't be necessary." Clovis shook his head. He then turned around, asking Melody their flag.

"Hoho? You're going to give up your flag?" The vice president smirked. "I like you even more. It feels like we are able to discuss several things."

"That's true, but I will pass that opportunity." Clovis smirked back. "Let's make it simple, shall we? The first one to get this flag and scan it, I'll ask Hana to give the first quota. What do you think?"

"Hahaha!" The vice president's smile became even bigger, as if he realized what Clovis was trying to do.

It was clear that Clovis wanted to sow discord and cause them to split up.

However, Clovis' aim was actually much more ridiculous than he originally thought.

"Erwin!" Clovis tossed the flag to Erwin.

There was only one thing that Erwin needed to do. This was his role as well as his honor.

Erwin raised his foot as if he were about to throw a pitch. He put all his strength into his hand and threw it as far as possible in the opposite direction of the student council. "Yeet!"

The vice president smiled. Despite all the words he said, he didn't even take a single step. After all, he was still a part of the student council. Even though he really wanted to chase after it, he couldn't let them divide the student council. That was his bottom line.

However, that was when Clovis dropped another bomb. "The Libation Fiesta chooses to give up in this competition."

"!!!" The teachers and the student council members widened their eyes in shock because no one expected Libation Fiesta to give up even though they hadn't shown all their strength.

The vice president was also shocked, but that was the least of his worries. Before anyone realized it, the vice president had already leaped in the flag's direction, trying to get it before anyone could. With a big smile on his face, he declared. "It's mine!"