

World Mall 631

Chapter 631: New Weapon

"!!!" Kanaria widened her eyes in shock when she saw Cyan waving that hammer. This wasn't just a normal swing.

This was a beast soul. At the same time, he was using it differently than she had ever seen.

The hammer actually hit the air and sent that air pressure toward her.

Kanaria had seen some videos of him, but she had never seen this attack.

She didn't have time to avoid it, so she covered her front with her wings.

"Kh."

The air pressure was so strong that it felt like her wings were about to break. Because the nerve was connected, she could feel the pain as well. It was as if there was a car hitting her.

"Arrghhhh." Kanaria screamed before getting flung back.

She noticed that Cyan was planning to make her go out of bounds, so she hurriedly flapped her wings, albeit their performance was actually less than she expected. It looked like she was tipping to the left as the left wing had a hard time generating the force to stay airborne.

"W-What is this? Cyan's attack reached Kanaria and almost knocked her out of bounds. How can he release such a long ranged attack?!" Utaha gasped.

Principal Vhalor squinted his eyes and said, "I can now see why they're considered to be one of the best in their generations. That looks like a ranged attack, but it is not a ranged attack... or at least, it can't be considered one.

"He is hitting the air with his beast soul as well as a special technique that can generate an airflow forward. The difference between a ranged attack and this one is that the ranged attack sends forth that pressure like an extension of one's weapon.

"That's why this is not considered a ranged attack. However, to be able to generate the airflow that can give that much pressure is something that can't be ignored either.

"I can finally understand why someone like him is inside on the opposite team. Kanaria's bullet won't be able to penetrate his shield and once in a while, she will have to avoid that attack.

"So, the end result might not be a draw. Besides, it looks like the wings are damaged. Now that I think about it, how are they going to recover?" Principal Vhalor turned to the woman beside him.

"The method is actually simple." Hana raised one finger. "You just have to inject the essence of the same level. They will use this essence to repair themselves."

"But isn't it going to be more expensive to maintain it? After all, the old beast soul only requires your stamina."

Hana nodded. "Indeed. But don't forget that the new beast soul is considered an external skeleton. In other words, it won't modify your genetics. It's simply working like a tool. Just charge it with electricity and you're done with it. That's the reason I said the new beast soul will change how people fight, but it will never replace the old beast soul. Instead, combining them will grant you an even better outcome."

"I see. That's going to be interesting, even for me." The principal nodded. "Unfortunately, it does seem that Kanaria is at a disadvantage. After all, you can't repair your wings during the battle. With her unable to pierce through his defense, she might lose altitude soon. There's no way Cyan will let go of that opportunity."

Hana smiled. "You don't have to worry about that. After all, I'm the sponsor. Do you think the new beast soul is their only trump card?"

"!!!"

Kanaria managed to maintain her altitude, but Cyan kept charging toward her.

"You can't escape from here. If the arena is much more complicated than this, you would have posed some problems, but blame your own luck for your defeat today." Cyan waved his hammer again.

Kanaria clicked her tongue and flew to the side, barely avoiding the impact. However, the torrent of air was still impacting the air around it, causing her to have a hard time stabilizing her wings.

She hurriedly tilted her body and shot him, showing her flexibility.

"!!!" Cyan was quite surprised that Kanaria was still able to accurately hit him even in that position. Fortunately, he blocked the bullet, while Kanaria still had a hard time running away from his attack.

If this continued, he would definitely win.

Cyan continued onward, preparing to use his Gigantic Impact the moment Kanaria entered his range.

Kanaria wouldn't allow him to have such an easy time. She kept shooting him in succession, but Cyan effortlessly took the bullet head-on.

"This is why guns are more popular when you're low level but become less popular once you go to a higher level.

"Once you reach a certain point, you can predict or even see the bullet itself. It's going to be impossible for you, who rely too much on your weapon instead of your skill to defeat such a master.

"The reason you lose to me is that you are relying too much on your gun!" Cyan shouted while releasing another Gigantic Impact.

"Oh. This is not a statement that can easily be dismissed, isn't it, Principal Vhalor?" Utaha couldn't help but ask.

Principal Vhalor smiled wryly. "Well, if I have to say it, then yes. Rather than relying on your skill or strength, the gun is taking advantage of the mechanism inside the weapon itself, which can only be upgraded by making a much better gun.

"However, there is a limit to how good a gun can be. Even if you use a higher-tier bullet, if it doesn't get shot with much higher force, it will be useless. That's why a lot of people usually switch from gun to bow after reaching a certain point. It's not like they can bring a tank anywhere, right?"

Hana smirked. "What if they can bring a tank anywhere they like?"

"Huh?" Principal Vhalor frowned.

"Ooohh? What is this? Kanaria has just thrown away her weapon?!" Utaha suddenly shouted.

Hana's smile widened, as the people couldn't help but shift their gaze to Kanaria.

Kanaria touched the bag attached to her waist earlier and that bag suddenly transformed.

Hana muttered, "And today, the world will know there is one more type of weapon...Let me present to you the weapon that my OpenSky Company has been developing in recent years, Soul Weapon."

Chapter 632: Power

Kanaria dropped her weapon and immediately grabbed the bag attached to her waist. The bag suddenly transformed into a red-colored weapon.

Its shape was similar to that of a sniper, but the barrel was much bigger compared to her previous sniper. In addition, there was a weird long cavity in that barrel.

The size of that sniper was 1.5 times the size of the previous rifle, so it looked hard to move around. But this was when the new beast soul solved that problem. By flying around, Kanaria could move around at will. In addition, the soul weapon could revert to its original shape.

They could feel the danger coming from this weapon to the point where even Carrick couldn't help but stand up, staring at the weapon.

'What is that? A new weapon? Something is different. That weapon looks weak, but it can make me feel chills. Its potential? Strength?' Carrick widened his eyes in shock. He shifted his gaze to Hana, who was obviously the culprit of this weapon.

They had made a rule where Kanaria couldn't utilize the flying beast soul to its potential, but he never expected there would be another weapon hidden by the Libation Fiesta.

"Hoho..." Ezekiel was also shocked, but he was even more pleased, knowing that they were on the same side.

'What is that? It's charging?' Cyan widened his eyes in shock. Sweat drenched his back as he finally felt afraid of the unknown danger. There was still an opportunity for Kanaria to defeat him.

Cyan hurriedly put his shield in front of him.

Kanaria pulled the trigger as the new weapon released its full might.

Bam!

The suppressor couldn't contain the sound as it made everyone's heart skip a beat. The bullet hit Cyan almost in an instant.

Cyan managed to react slightly, enough for the referees to believe he still had the chance to block it himself instead of giving the victory to Kanaria.

However, the moment it hit the shield, Cyan was blown away.

"!!!" Cyan was completely speechless. Before he realized it, he had fallen to the ground with his left arm going numb. 'What happened? What was that power? What kind of weapon did they create?'

Kanaria couldn't help but glance at this weapon. When she tested it for the first time, she was also shocked by the power of this weapon.

It was as if Hana had finally found a way to decrease the size of an artillery. Still, this was just a prototype. Hana already told her that there were only three bullets it could shoot for the time being, so if she couldn't defeat him within three bullets, it would be useless.

Meanwhile, Hana was thrilled.

"Soul weapon? What is that?" Utaha was in utter shock. Even the people were dumbfounded. The principal chuckled, "There you go again..."

Hana raised one finger. "Soul Weapon is a part of a project I'm currently working on. You can say it's a branch that appears after seeing the new beast soul.

"This is the OpenSky Company's power armor. I won't say much about the power armor, but essentially, it's an exoskeleton that can be controlled like a part of a human body. You can say that thanks to the technology of the new beast soul, we're finally able to realize this project.

"And this Soul Weapon is the extension for other types of weapons. And we're currently interested in making a specialized weapon for the new beast soul. For example, what if you have a scorpion's tail and put a turret on it? Won't it make you become a bit too overpowered?

"The project itself has started since several years ago and the prototype has finally been born.

"In addition, this technology is aided by nanotechnology, so it can change its shape to something else, which makes bringing it more convenient.

"We'll be releasing the official information pretty soon, so I hope everyone doesn't miss it." Hana smiled.

Utaha was speechless. The people finally saw the true monster in the business world. The new beast soul alone would definitely bring her to one of the top positions, but the moment she combined it with this power armor, there was a chance for her to aim for the very top, even surpassing the global giant that controlled the Sky Network.

Obviously, this release would definitely pique everyone's interest and a lot of people might even take a drastic action either stealing from her or killing her.

However, Hana was ready for such a thing.

With Clovis and the Hacfield family protecting her, there was nothing she didn't dare to do. Coupled with the Elseingarde, she believed she could create an empire under her name and etched her name into the canal of history.

Although there was some miscalculation in the timing since she didn't expect for the Melesviet to come here, it didn't change much.

She had made an agreement with Clovis. She would raise the money and Clovis could take advantage of it for whatever secret he had. And this battle would be the mark of the beginning of the woman who would be remembered as the empress.

Kanaria, on the other hand, actually smiled. People might think she was inferior or anything, but her dream never changed and no less than Hana.

She still wished to rebuild a city and reclaim their lands from beasts. Hana would provide the money.

'A business maniac, a Tier 9 human, and a genius doctor... Seriously, my rivals in love make me unable to relax.' Kanaria took a deep breath. 'Well, no one expects me to win this battle, but should I see if I can win or not?'

Kanaria looked at the disoriented Cyan. She aimed at him carefully, knowing there were two more chances to take Cyan down.

Still, the shield was extremely sturdy. Even after taking a hit from her Soul Sniper, it was still intact.

In fact, it only cracked a bit.

Cyan gritted his teeth, not knowing whether he could win or not. That weapon was simply too dangerous, and he wasn't equipped with something that could counter it.

The final phase of the battle was just about to begin.

Chapter 633: Tricking into Victory

Still, even though Kanaria wanted to win, she only had two bullets.

That was why Kanaria had to play it risky.

Seeing Cyan standing still, Kanaria aimed her gun at him one more time. There was a plan in her mind. If she managed to execute it properly, she would win.

Her target was not Cyan but his shield. Although it managed to withstand the overpowered bullet, it still cracked from all that power. Hence, it would be good to overwhelm him head-on.

Cyan raised his shield, knowing that another attack would come. He specifically rested the tip of his hammer on the ground so that he could use it to support his body to withstand her attack.

Kanaria's eyes flashed as she pulled the trigger.

Bam!

The earth-shattering sound once again shook the arena as Cyan gritted his teeth. The bullet hit his shield hard as he was getting pushed back severely. The shield cracked all over from that bullet, but due to his hammer, he didn't get blown away.

"Kh." Cyan hurriedly stepped forward, ready to swing his hammer. Unlike Kanaria, he didn't know that Kanaria only had three bullets and the last one would be the end of her.

So, he had to be aggressive.

To his surprise, Kanaria was the one getting aggressive.

When he was about to attack, he saw Kanaria diving toward him.

"!!!" Cyan didn't know what Kanaria was planning to do, but since he was coming at him, he would welcome her with a swing of his hammer.

However, the moment he swung that big hammer, Kanaria suddenly decelerated before fully stopping a few centimeters from his hammer's range.

Her wings flapped one more time and pulled her back before she landed on the ground. With Cyan's movement earlier, there was no way he could counter this attack.

'Shit.' Cyan panicked. He was rushing a bit due to her extraordinary weapon.

Kanaria already landed right in front of him, aiming at his shield one more time.

"This is the end." Kanaria pressed the trigger.

Bam!

The point-blank range shot was terrifying. The bullet shattered his shield and actually grazed his flesh on the left side. If not for Cyan's quick reaction, he would have been in trouble.

But this was something Kanaria had expected. With the shield gone, Kanaria hurriedly re-aimed at his chest so that he couldn't avoid it this time.

Cyan hurriedly waved that hammer one more time, trying to smash her before she could shoot him.

"This is over." Kanaria said as she was about to pull the trigger.

And this was the time the three judges suddenly appeared. Alan stopped Cyan's hammer, the general stood between them, and the judge from other academies pushed Kanaria's weapon down so that it wasn't aimed at anyone else.

"!!!" Cyan looked shocked, while Kanaria had expected it.

Alan smiled while glancing at the two judges. "Kanaria won, right? Do you have any objections?"

"Kh." The judge from other academies couldn't help but bite his lips. It was clear that Kanaria would kill Cyan first before that hammer hit her. So, this was indeed Kanaria's victory. He just didn't know there was simply no bullet in that gun.

And there was no need for Kanaria to inform him about that fact.

Only Hana was in utter shock. Of course, she was delighted with the result. She just didn't expect Kanaria to win at all.

'Kanaria. You sly woman. There's no more bullet there. I would have made an excuse, like saying, 'We don't have enough time to prepare the prototype and only made three bullets,' or something along those lines in case you lose.

'But you... You actually tricked them into thinking that you still have another bullet and are ready to blast Cyan with that weapon. With them not knowing that there's no bullet inside there, you will still be able to win.

'You have fought with Clovis all this time, so you're actually picking his habit as well?'

The general straightened his back and announced out loud, "First match. Won by Kanaria Renvolt!"

"Oohhhh!"

The cheers immediately erupted. Utaha couldn't help but shout excitedly, "The arena is shaking! This is an uproar.

"Kanaria Renvolt, a Tier 4 human, has just beaten her opponent, who is a Tier 5 human. Even with the overwhelming odds, she managed to turn it around."

Clang!

A glass shattered into pieces as Carrick saw the result of the first match.

Even Tesron's face turned pale as he was sitting next to his grandfather until it was his turn.

"Useless." Carrick gritted his teeth. Then again, they might have expected the wings. There's no way they would figure out the Soul Weapon.

They had been completely fooled by Hana.

Clovis smirked, knowing that there was no more bullet in that weapon. Even though Hana was at a disadvantage this whole time, she was still able to utilize the fact that this was just sparring instead of a life-and-death battle.

"Good work, Clovis. That girl is good and bold." Ezekiel raised his thumbs.

"There were only three bullets in that weapon, Hana said." Clovis revealed the truth.

"Huh? Really?" Ezekiel widened his eyes in shock. It turned out the battle was actually more surprising than he originally thought. "Hahahaha. I can laugh at that foolish old man now. He would be furious if he knew that weapon only had three bullets!"

Ezekiel couldn't contain his laugh because this was more hilarious than seeing Carrick lose.

"Well, I guess I don't have to win and our team will already win. In that case, I'll be aiming for a complete victory."

"Yeah. You can definitely count on Ragna." Ezekiel smirked. "This is going to be a huge blow if they experience a crushing defeat. He will be so pissed off, but don't worry, I will cover you for that. It's not like you're going to hide your identity for that long either, right?"

"Yes." Clovis nodded. "Have you done something to Ragna, sir?"

"It's nothing much. We just both have the same type of constitution, so I tell him a trick or two." Ezekiel smirked playfully.

Chapter 634: Second Match

"This is shocking. I don't know what to say." Utaha was speechless. "Despite all odds, Kanaria is able to best Cyan.

"I wonder if Principal Vhalor can explain to us what has just happened?" Utaha asked.

The principal nodded. "Indeed. While it looks like a short battle, it's actually a complicated one.

"First of all, let's not ignore the fact that Cyan was a bad match-up to Kanaria. After all, he is a guardian strong enough to take on her sniper rifle. I believe he had shown enough how a guardian could easily best a sniper in the arena.

"Meanwhile, Kanaria managed to reduce the gap between them by using the new beast soul.

"As a result, Cyan had to resort to using that powerful ability of his. By utilizing the old beast soul as well as a specialized technique, he could send that wind force toward her. The strength itself was shown as it was enough to damage her wings.

"I could say that the biggest surprise would be the new weapon. Soul Weapon, was it? By suddenly showing it and revealing its power, Kanaria was able to take the initiative in the fight.

"I'm not sure about the details of the sniper itself, so I won't comment on it for the time being. However, I will have to say Kanaria was clever.

"She used the first bullet to blast Cyan, revealing that extraordinary power and throwing Cyan's mind into disarray. As a result, it clouded Cyan's judgment a bit.

"Still, he had enough skills to actually withstand the second bullet, at least much better than the first bullet.

"It was supposed to be his fight, but Kanaria immediately dove. And this was where his clouded judgment ended up making him lose. Instead of blocking her, Cyan chose to attack.

"If he continued blocking her, he could see what she was doing more clearly. Even if Kanaria hit him one more time and destroyed that shield, Cyan would still be able to wield his hammer fast enough to push her away.

"Regardless of the result, both sides had fought well. It was just a shame that this was the first time they saw the Soul Weapon. I could only offer my condolences for Cyan. At least, thanks to his sacrifice, his team would be aware of the power of the Soul Weapon.

"At the same time, Kanaria had cleverly manipulated Cyan's mind and defeated him. And that's all I can say about this battle."

Utaha nodded. "Thank you very much, Principal Vhalor. This is great insight, everyone. To think that the battle is so complex. The choice, the timing, the trump card... They released them at the right moment and unfortunately, one of them had to lose.

"And so, let's ask a bit more about this new weapon from none other than Miss Hana. Miss Hana. What kind of weapon is this?"

Hana shook her head helplessly. "Unfortunately, I can't say much today. All I can say is that you have seen the effectiveness of that Soul Weapon.

"Honestly, I was planning to introduce it when the Libation Fiesta, especially Clovis, reaches Tier 5. However, thanks to this battle, I have to create a prototype and introduce it a bit earlier.

"All I can say right now is that the material of that soul weapon is actually not that much different from a normal weapon.

"Thanks to the new beast soul, we're able to use the essence as a way to recharge this Soul Weapon instead of repairing the broken new beast soul.

"Hence, the materials for that soul weapon are actually of the same tier as her original sniper rifle. The only difference is the technology.

"Regarding the official release, we will stick to our original schedule. Hence, I will be releasing the official news regarding the Soul Weapon next year. I hope everyone keeps tuning in." Hana winked playfully.

Utaha smiled wryly. Hana truly didn't hold back when advertising her products. At the same time, even she was amazed by its power. If it was truly made of the same material, the world would truly enter the

new age. And this was just because of the new beast soul and Soul Weapon. They hadn't talked about power armor.

"This is going to be interesting, isn't it, everyone? New beast souls and the new soul weapons. I bet everyone is waiting for it.

"Unfortunately, there don't seem to be a lot of things that Miss Hana can disclose to us. So, we will wait patiently for more information.

"And don't forget what we came here for today. Although we have seen a lot of things, we will also witness the battle of two powerful teams.

"The arena has been fixed, so it's time for us to call for the next participant. Two team leaders, I'd like to ask you for the next participant. Does Libation Fiesta want to reveal the participant's name first?"

Clovis' voice echoed in the arena. "Yes. For the second match, we'll send Ragna Book."

"Matthew Liam." Tesron's choice followed right after.

"Oh my. The two team leaders have decided on their next representatives. Ragna Book is the first guardian in the Libation Fiesta. With a petite stature and thin figure, he is definitely different from most guardians. However, please don't get fooled by his appearance. Ragna book is a first-class guardian.

"He was the reason Libation Fiesta was able to do anything they wanted on a battlefield before the second guardian, Miss Christina, joined the team.

"Meanwhile, Matthew Liam is a first-rate warrior. Equipped with two curved blades, it can be said that he is relentless in his attack.

"He is also the student of a Tier 8 human known as Dual Wielding Demon. I believe we'll be able to see whether Ragna's sturdiness or Matthew's unlimited attack will come out on top. Without further ado, let's welcome both participants into the arena with a round of applause."

As the people cheered, Ragna and Matthew entered the arena. Matthew wasn't that different from Ragna, except for his height. He was still slender despite holding two heavy-looking blades.

However, Ragna didn't plan to lose either. After all, he had learned something from Ezekiel.

Chapter 635: 3 Tips

Ragna and Matthew stood in front of each other. Unlike Ragna's relaxed face, Matthew's expression was grim. After all, the pressure kept mounting.

They were supposed to be the stronger side, yet they actually lost the battle. They had shamelessly attacked the first academy for the sake of 'exchange,' so the moment they lost, the shame would be intolerable.

It was especially true the moment Cyan lost the battle. If he lost as well, he wouldn't know what would be waiting for them once they returned. After all, Carrick would be furious.

Ragna extended his hand with a gentle smile. "Ragna Book. I hope we can have a good battle."

Matthew wanted to slap this hand, but it would just cause another embarrassment. So he reluctantly shook Ragna's hand without saying anything.

Ragna could feel his intent. In fact, no one probably thought he would win this match. Even then, he still didn't plan to lose just like that. Despite not being a Tier 5 like Erwin or Aileen, he still had one advantage he could take advantage of.

...

A few days ago.

"So, you're the guy who Christina said to have the same physique as me." Ezekiel smirked.

Clovis had told him that Ezekiel wanted to meet him, so he agreed, wondering what the Tier 9 human wanted from him.

Ezekiel examined his physique. Unlike Ragna, his body was much more developed. Although there weren't a lot of muscles, his strength had surpassed what a muscle could achieve.

"Have you ever felt betrayed by your effort? You have trained a lot, but not a single time have you been able to develop your muscle, despite being a guardian." Ezekiel asked a question that pierced deeply in his heart.

"..." Ragna looked down. That reaction alone was enough of an answer for Ezekiel.

Ezekiel then took out his Skyphone and showed a picture. "Look at this."

Ragna lifted his head, finding a picture of a family. The father was over two meters tall and his muscles were huge. While the lady was normal, there were three children who had a big contrast. Two out of those three children had muscular bodies similar to their father's. Yet, the third one actually had a petite body. His frame looked frail, as though he would collapse out of nowhere.

"The one you're currently looking at is me... the me from 46 years ago."

"!!!" Ragna raised his head in disbelief. "But sir..."

"I'm very different from the photo, right?" Ezekiel smirked. "We're blessed and cursed by this constitution. However, I'm much more fortunate because my family is quite wealthy, so I don't suffer much hardship like you."

"Thanks to the support of my family, I'm able to grow my height. Although I'm not muscular, my muscles are much stronger than the rest of the people in this world. There is probably only one person who has a tougher body than mine, who happens to be Clovis' grandfather, Michael Hacfield."

"However, this is not the reason I call you. The way to overcome the flaws of our constitution. That's what I'm planning to tell you."

"Is it... alright for you to tell me such an important secret?"

Ezekiel nodded. "In the end, our physique is so rare that it's already a miracle I can find someone like you appearing when I'm still alive, let alone meeting you right here. So, sharing some tips shouldn't be a problem. Besides, you're a guardian in my granddaughter's team, so if you become stronger, my granddaughter will be safer as well."

Ragna thought for a moment before lowering his head. "I know that this is shameless to ask when I have nothing to offer. But please... tell me how to overcome my physique. I want to be stronger and be more useful!"

"It seems that brat, Clovis, is blessed with a great team. Well, you seem to have overcome the lack of strength in one way or another, which is quite surprising.

"However, it's not the way I thought you would have done." Ezekiel crossed his arms. "Anyway, I have three tips for you. Unfortunately, you're already at that age. If you're younger, you can probably still grow your height, but because of your current age, you will still be short even if you fix your constitution. Is that alright?"

"Yes." Ragna nodded without hesitation. He couldn't care less about his height as long as he could get stronger.

"In that case, the first tip. Do you understand how your physique works?"

"Healing rapidly?" Ragna tilted his head in confusion.

"Indeed. Our bodies are healing rapidly to the point where it feels like it's turning back time."

"Turning back time? Do you mean all the muscles I gain disappear because it's turning back time?"

He shook his head. "Not exactly. If you drive a car at a high speed and want to stop, you have to decelerate at a certain rate, right?"

"Yes."

"Our constitution just has a much higher initial speed. As a result, when it's trying to stop, it will end up having a hard time coming to a complete stop, which forces us to go backward a bit. This is the main reason we're unable to gain muscle.

"The first tip is how to handle the body's constitution. When I want to gain height, I actually enlarge myself with a huge amount of food. That expansion comes gradually, and our body will recognize it as damage and try to repair it. But instead of repairing it, it will feel more like forcing the body to grow to accommodate that expansion. You can probably do the same thing if you want a bigger body.

"However, if you don't want such a thing and want to solely focus on building your muscle, then you have to work much harder from now on. To put it simply, you just have to cross a much longer distance so that the backward movement won't make you go back to square one.

"I will show you the training I had in the past. For the last tip, it's actually for the battle instead of your growth. You have this unique physique, and you will take advantage of it during a battle." Ezekiel had a sly smile at the end.

Chapter 636: Shield as a Weapon

Ragna took a deep breath. Unlike his opponent, who needed to do everything he could to win, there was no pressure on his back.

Still, if it was possible, he wished to win. After all, he was still a guardian of the Libation Fiesta.

If he couldn't win, he might not be able to repay Clovis' kindness.

With both parties raising their weapons, Utaha immediately started the countdown. "Now that both parties are ready, let's not wait any further. Let's count together."

"3..."

"2..."

"1..."

"Go!"

The moment they heard the signal, Matthew leaped toward Ragna.

In the end, Ragna looked much smaller and lacked power compared to the big Matthew. Hence, the original plan was to overpower him.

Matthew struck Ragna's shield with all his strength.

Ragna took advantage of his petite figure to tilt his shield upward. This way, Matthew's blade would slide on his shield and gradually move up, away from him.

"!!!" Matthew looked surprised at first. Ragna wanted to use this opportunity to knock Matthew out of balance, but Matthew was much stronger than all his opponents so far.

When he was about to push his shield, Matthew struck the other tip of the shield with his other blade, planting that shield to the ground.

After that, the blade that had slid off the shield returned and wanted to cut him from behind.

Ragna ducked, allowing the blade to hit the back of his shield.

Even though he missed, Ragna's arm was still attached to the shield. Hence, Matthew immediately pushed down to cut his arm. With this much damage, the referees would definitely stop the match.

Yet all three Tier 8 referees didn't make their move.

In fact, a clicking sound echoed in his ears, which startled Matthew. There was supposed to be no more metal that could block his sword. At the same time, he could feel the bump strong enough to make his sword slide on its surface. The problem was that this surface was where Ragna's arm was supposed to be.

"T-This is..." Utaha stood up in shock.

Even Matthew couldn't help but look at what happened to Ragna's hand. He thought the beast soul would be similar to Kanaria's. Or at least, the beast soul would be much more noticeable.

He never thought that Ragna actually chose a scale as his beast soul.

That was right. Scales emerged from his skin, covering his arms, legs, and a part of his cheeks.

"Scales?!" Utaha gasped.

"Tier 6 Madtsoia's scale. The original beast soul's function is to strengthen one's skin, but with the new beast soul technology, we're able to create the original scale." Hana smirked. "And it won't be easy to defeat Ragna at this point."

As Hana said, the moment Matthew's attack failed, Ragna immediately pushed the blades away before thrusting his spear.

"!!!" Matthew tilted his neck at the last second, causing the spear to graze his neck. "Kh."

He didn't think a guardian like Ragna would be the first one making him bleed.

Gritting his teeth, Matthew struck Ragna in rapid succession.

Ragna shifted his stance one more time, taking the attacks earnestly. In the end, there were a lot of ways for Ragna to win.

The first would be exhausting Matthew's stamina by continuously defending. There was also a chance for Matthew to lower his guard when he was too focused on attacking.

The second way was to fight Matthew head-on, which would be impossible because they were specialized in different things.

Last but not least, it was to taunt Matthew. In the end, he knew Matthew had to defeat him. Even a draw wouldn't be forgiven.

Still, this fight was a way to promote their group as well as the products. Hence, he couldn't make the match boring by choosing the first option or bringing down the group's reputation by trash-talking.

Hence, Ragna wanted to challenge himself by choosing the second path.

The moment he chose this path, Ragna immediately tilted his shield.

'An opening!' Matthew hurriedly joined both swords and struck his shield in order to knock it down. The moment he cracked open that shield, he could defeat Ragna.

To everyone's surprise, Ragna actually shifted his shield away from the blades' trajectory. Instead, he was planning to take the attack with his arm instead.

"!!!" Matthew couldn't be more delighted, since he could definitely defeat Ragna like this.

Meanwhile, the three referees panicked. If this attack didn't get stopped, Ragna would lose his arm.

Alan and the general were ready to take action the moment they saw the blade slashing a bit of Ragna's arm.

Even if Ragna's arm got cut, no one would really blame him because Ragna was the one inviting this problem on his own. Even then, they couldn't afford such a result. At the very least, they were capable enough to stop the blade from fully cutting the arm, which should be able to be fixed later.

Yet, Ragna surprised them once again when even both blades attacked the same spot. The blade only broke the scale and cut a thin layer of flesh off Ragna's arm, refusing to go further. Ragna only needed to position his arm in a way that the blades would slide down.

Then, after the blades failed to cut through its target, Ragna twisted the arm and his wrist before banging Matthew with his shield.

"Gah!" Matthew was stunned. This was Ragna's goal from the beginning. Instead of using his shield as a defensive tool, he wanted the shield to act like an offensive one.

With him getting knocked to the side, Ragna hurriedly thrust his spear toward his chest.

Matthew desperately put the blade on its path and struck it weakly, deflecting the spear to his side.

The spear scraped the flesh on the left side of his chest, which unfortunately wasn't fatal.

Still, no one in the stadium would think Ragna is unable to win. In fact, Ragna had been controlling the flow of the battle this whole time.

The most shocking thing was that the wound on his arm was already healed.

Chapter 637: Physique

"W-What? His arm..." Utaha gasped. Some people had already closed their eyes.

However, Utaha continued, "Matthew actually failed to cut his arm? Ragna even counterattacked? No. Look at the wound on his arm. What is that?! It's healing at a rapid rate! And without us realizing it, the wound is already closed!"

Hana smirked. "Well, I don't think I should explain it, right, Principal?"

Principal Vhalor smiled wryly. "You're really hiding something like this? I have never seen him fight, so I don't really know, but he... has that physique, huh?"

"Principal Vhalor? Do you know what we're currently witnessing?" Utaha asked in shock.

"It's an extremely rare body condition. This body condition is so absurd that we rarely see them go past 1 year old.

"This physique is so heaven-defying that they call it Time Restoration Body. However, the more formal term for it is autoimmune rickets.

"As you know, rickets is a disease characterized by soft, weak bones due to a deficiency of vitamin D, calcium, or phosphate.

"However, this one is much more extreme. After being born, due to the deficiency, the baby actually broke their bones once in a while. Some are as rare as a few months, while some are as often as a week.

"There is no cure. However, here is one more peculiar thing from this physique. Their body's recovery and immunity are much more overbearing than even the most malignant tumors.

"Even though their bodies are breaking, their body systems keep healing them. As a result, it's like the baby is dying and reviving again and again during their childhood.

"Still, this deficiency will be gone after they reach 4 years old while maintaining the recovery process.

"And what you see is the power of that recovery. From what I know, there is only one person who manages to overcome that physique.

"I think you're already familiar with him, considering his granddaughter is also in the Libation Fiesta... Not that she participates, though."

"!!!" Utaha widened her eyes in shock. "Are you talking about the world Tier 9 human, Mr. Ezekiel Elseingarde?"

"Yes." Principal Vhalor nodded. "And finally, for the second time in the world, another person with the same body type has been confirmed."

"Although there is another thing that allows Mr. Ezekiel Elseingarde to reach Tier 9, this physique alone will definitely bring Ragna Book to Tier 8. No. He might even be able to become stronger than most Tier 9."

"The Libation Fiesta keeps surprising me." The principal let out a sigh.

The people couldn't help but look at each other.

"There is someone like that?"

"We need some information about him."

"How is he so strong?"

"With that recovery and his skill as a guardian as well as that new beast soul, won't he become immortal in a battle?"

The people finally discovered Ragna's talent for the first time.

"No way. How lucky is the Libation Fiesta to be able to gather all of them?"

They were envious. The Libation Fiesta was definitely a one-of-a-kind party.

Kanaria had shown her cleverness in battle even though her real talent was in logistics. Jay and Erwin hadn't fought yet, while Clovis was known to be even more monstrous than those two.

There were even Christina and Lucifania, while they didn't know much about Melody.

Still, it was clear that the Libation Fiesta was one of the most abnormal groups they had ever seen in their entire life.

And the one who gathered them all was Clovis.

They all turned to the arena one more time.

"Ohhhh! Ragna is finally launching a counterattack!" Utaha shouted.

Ragna thrust his spear in succession. Matthew gritted his teeth while avoiding every thrust before hitting his spear and slashing Ragna.

Just like before, Ragna took the attack head-on and slammed his shield again.

Matthew had to block it, even if it meant getting pushed back. His strength was his deadly speed and unpredictable attack, but for some reason, Ragna managed to overwhelm him.

'What is this? What exactly are you?' Matthew was confused and furious. He never faced such a humiliation before. At the same time, if he couldn't turn the situation around, he would be dead.

As he expected, Carrick's anger almost erupted.

He gripped his couch so hard that it cracked. "You bastard, Ezekiel. You must have known all this and tried to humiliate me."

While it was true that Ezekiel was aware of the Libation Fiesta's true strength, it wasn't like he hadn't taken this into account.

However, there was one thing that confused him the most.

"How in the world is he being pushed back? The gap between Tier 4 and Tier 5 is simply too big. Even if he is able to fight someone above his rank, it shouldn't be like this. Even that physique can't justify it."

That was right. The most confusing thing was actually the power that the Libation Fiesta had. Their physical strength was so high that they were actually similar to Tier 5.

Without this strength, there was no way the Libation Fiesta would have won.

So, he couldn't help but wonder how they got all this strength.

'Something... They must have done something. That's right. Their group is supposed to be discovering the new beast soul... And the way they're able to gather all these people... Something must be going on... Something... No, someone...' Carrick widened his eyes in shock.

His eyes shifted toward the most mysterious man in this group, Clovis.

'Clovis... Familiarity... Have I met him before? An illegitimate child? He must be hiding information. I need to find it. That's right. Ezekiel must be planning to marry his granddaughter to that playboy. His status or uniqueness must not be something we should underestimate.'

Carrick stood up and shouted, "Tesron. Whatever you do, don't underestimate him. The bastard that will be your opponent... He might have a unique ability as well. If he doesn't have that much, that bastard Ezekiel will definitely not send his granddaughter to him."

"!!!" Tesron was slightly stunned and even more shocked when Carrick looked like he was about to leave. "Grandfather... Where are you going?"

"I'm going to find out what secret that brat is hiding." Carrick gnashed his teeth and slammed the door open.

Chapter 638: Endurance

Clang!

Clang!

Clang!

Matthew kept striking Ragna in rapid succession, preventing him from hitting back.

However, Ragna managed to block all those attacks with his shield, even though he got pushed back so far.

Still, not a single attack actually landed on Ragna, showing Matthew that they could do this for a whole day long, but he would never be able to take him down.

The one with the most stamina would win. And considering Ragna was defending, she would be the one coming out on top.

"Kh." Matthew became even more frustrated. Ragna should have gone down and given the win to him.

On the other hand, Ragna couldn't help but recall the time he spent with Clovis.

Clovis' attack was much more powerful, especially with his unique ability. His speed was lacking, and the technique wasn't as dangerous.

Defending against such an opponent shouldn't be that hard.

However, Ragna could see that the people were getting bored. Even Utaha wouldn't know what else to say soon.

Besides, he also wanted to fully utilize his physique, like what Ezekiel said.

Hence, Ragna abruptly stopped the next slash with his spear.

"!!!" Matthew looked surprised at first, but there was no way he would waste such an opportunity. He hurriedly twisted his wrist and struck Ragna's exposed arm.

Unfortunately for him, the scale was stopped once again by the scale. Then, Matthew took advantage of his speed to slash Ragna's chest, leaving behind a small wound.

In exchange, Ragna was able to bang his shield on his head.

He had taken a hit from someone with a higher level, so there was nothing that Matthew could do.

That was why Ragna finally opened his stance a bit.

Matthew didn't know what Ragna was planning, but he utilized this opportunity and struck Ragna multiple times.

But Ragna's intention became clear the moment the next attack struck. Ragna actually pierced Matthew by using the gap in his movement when he attacked him.

His spear almost struck his gut, but Matthew managed to tilt his body at the last second, causing the spear to scrape only a bit of his flesh.

Then, he used the gap in Ragna's movement and struck him again, only to find Ragna taking advantage of the situation to launch another attack.

"!!!" Matthew was in utter shock. He finally realized what Ragna was doing.

"He is quite reckless..." Clovis squinted his eyes.

"Why do you think he is reckless? This is how I normally fight." Ezekiel smirked. "You need to know which attack you can withstand and which one can kill you immediately."

"By polishing that instinct, you will be able to differentiate between the two in an instant. More importantly, due to our regeneration, the wound would simply heal itself."

"..." Clovis squinted his eyes. He couldn't really deny that point. "Still, it's quite worrying that he is treading such a thin line between life and death constantly."

Ezekiel nodded. "That's something I agree with. However, if you don't become reckless like this, you won't get stronger."

"Only after utilizing every single bit of your talent can you reach Tier 8. That's why this is necessary."

"Besides, you have been training with him as well, no?"

"I just became a Tier 4 not long ago, so I wanted a sparring partner. Ragna was simply lucky that I really needed his help." Clovis looked away.

"Hahaha. Let's leave it at that. However, this is the end of the battle." Ezekiel closed his eyes.

Clovis nodded in agreement.

Once Matthew was locked into this type of battle, there was no escaping it. Ragna kept hitting him while taking care of all his attacks.

However, Ragna chose to be a bit reckless. Instead of blocking his attack, he received them. As a result, it also lowered the chance for Matthew to stop his attack as well.

Even if Matthew could hit him three times while Ragna only managed to hit him once, Ragna's wound could easily disappear while Matthew had to endure that wound for the entire duration of the match.

The longer the battle lasted, the higher Ragna's chance to win.

'Why are you not going down? Your body is already covered in injuries.' Matthew screamed inwardly while slicing Ragna.

Ragna simply took another hit before punching Matthew and breaking his nose.

'Just give up. I have fought against Clovis after he became a Tier 4. He is much more amazing than you. I will win. I have to. I'm tired of giving up and accepting my fate.' Ragna gritted his teeth.

Even though the wound was recovering, his brain kept registering the pain and damage. If it were anyone else, they would have been screaming in the arena.

But this wound just made him remember her past. The kids or thugs beat him up even if he asked them to stop.

Although he didn't say it, Ragna was able to endure pain much better than the others.

The battle turned into an intense match, with both of them determined to succeed. Even if their bodies were covered in injuries, they didn't wish to be the first one to fall.

This was the battle of will, and they planned to win.

With all those wounds, the referees were raising their guard to the highest level, making sure that no one would get hurt.

"It has become a battle of endurance and determination, huh?" Ezekiel pinched the bridge of his nose.
"To think that the situation reaches this point. With their wounds, they might not be able to launch another clever attack. In other words, it has become a battle of endurance.

"Although Ragna's wound will heal, with his condition worsening, it will take a longer time to recover.

"However..." Ezekiel squinted his eyes.

Ragna's spear actually snapped after getting hit by Matthew's sword.

"!!!" Matthew smiled, thinking this was the chance to gain the victory. He hurriedly struck Ragna, trying to defeat him.

Still, the referee didn't come out, so he had to continue until the referee deemed it was enough.

Unfortunately for him, the spearhead that was sent flying a moment ago fell right in front of Ragna. He grabbed it and tried to pierce Matthew's head.

Chapter 639: Territory

"This..."

"This..."

The people were staring at the arena dumbfoundedly.

While it was true that Ragna managed to control the battle, Matthew was supposed to overwhelm Ragna with his strength.

Just like how he managed to actually break Ragna's weapon, that was what was supposed to happen next. Yet Ragna had expected it and moved forward, not caring about his injuries. No. To be more accurate, Ragna had won the gamble.

After all that injury, Matthew couldn't move as he was supposed to. He took advantage of that opportunity to finish Matthew off.

The two referees had already stopped the match by grabbing Ragna's spear and stopping his movement.

"I don't think there's a debate for the winner, right?" The general asked, glancing at the other two referees.

Although it was a shame, none of them complained.

"Match ends. Won by Ragna Book!"

"Oohhh!"

The cheers erupted.

"This is insane."

"Ragna Book won!"

"How can he win?"

"I have goosebumps."

The people simply couldn't believe it. However, the revelation of his physique had taken the interest of a lot of people.

Though, Ragna himself didn't care much about it. In the end, the reason he was able to stand here today was because of Clovis. If not for the items from Another World Mall, there was no way he could overcome his weakness.

And this was just the first step for him to become the guardian of the Libation Fiesta.

"Hehehe..." Ezekiel smirked. "This guy is getting all that attention."

Clovis nodded. "Yeah. I'm glad."

For Clovis, Ragna's past was quite pitiful. He had lost a lot of people he cared about and even sold himself to get beaten just to have enough money for most things.

Yet, Ragna persevered and continued living. He did everything, even if it meant disguising himself, to get some money.

And he was glad that all the hard work he had done was getting rewarded.

Ezekiel added, "Once we're done here, tell Christina to teach him the Elseingarde's shield technique."

"!!!" Clovis raised his eyebrows. "Are you sure about this?"

"What? You don't like it?"

"It's not that. I'm sure Ragna will like it and, with him getting stronger, the safety of the group increases. It's just... this technique should be something you create, right?"

"It's nothing. I'm just lucky enough to find someone with the same constitution. If we meet under other circumstances, I might ask him to become my disciple.

"However, I'm not going to take him from you. Instead of making him my disciple, I will just make Christina his mentor. Besides, this will be a good experience for Christina as well.

"In the end, teaching others will help you understand the technique better as well."

Clovis thought for a moment before nodding his head. "I understand. I will tell her that. Still, shouldn't you be the one telling her personally? Are you perhaps going to leave right after?"

"Yes. That Carrick is a tricky opponent. I have noticed that he is gone from his room. Most likely, he is trying to investigate you after realizing something.

"I have promised you that I'll protect you if you accept this battle, right? In that case, I will have to return as quickly as possible and intercept him."

Clovis looked down, feeling ashamed.

Ezekiel smiled. "No need to feel down. It's only right for someone in power to protect the weaker ones. In the future, you might become stronger than me. So, at that time, you will be the one protecting me. That's why make sure you grow properly."

Clovis smiled back. "I understand. I won't disappoint you."

"Good. I will do my best to protect you for a few years. If possible, I want you to reach Tier 7 as quickly as possible. At that time, not a lot of people can threaten you.

"Let's see... How about becoming a Tier 5 within a year first?"

Clovis thought for a moment. "Well, it's possible."

Ezekiel nodded. "In that case, I can feel assured. That's right. After this fight, I'm sure that your unique ability will be exposed. And I don't think the higher-ups of this country don't know you are Clovis Hacfield, right?"

"Well, if I think about it, there should be a small group of people who already know my identity. After all, my father has once requested several Tier 8 people to protect us."

"In that case, I will suggest one thing. How about using this country as your base?"

"What do you mean?"

"You know that countries often give you a territory, especially to Tier 9 humans, right? I'm pretty sure this country will be doing the same. With the addition of my Christina, I bet there won't be a lot of debates on it."

"Of course, from the country's perspective, you are still a potential Tier 9, not a Tier 9 yet."

"Hence, they will probably hide this fact. And if you choose your territory carefully, they surely won't mind."

"With that territory as your main base, you can hunt a lot of people and grow your strength. Besides, there are a lot of benefits to having a territory. Even that greedy girl will be delighted since she can test her new weapon in that territory.

"So, if you think this country is the correct choice, having it as your territory is good. Besides, this place is not far from mine, so I can always visit my granddaughter here. And with Christina holding Elseingarde's territory, the joint efforts will be quite good for your group."

Clovis rubbed his chin, falling into deep thought. "I understand. I will properly consider it."

Although Clovis was clever, he still lacked experience in this area. So, he took Ezekiel's advice properly.

Clovis couldn't help but ask, "Now that I think about it, where is my grandfather's territory?"

"Your grandfather? He has none. He is basically a walking disaster. In addition to his nickname, countries fear him a lot. Of course, this gives another benefit, which means he can roam around without a lot of restrictions.

"At the same time, no countries will support him. That's why the Hacfield family is constantly on the run or hiding."

"I see." Clovis closed his eyes before letting out a long sigh.

Chapter 640: Shocked

"We have witnessed two amazing performances. It's time for us to continue to the third round. Before that..." Utaha turned to the principal. "Principal Vhalor. Are we going to witness all six matches in total?"

"Yes. This is an exchange, so we'll have everyone fight instead of going for the best of three or something." The principal nodded his head. "Just like how it was done last week."

The principal was back for revenge. Tesron had humiliated the students in their academy by using this approach. So, he let them eat the same thing. This humiliation would be too much for Tesron. At the same time, he couldn't do anything because making a fuss with it would just embarrass the entire team more.

The principal was set on turning them into a laughingstock together with the other academies.

"I see. In other words, we will be able to see four more amazing performances like this. I'm sure that you can't wait anymore. Hence, let us call the next participant." Utaha looked at Clovis' room.

Clovis casually picked up the microphone and said, "Aileen Risevan."

"..." Tesron gritted his teeth. If his grandfather were here, he would have been furious, and there was no telling what would happen. At the same time, if they lost again, they would be in trouble.

Considering Aileen was an assassin, there was only one person who could deal with her in their team. "Gray Louvet."

"Oh! Both teams have picked their fighters." Utaha became excited again. "Aileen Risevan is a new name. I have never heard of her previously. However, from the articles I have seen so far, Aileen Risevan is a prominent young talent from Axolonia.

"Clovis had extended his hand previously to invite her, but Aileen actually took the path of learning in the capital city.

"After a few months, they ended up meeting again and Aileen finally took this chance to join the Libation Fiesta.

"However, I don't have enough time to find out about her information. All I know is that she is a good Tier 5 assassin.

"Meanwhile, her opponent is also an assassin known as Gray Louvet. He comes from the Louvet family, who is known for their assassination ability under the Melesviet family. Gray Louvet is known as the White Mist.

"In that case, let us begin to draw the map!"

As Utaha finished her words, the map started moving until it stopped at a city landscape.

"Is this really a coincidence? The map is City C. The map is known for its complicated city terrain, perfect for assassination. However, I might not care about it because we'll be able to witness the fight between two assassins to the best of their abilities."

The arena started changing, forming a massive building. The building only had two floors with complicated pillar positions and other furniture. There were a lot of spaces to hide.

"Because of the landscape, we'll be spreading drones to follow the fight inside this building." As Utaha waved her hand, multiple screens appeared, showing every nook and corner of the building.

Now that the landscape had changed, it was time for the two fighters to enter the room.

"The first one to enter the arena is Gray Louvet."

"Oohhh!" The women in the stadium had their eyes lit up. Gray had a tall and fit body, not too big or too small. However, he still had enough muscle to look manly together with his handsome face. Compared to others, he might actually have the highest popularity.

Meanwhile, Aileen was covering her face with a mask all the way to her nose. Instead of wearing her usual assassin outfit, Aileen actually came out with rather casual clothes.

However, these clothes came directly from Another World Mall. She had the dark elf's pants that boasted of its flexibility and the elven shirt and boots for mobility.

She couldn't help but recall the first time Clovis actually presented this item to him.

"What? You want me to wear them?" Aileen thought Clovis had suddenly become a creep, but Erwin immediately stopped her. "Wait a minute. This guy might be a playboy, but he's certainly not a creep.

"You will actually find out the reason we're able to get stronger once you put them on. Basically, this is an artifact for us. It's hard to explain, so we'll hear your complaints later, but please put them on."

"..." Aileen wanted to say something, but because Erwin had said it, she chose to trust them first. "All right."

The moment she put on those clothes, Aileen couldn't help but widen her eyes. She felt a surge of strength coming from within her body.

She put everything on and came out with a shocked face. "W-What is this? Why do I get stronger all of a sudden?"

Erwin smiled wryly. "I told you, right? These are our artifacts. There are other things for us. You know Clovis has Blood Affinity, right? And his unique ability is related to it. So, you can say that these clothes..."

"Don't tell me. You made it from blood?" Aileen frowned.

"Something like that. Clovis has done his best to produce it. I'd be glad if you don't mind putting them on.

"If you're going to say this is actually relying on outside items, then I can only say that it's a unique ability. Besides, taking advantage of good equipment is also something we should do. If not, people won't buy expensive items for their safety."

"No. I don't care about that. It's just... I have never thought you were getting stronger because of this. If we both fight without these clothes..."

"Of course you would win," Erwin answered without hesitation. "I'm not able to win against you yet. However, clothes are not the only thing he has refined here. Let me bring you around and introduce them to you one by one. Is that alright, Clovis?"

"Yes. You should be the one taking care of her." Clovis nodded.

Aileen got the shock of her life that day. No one would have ever thought the Libation Fiesta was hiding all those items. It was no wonder they were able to grow this quickly. With this, she might be able to become a Tier 7 human fast enough before anyone could target her family.

She was actually more determined to utilize them to get stronger.

...

"Huu..." Aileen took a deep breath, looking at her opponent. To show her determination, she planned to win.

No one would have thought that the match where Gray was supposed to show his worth by saving his team from losing would actually turn into the shortest match.