

World Mall 751

Chapter 751: New Store

Three months from the start of their training, Clovis finally reached Tier 5. During this whole time, he focused on increasing his combat prowess and utilizing the Abyss Time properly.

He used the food from Another World Mall to give him the push he needed to reach Tier 5.

Because they didn't hunt any beasts, Clovis didn't get the additional essence he used to get from the hunt. Of course, this also meant he could buy all the food he wanted and focus on his evolution instead of sharing it with his teammates.

Still, most of his item limits actually went to Mara. He had to buy so many burgers because Mara kept eating as if she had no intention of stopping.

As a result, his progress was slower than he originally expected, but he wasn't angry at Mara. In the end, she generously taught him a lot of things and even gave him the Abyss Time, though not in this world, so he didn't mind, as the Abyss Time played a huge role in his success all this time.

Due to the burgers, Reolf actually caught up to him and became a Tier 5 beast before him. Reolf actually condensed another beast soul during this time.

He previously had two beast souls. The first one was related to his speed, as most dire wolves possessed. The second one came from his growth in the Libation Fiesta along with a certain painting. It amplified his foot's strength, which increased his overall strength.

And after training with Clovis, Reolf developed something that originally appeared among Tier 7 or even Tier 8 beasts.

The third beast soul contained Reolf's own suppression. In human terms, it would be the overlord aura.

He could instill fear in his target, which weakened their physical strength to a certain extent.

He grasped this ability thanks to Clovis exposing himself with that ridiculous killing intent, which allowed him to convert it into his own.

It was such a joyous occasion, but Clovis felt more pressured than ever.

After all, the moment he evolved to Tier 5, Mara actually said, "Since you have reached Tier 5, all your evolution progress must have reset. It's time to find your first essence."

In that instant, he was stumped. If the target were just a Tier 5 beast, he would definitely be fine.

The problem was that Mara wanted him to train as well. In other words, she wanted him to fight a Tier 6 beast. That Tier 6 beast must have an offspring that had reached Tier 5.

In other words, he and Reolf would be fighting against a Tier 6 beast along with all the beasts following it but only absorbed the Tier 5 one.

Finding a beast that met that criteria alone was hard, and Clovis had to pick which beast to absorb carefully since he only had several slots.

As a result, Clovis had only one option left. He had to rely on Hana to get that information for him. However, he was actually not in Absalom. Yes, with Mara's wandering nature, he had crossed the border.

Hana couldn't easily get access to their information. In the end, Vina offered to help, and Clovis knew that he would have to help her in the future regarding the succession.

Although it would get annoying, Clovis believed it was tolerable. After all, their priority was to get stronger. As long as they became strong enough, they could do anything they wanted.

Still, even though Clovis was able to defeat a Tier 6 or even Tier 7 beast in the past, it was thanks to the suppression of the tower. Their next target was away from the tower, so their strength would be much higher. Besides, Christina wasn't here anymore, so no one could block an attack for him.

To fight a Tier 6 beast along with all the beasts around it, Clovis could only rely on his unique ability, not the Abyss Time, but the Another World Mall.

He didn't know whether Mara gave this assignment thinking he would succeed or not. However, Clovis planned to defeat the enemies this time.

And his success depended on whether Another World Mall could give him something he needed or not.

[Hana: I've sent you the royalty for this month as well. Looks like you're getting a challenging task. Will that be enough? Do you want me to open up my account a bit? Well, I'm strapped for cash right now due to the rapid expansion, but I can liquidate some assets if you want.]

[Clovis: No, it's fine. Thank you so much.]

After replying to her, Clovis finally entered Another World Mall. He had been waiting for this moment.

"It's time to upgrade the mall to level 28... I should get another store this time before reaching level 31, where I can open the service section as well as invite someone into the mall." Clovis took a deep breath. "Blue!"

The robot moved toward Clovis while displaying his information.

[Name: Clovis Hacfield]

[Membership: Level 27 (Super Special Member)]

[Money: 1,260,304,530 Otherworldly Coins.]

[Item Limit: 27/Visit]

[Visit: 2(4)/Day]

Clovis looked at his status. "As expected, having a business is the easiest way for me to get money. At the same time, if I create it without any support, people will try to kill me or force me to sell things for them.

"And I currently don't have enough strength to protect myself..." Clovis scratched the back of his head. "I guess this will be the last store before opening the service section. That's right. Blue, will any store in this section open after reaching the service section?"

[Yes, Master. Once you reach level 31, you will open one service store and one item store at the same time.]

"That's good." Clovis nodded, satisfied. "In that case, let's open the next store. Blue, proceed with the upgrade."

[Processing.]

[-1,000,000,000 Otherworldly Coins.]

[You've leveled up to level 28 (Premium Member).]

[Opening a new store.]

[A new store has been opened. Please check the new store.]

Chapter 752: Drugs

[A new store has been opened. Please check the new store.]

Clovis' expression turned serious. This store would play a huge role in his task, so he hoped the store would be useful for this.

"What kind of store has just been opened, Blue?"

[It is considered a medical store, Master.]

"Medical store? Hospital? No, pharmacy?" Clovis thought for a moment. Now that he thought about it, there were some small 'medical' stores inside a mall. It usually sold some medicines and could also be used for a little checkup. However, it wasn't anything major like the hospital.

"Hmm...drugs?" Clovis squinted his eyes as he walked toward the medical store, wondering what it had to offer.

To his surprise, the medical store was much more unexpected than he originally thought.

The first thing he saw inside was just some medicine, but the effect was completely unexpected.

Name: Vampire Migraine Pill

Description: Helps to circulate your blood and remove your headache.

Effect: Improves blood circulation and boosts brain affinity by 80% for 30 minutes.

"What..." Clovis gasped. "80%? I don't even know what it means by improving blood circulation."

[Whenever a vampire sucks someone's blood, the additional blood will disrupt the vampire's blood circulation, ultimately causing some headaches. By using this pill, you will be able to circulate the blood more thoroughly, resulting in your mind being clear. It will also boost your affinity.]

"Seriously?" Clovis took a step back. Even the food in the restaurant gave at most 30% for 30 minutes. Yet, this medicine completely destroyed that possibility.

[Yes. However, please check the warning on the back, Master.]

Clovis followed Blue's instructions and found a warning.

"Can only be taken once a week. Twice will cause a serious side effect, and more might cause permanent brain damage."

"..." Clovis instantly understood why the medicine gave a huge boost. There was also a chance of getting a side effect. If he overdosed, it might not be weird if he ended up dying. "I see. Then, you should be careful when taking this pill. However, it gives a huge boost, so it might play a huge role as a trump card.

"Sometimes, your opponent might be much more terrifying than you originally thought, so you might need a drug like this."

Clovis checked the other drugs in the store.

Their effect was indeed good, but only a few piqued his interest.

Name: Minotaur Protein Powder

Description: Want huge, bulky muscles like the minotaurs? Using this powder will develop one's muscles.

Effect: Muscle Growth +10%

Warning: Can only be taken twice a month. More than that will cause the muscles to rupture. In the worst-case scenario, all the muscles in one's body will grow and cause one's body to deform.

Name: Zombie Painkiller

Description: Zombies can feel pain as well.

Effect: Pain Reduction 50% for 30 minutes

Warning: Can only be taken once per day.

Name: 100-year-old Spirit Ginseng

Description: Ginseng that has been cultivated deep in the mountains blessed by spirits.

Effect: Permanently increases the brain's function by 5%, lowering the rate of aging by 30%.

Clovis couldn't help but find these three interesting.

"It looks like in this store, there are four types of medicine. The first one is a booster that can be used as a trump card in a fight, the second one is a type of medicine related to recovery, from painkillers to some complicated drugs.

"The third type is the growth medicine, which is used to assist one's growth. This is more like vitamins.

"Last but not least, a limited item. This ginseng is one of them. And unlike any other drugs, this one can permanently increase one's physical condition.

"Looking at the effect, the girls will definitely fight each other if they find this." Clovis smiled wryly.

He could already imagine the moment he brought this ginseng to everyone, they would be fighting for the anti-aging instead of the other effect.

"Well..." Clovis paused. While looking around, he also noticed one thing. "Now that I think about it, there's a closed area, right? What's this all about, Blue? Also, what's going on with the limited-time sale?"

[The closed area is actually a service area, Master.]

"Service area?"

[Yes. Simple medical checkup, detoxification, and so on. Everything can be done there.]

"Detoxification... I see... It's no wonder why I'm able to bring someone in once the service area is open. Don't tell me, this is the first service area I will get after leveling this up."

[I can't give any information about the next store. Regarding the limited time sale, it is as the name implies. This sale will appear again every month, but the item might be different.]

"I see. Then, I should buy it and wait for something else to appear. If there are multiple, I will probably give them to the girls."

[While I can't give you the information about the next store, there is one thing that I would like to inform you about regarding the VIP condition.]

[Once you reach level 31, you are going to be considered our VVIP. From that point on, you won't be charged a monthly fee anymore.]

[Due to the amount of money that will be used to renew your VVIP membership, you will be charged every year. Whenever you upgrade your level, the date of renewal will be updated to exactly 365 days from your new level.]

[In addition, the required level to open a new store will be decreased to 2. To compensate for the sudden change, the management will be giving you a new store if you level up to level 32. It will be the beginning of the new leveling condition.]

"Hmm?" Clovis squinted his eyes. Now that he thought about it, the money required to upgrade the membership had increased significantly. This time, it was 1 billion otherworldly coins.

'Looking at the pattern of the upgrade requirements, I might need close to 10 billion if I want to pass the last three levels before the VVIP status.

'It will be hard even with everything I have to get 10 billion every month. I see. If it's billed yearly after that, it'll be much easier.

'I can understand the reason. Well, this is much better for me.' Clovis nodded with a serious expression. "Thank you for the information. I guess this is a kind of temptation for me to upgrade to VVIP. Then again, looking at Hana's expansion as well as my current situation, I might need one more year to reach level 31. And it's better to upgrade it three times in one go.

"Anyway, I should get a few things first. I can't let Mara wait for too long."

Chapter 753: Before the Hunt

"I've got and compiled all the information. Although I won't be there to assist you, please take a look at this." Melody pointed to the screen beside her in the voice call.

There was a picture of a dinosaur on the screen.

"This will be your target. It's called Deinonychus antirrhopus. This dinosaur is known for its change of pace, as you requested.

"It normally stalks its prey carefully but could explode into a sprint with powerful legs.

"According to the scout, there is one Tier 6 and 3 Tier 5 of this Deinonychus antirrhopus.

"The exact number of other beasts is unknown, but it shouldn't be lower than two thousand.

"The forest you're going to doesn't look like it has complicated terrain, but at the same time, it's not good for you as well. You won't be able to use any terrain to your advantage. At most, you can divide them and deal with them if you are fast enough."

"The map?" Clovis asked.

"Don't worry. I have a file attached. This is the map, the danger area, and the average tier of the beasts." Melody showed the files.

With this information, Clovis would know when to strike first and where to go.

Still, even with the information, Melody was slightly worried. Mara was definitely a sadist to give this kind of assignment. No matter how absurd Clovis' strength was, it was going to be hard to kill 1 Tier 6 beast, 12 Tier 5 beasts, and over 2,000 Tier 4 beasts or lower.

Even Reolf wasn't enough to justify it. Unsure, she couldn't help but ask, "Are you going to be fine? In the first place, why are you aiming for this beast?"

Clovis thought for a moment before raising one finger. "For my unique ability. I can't provide any more information, sorry."

"No, that's fine." Melody shook her head in understanding. A unique ability was the deepest secret of a person, so it was better not to disclose that information to avoid anyone investigating it and finding its weakness.

Besides, they were on a video call. Even when they were together, they shouldn't do it casually because the wall might have ears.

Clovis nodded. "Thank you for the information. Please pass my thanks to Vina as well."

"She is talking as if it's a chore."

"Well, I'm planning to ask her again."

"I see. Well, we can definitely repay her in the future." Melody nodded. "For now, you should focus on getting stronger. We are doing the same."

"Okay. How are you? Are you all right? How is Dante?"

Melody smiled. "Don't worry. Dante is doing all right. Although his speech hasn't been restored completely, he can already walk by himself without any support, you know?"

"He has worked so hard in the past few months. According to the doctor, it will take another three months before his speech returns. At that time, Dante might be able to do some exercise again."

"That's great. Is he going to become an explorer?"

"I don't think so. However, it looks like he's interested in management."

"Oh? Management?" Clovis raised his eyebrows.

"Yes. I couldn't show it to him, but..." Melody had a hard time containing her excitement. She became more expressive ever since Dante recovered. "He wants to help us."

"He doesn't want to be a combatant. He wants to be a person good enough to take care of all of our needs.

"I'm sure he said it because he felt indebted. I told him that he should do whatever he wanted instead of thinking about us, but...

"Anyway, it looks like I couldn't change his mind."

Despite getting disappointed for not being able to change his mind, Melody looked so excited because she felt touched by her brother's action. And from her expression, it looked like Dante enjoyed it as well.

If he worked hard just because he wanted to repay her, Melody would definitely be sad.

That was why he was happy for her.

"You don't really mind if Dante helps us, right? I will make sure he does his best and does not disappoint you."

Clovis nodded. "Of course. I know how capable you are, so I'm sure your younger brother will do just fine. Besides, Kanaria might have to focus on the city more in the future, so having Dante become our manager will be pretty good.

"Even if he doesn't plan to become a combatant, it's good for him to absorb some essence to make his physical strength stronger.

"As long as he's with us, it's going to be a bit dangerous. However, touching him is the same as touching me, so I won't let them go."

Melody smiled. "Thank you, Clovis. Without your help, I won't be able to see Dante wake up for the rest of my life."

"I didn't do anything. Even without me, the facility still exists. Sooner or later, you will stumble upon that facility."

"No way. I won't be someone important enough to test it. By the time he can receive the treatment, it might already be too late. Besides, his brain surgery is something that not every doctor can perform." Melody shook her head. "I promise I will work hard."

Clovis scratched the back of his head. "Well, pay attention to your health. It looks like you're in the wilderness as well, so I won't bother you any longer."

"Yes."

"In that case, I will hang up. Please congratulate Dante for me. I will give some gifts once I'm back." Clovis waved his hand.

Melody just smiled as Clovis hung up the call.

Now that he had gotten the information, he walked to Mara, who was leaning on Reolf's body. A few months had passed, so Reolf had dropped his guard against Mara.

"Are you going now?" Mara asked.

"Yes. I will need Reolf to help me."

Mara stood up while raising three fingers. "All right. The task is simple. Going outside the forest means you have failed. You have to kill every single beast. Leaving a single one means you fail. If you don't know whether you have finished or not, utilize your senses to figure it out.

"Last but not least, you have 12 hours. Taking longer than that is unacceptable. If you fail... I will let you go with triple the daily meditation."

"..." Clovis smiled wryly. "I will do my best not to fail."

Chapter 754: Instinct vs Ratioanlity

"So, this is the place..." Clovis squinted his eyes, scanning the area. There would be no more assistance from this point on. He had to take down the Tier 6 beast along with all the beasts in the surrounding area and get its essence.

He had been riding Reolf to this point, but with so many beasts in this area, even Reolf might get surrounded.

"Reolf. We'll proceed according to the plan. If an unexpected situation occurs, you know how to handle it. You don't have to worry about me."

Reolf nodded.

"This is your chance. Show your strength to them."

Reolf looked excited. Before, he fought for Clovis' sake, but this time, he, too, wanted to test his own strength, especially since he had formed a new beast soul.

"Let's go!"

Reolf stood up and ran forward. The forest wasn't too dense, so Reolf could move around easily with its current size. But it would also mean that the beasts could chase after them much easier. If they were not careful, they would be surrounded completely.

There was a group of beasts in front. From what Clovis and Reolf could sense, two of them were Tier 4, and the rest were Tier 3 or lower.

Even beasts on the outskirts of the forest were already this strong, showing how terrifying the forest was.

But it didn't matter. Reolf charged straight in.

The beasts noticed his presence and immediately rushed at him.

There was no need to use his beast soul right away due to how exhausting it was. Instead, Reolf pounced on the first beast and ripped apart its neck with a single bite. Three more beasts surrounded them from two directions.

Clovis struck one of them while Reolf slapped another with his paw. When the last beast was about to reach Reolf, Clovis threw his short sword, impaling its head before pulling the sword back.

The rest of the beasts had finally caught up, including the two Tier 4 beasts.

Clovis leaped to the right side while saying, "I will take care of them. You go for the ones on our left."

Reolf turned around and pounced on the Tier 4 beast. Meanwhile, Clovis headed straight to the other Tier 4 beast.

He exchanged several blows with the beast, feeling something weird.

"Hmm..." Clovis couldn't help but squint his eyes. Even though he had become a Tier 5 human and the opponent was Tier 4, this beast wasn't something to be underestimated.

It was just that he got the feeling that he could kill this beast in a swing. The beast's movement was quick, but in Clovis' eyes, it lacked intensity.

He felt the beast was so lacking.

Since other beasts were closing in, Clovis tried to trust his instinct this time and waved his sword sharply to the right.

His sword cut two beasts at first, but the Tier 4 beast then stopped the blade. Normally, he would just launch another attack, but his instinct was telling him to move like Jay.

Clovis' eyes turned bloodshot as his foot pressed the ground even harder, gaining a surge of strength.

Then, the battle ended in an instant. With more force, the blade cut through the hard paw along with the beast's neck before reaching the beast all the way to his right.

"!!!" Clovis widened his eyes in shock. "This is..."

Clovis looked around, never thinking that he could actually take down all the beasts on one side with just a single swing.

He thought he was lucky since these beasts were close to him, but he didn't think this was the case.

"What's actually happening?" Clovis widened his eyes in surprise.

Mara, who was observing him from a distance, took a big bite while thinking, 'He must have realized something weird.

'Abyss Time might allow us to utilize killing intent, but this killing intent doesn't disappear so suddenly. The more we use the Abyss Time and the more we utilize the killing intent, the more that killing intent is ingrained in our existence.

'And within that killing intent is the beast's instinct. When a beast fights, it doesn't necessarily fight with reason. Their instincts have been honed to perfection, calculating the enemy's strength, their trajectory, and even the best move.

'However, humans are different from beasts. We fight with reasons. Still, sometimes, our brains can't keep up with the process.

'Even with the Blood Affinity, there will be times we can't outpace our opponent. That's why we follow instinct instead of rationality sometimes.

'As long as he's able to achieve the harmony between rationality and instinct, his fighting style will become perfect.

'Though... the opponent this time has so many beasts under it. Its strength is not low either. Even with the harmony between rationality and instinct, it's going to be impossible to achieve it.'

Mara fell silent. She knew this was a task for Nathan. She had gone through this so many times.

Among all Tier 9 humans, she was probably the only one who never fought together with teammates.

And Clovis was expected to grow strong enough to achieve it. At the same time, she felt a bit conflicted about Reolf.

Reolf was something Clovis got through his unique ability. So, he could be considered a part of his power, but Reolf was an intellectual being as well. Could this be considered a pair?

Mara had never experienced this before. That was why she sent him here.

'Anyway, it will still be tough even if they combine their strength. The quantity is still too high.'

Mara fell silent. She eventually closed her eyes. There was nothing she could do other than observe Clovis' performance.

Clovis, on the other hand, felt a bit excited. "I don't know what's going on, but... I feel like I understand everything while not understanding everything at the same time.

"I don't know what's going on, but for some reason, my body knows how to move." Clovis glanced at Reolf. It looked like he had defeated his opponents as well. "It looks like Reolf also noticed something different.

"This might be more doable than I originally thought..."

Chapter 755: Activating Abyss Time like Breathing

"Come!" shouted Clovis with a huge smile on his face. He had become even more excited after noticing the difference in his current state.

Now that he had tested it multiple times, he became even more sure about his current situation.

He was actually assimilating the killing intent into his body. And that killing intent didn't contain only the power of the beasts but also their souls.

In other words, even if it was just for a bit, he could sense what a beast sensed. And this was just from him fighting normally.

If he used his Abyss Time, the effect would increase even further.

Although the absorption rate itself didn't increase, his overall physical abilities had increased.

No, it was more accurate to say that he had never used his power to its fullest potential.

That was right. Just like the others, he hadn't used his affinity to its limit.

However, he didn't pursue the same path as the others. If they had to train their physique to fully exploit their affinity, Clovis had to control the killing intent.

In other words, he had to use the killing intent even before entering the Abyss Time. Even if it was just a portion of it, that would be his new normal, which would definitely be much more powerful than his previous self.

That was why Clovis was excited. He wanted to test this new possibility.

Clovis struck the beasts according to his instinct. Even without looking at them, he instinctively followed their movements and even knew what they were going to do.

It was something similar to Melody and Kanaria's senses. Still, even with this kind of power, Clovis had a hard time fighting against a hundred beasts at once. He didn't use any clever tricks this time, so it meant confronting these beasts continuously from all directions.

When he struck one beast, another would come from the opposite direction, which made him unable to keep up. Even with his two swords, the beasts could still overwhelm him by having four or even five attacking from different directions.

As a result, Clovis took a few hits himself. Instead of being careful, Clovis became even more excited.

After all, this was another opportunity to train as well. This time, he was training his Heart affinity.

He directed the killing intent to his heart to stimulate his affinity, which resulted in strengthening his regenerative power.

Then, together with the special clothes from the mall, he blocked attacks that could be stopped by his defense, allowing him to focus on the injury.

He swiftly attacked them by applying even more strength than usual.

These five affinities were the backbone of his Abyss Time. However, there was something even more important.

Having five affinities was good, but what differentiated them from the beasts was still their intelligence. Clovis had to think of an effective way to defeat them.

Having him realize this and incorporating these new things into his fighting style was the real purpose of this mission. Of course, the original task was important since Clovis needed the essence, but Mara could always come to help him if he were going to fail.

Mara crossed her arms while leaning against the tree, watching Clovis from far away.

"That's right. While it's true that the Abyss Time can manipulate your affinity, you should never be satisfied with your normal self. Don't rely too much on the Abyss Time.

"Eventually, you have to deactivate the Abyss Time. If you are weak at that time, you will be devoured by everyone around you.

"That's why you have to overcome the gap between your normal state and the Abyss Time.

"By utilizing the killing intent granted by the Abyss Time, you can improve your normal self and gradually close the gap between your normal self and the Abyss Time.

"Once you reach my level, you might be able to make your normal state similar to the Abyss Time.

"As a result, once the Abyss State is fully activated, you might even surpass that 100%, like me.

"A lot of people are too reliant on their unique abilities. They only know how to utilize it, but that's not how they should think. They should know how to improve it. Only those who have improved their own unique abilities can reach the top."

That was right. The reason Mara could become so strong at such a young age was that she didn't rely too much on her Abyss Time.

Most of the time, she was in a normal state. Even the first time they met, Mara was in her normal state. Despite that state, Erwin could still sense the intense killing intent that was assimilated perfectly into her normal state.

That was why when the body could make the normal state into the Abyss Time, the body would be able to utilize the Abyss Time further by enhancing the killing intent itself.

This was how she created her domain. There was no need for her to direct the power from the Abyss Time to strengthen her anymore. As a result, the Abyss Time could be utilized to form that domain.

Mara closed her eyes. "Then again, if you are too focused on your Abyss Time, you will be stuck as well. While the Abyss Time can make your heart feel like it's on fire, you need your head to remain cool even under the Abyss Time's influence.

"After all, without anything special, you won't be able to defeat the Tier 6 beast here. Your stamina won't be able to keep up. You also need to keep using your brain to think of the solution.

"I wonder... if you can exceed my expectations or not by completing this task."

Clovis had actually thought about this before the hunt began. Because he wasn't confident in his strength, he had come up with all kinds of plans before going.

He never intended to rely on the Abyss Time. That was why this surprise just gave him a bit more flexibility in his approach, which was what made him excited.

It was time to go for the Tier 6 beast.

Chapter 756: Easily Killing a Tier 5 Beast

Clovis killed over six hundred beasts inside the forest within three hours. Reolf had been by his side, not planning to lose to Clovis.

Still, Clovis took down two-thirds of the total number as Reolf lured them out. However, it looked like they couldn't let their guard down anymore.

"!!!" Clovis raised his eyebrows. "Finally... our first Tier 5 beast? Sorry, Reolf. Let me test my new strength first since it will be crucial for what's coming. Take care of the rest for me."

Reolf nodded. He, too, wanted to test his new power, but it looked like he had to wait for a bit. Fortunately, there were a lot of Tier 5 beasts here, so losing one or two shouldn't be too much.

Hence, Reolf charged forward while letting out a howl to provoke most of the beasts. Even Clovis knew it was impossible to get all of them to go to Reolf. Some would definitely come for him.

Seeing there were 40 beasts coming toward him from the original 150 beasts, Clovis sped up so that no unexpected variable could occur.

Since Clovis wanted to die so much, the beasts spread out, surrounding Clovis.

This was a blunder from the Tier 5 beast. Clovis knew that this Tier 5 beast wanted to take him out by attacking from all directions, but it also meant Clovis could approach the Tier 5 beast directly.

Not planning to let this opportunity go, Clovis leaped toward the Tier 5 beast. The latter pounced on him, but Clovis opened the battle with a ranged attack.

Unlike the previous ranged attack, the moment he waved that sword, the pressure had increased, resulting in more durability and power.

"!!!" The beast struck it with its claws. To its surprise, the claws couldn't break the sword attack easily. This sword attack stopped the beast's momentum and broke the pouncing motion, resulting in Clovis being the only one reaching the beast with all that momentum.

The beast used its other paw to hit Clovis. The latter swiftly struck the leg. With a stomp from Clovis, a surge of strength rose from his lower half to his upper body. Then, he channeled that energy into his swing, ultimately cutting the beast's entire leg.

"Raaaa!" The beast roared in pain. It chose to leap away with everything it had. The rest of the beasts also surrounded Clovis, preventing him from continuing the attack.

Unfortunately for the beasts, Clovis wasn't afraid of the challenge. He struck all these beasts one by one.

Even if there was a beast landing a hit on him, Clovis actually ignored it as though it was useless.

"!!!" The Tier 5 beast was in utter shock. Clovis' strategy was reckless. Normally, humans would conserve their stamina so that they could fight their target at their best.

Yet, Clovis looked like he was using a large amount of stamina just to cut down all these beasts, even if it meant doing it slightly faster.

But this was an effective plan for an aggressive fighting style like Clovis'. He cut down a lot of beasts to open the path.

Then, he used that path to close the distance between him and the Tier 5 beast.

The Tier 5 beast's eyes turned bloodshot. Even though it had lost a leg, it didn't plan to accept its death just like that.

But this bloodlust was countered with another bloodlust in Clovis' eyes.

A grin appeared on his face as the Abyss Time turned on. Clovis' sword met with the beast's paw, but soon, Clovis found a gap and struck down another leg.

Other beasts were planning to stop him, but Clovis simply sent a sword strike to stop them while his other sword pierced through the Tier 5 beast's head, ultimately killing it.

Clovis had killed a Tier 5 beast effortlessly. He didn't even have to use his Abyss Time.

It was normal for Clovis to take down a beast of the same tier easily because of his items, but usually, Clovis would be accompanied by his teammates. They would open up the path for him so that they didn't have to care about the rest of the beasts.

This time, he had to worry about the remaining beasts even though Reolf had taken the majority of them.

He did it so easily and quickly. He didn't even spend a lot of stamina just to take it down.

"Hmm..." Mara fell silent. "The beasts were trying to surround him, but he actually treated it as if the beasts were giving a way for him to kill their leader. If he couldn't kill the Tier 5 beast in time, he would have to break free, which would probably cost him some injuries.

"But he's confident enough to kill that Tier 5 beast, even without using his Abyss Time.

"If we take the Abyss Time into account, he might be able to overwhelm a Tier 6 beast, but there will be a lot of beasts around the overlord, including multiple Tier 5.

"Is the task too easy for him? At first, I thought it was a bit too hard." Mara crossed her arms.

She hadn't heard much about Clovis and his teammates, so she gave this mission, thinking Clovis would fail or barely succeed. It looked like she had underestimated Clovis' fighting style. It was a fast fighting style, emphasizing speed.

"Still... If the enemy is that easy to be crushed..." Mara raised her vision slightly.

Suddenly, a huge worm emerged from the ground, opening its mouth to swallow Clovis. This worm was another Tier 5 beast.

Clovis wanted to swing his sword to stop it, but surprisingly, Reolf pounced on the worm as if telling Clovis, 'It's mine.'

"Hahahaha!" Clovis laughed wholeheartedly. "Fine. You handle this one, and I will take care of your spot. Reolf. You sense it too, right?"

Reolf didn't respond to him, but his gaze was clear.

Both of them sensed danger coming their way. That was right. Most likely, the Tier 6 beast was coming toward them.

"You'd better finish it quickly." Clovis smirked as he activated his Abyss Time.

"Woof!" Reolf replied while slapping the worm to the ground.

Chapter 757: Beast Manifestation Art

Clovis cut down as many beasts as possible, but the Tier 6 beast was moving as quickly as possible, leading numerous beasts onto his path.

'Hmm... They're coming...' Clovis glanced to the side. There were at least a few hundred beasts coming toward them. But if he understood the enemy correctly, the Tier 6 beast wouldn't face him head-on. Instead, it would sneak around before launching a sneak attack, utilizing its change of pace to its advantage.

More importantly, they might be able to defeat a Tier 5 beast, which had its full strength due to being far away from any tower, swiftly, but a few Tier 5 beasts working together would give them a hard time, let alone adding a Tier 6 beast on top.

In addition, Melody wasn't here. He usually asked Melody to give the terrain information or even the radar. All that information could be used against them, but this time, he had none of it.

Clovis glanced at Reolf, noticing that the Tier 5 worm was about to be defeated. There were also fewer than 40 beasts in his spot, so it would only take him two minutes before taking them down.

The problem was the increasing danger they felt.

"Huu... I don't need mapping. Instead, I should focus on utilizing the Brain affinity..." Clovis had already activated his Abyss Time. Since the duration of this time had been extended by at least three times, he didn't have to worry about going insane anymore.

After taking down half of the remaining beasts around him, the enemy finally came.

Clovis couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows. The enemy had spread its people slightly, but he noticed several Tier 5 beasts that marched together with the rest of the beasts.

It looked like the beasts understood that having the Tier 5 beasts fight first would be detrimental to them. Hence, they tried to fight Clovis and Reolf together.

Still, there was no sign of their main target, the Tier 6 deinonychus antirrhopus. In fact, the Tier 5 beasts of the same species weren't visible either.

It looked like they were already among them but hid themselves.

'I can see five Tier 5 beasts among them. The number is roughly around 600 to 700 beasts. It's normal for a high-tier beast to mobilize this number, but having so many Tier 5 beasts in the mix can only be done by a Tier 6 beast.

'In that case, it must be hidden along with the other three. In other words, we'll have to clash with 8 Tier 5 and one Tier 6 beasts along with all those beasts.

'A head-on clash will definitely crush us. Even with my current Tier 5 strength, it won't be enough.'

Clovis had experienced this in the past. When he fought against multiple high-tier beasts, one beast could simply block all his attacks while the others surrounded him. He employed the same tactics as well.

But there was one thing different from the past. He had learned from Mara. Mara's specialty was in her attack power, and she was used to fighting by herself.

That was why her techniques were useful in this kind of fight. After learning those techniques, he could see the path to victory even in this situation.

Clovis took a deep breath before shouting, "Reolf. Once you're done, you will flank their rear and match my movement."

Reolf didn't answer him, as he was still occupied with his own fight. However, he acknowledged the order.

Because the enemies had arrived, Clovis decided to drop the fight with the remaining 8 beasts around him. Instead, he turned around and charged toward the incoming enemy.

"!!!" The beasts were startled because Clovis was supposed to back off after seeing them. Nevertheless, they were prepared for the engagement.

Since Clovis wanted to fight, the beasts also let out a roar as all of them started to run forward.

Clovis smirked. Since they were stretching their own line to make sure Clovis couldn't escape, it also meant there weren't a lot of beasts in front.

That was why Clovis sped up to show his intention of breaking through their lines.

It looked like two Tier 5 beasts moved closer to the middle as though they wanted to intercept him after understanding his intention. As long as they could stop him, the rest of the beasts would be able to surround him.

Clovis took a deep breath. His world had slowed down, but his instincts remained sharp. Now that he was about to clash with these beasts, he noticed a hidden danger within the ranks.

Clovis couldn't help but recall Mara's lesson.

"The Abyss Time can activate all the affinities. However, you don't have to focus solely on these affinities. People will be shocked if you can utilize 100% of all your affinities, but what if you go one step further? To put it simply, if others can combine their primary affinity and secondary affinity, we can combine two primary affinities at the same time."

Clovis combined his Blood Affinity and Brain Affinity. Normally, it would be impossible because if one had Blood Affinity as their primary affinity, the Brain would be considered the tertiary affinity.

But with the Abyss Time, it was possible. And thanks to the combination of these two, Clovis gained a new technique.

"Beast Perception."

Clovis could see it. The locations of the danger in the enemy's line, which were the hiding spots of those high-tier beasts.

"I can only use two combinations right now, which are Blood-Brain and Blood-Muscle right now, but this should be enough..." Clovis saw that one of them was close enough to him.

Right before he crashed into these beasts, he gathered all his momentum and strength into his blade.

The blade felt like it was emitting its own bloodlust, but it wasn't strong enough to manifest the full killing intent yet. With the addition of Mara's technique, he could finally name his own ranged attack.

Beast Manifestation Art, Overlord Slayer.

The moment Clovis sent forth his attack, numerous beasts were split in two. The hidden Tier 5 beast was stunned as it instinctively raised one arm to stop the attack, albeit it was useless. His arm was cut as the residual power struck his chest, leaving a deep injury.

"Roar!"

Chapter 758: Stab

The beasts didn't expect this level of power from a Tier 5 human.

With the addition of Mara's Beast Manifestation Technique, his ranged attack had become more robust and had more range.

A single slash actually killed thirty beasts at once and chopped an arm off of a Tier 5 beast.

Still, he failed to take down a Tier 5 beast. As a result, they would definitely not fall for the same trick anymore.

Fortunately, the path had been opened up by that slash. Without hesitation, Clovis rushed toward the injured Tier 5 beast.

As if realizing Clovis had to be stopped immediately instead of exhausting him first, the Tier 6 beast suddenly jumped over several beasts.

Clovis couldn't help but smile. As expected, the beast was quick. If not for it jumping several beasts, Clovis might barely have time to react.

Clank!

Clovis struck the beast, but the latter stopped it with its claws before Clovis could unleash another ranged attack.

Since the Tier 6 beast had gone to intercept Clovis, the three Tier 5 deinonychus antirrhopus made their appearance as well, surrounding him from all directions.

They took advantage of their sudden increase in speed to startle Clovis.

Clovis kicked the one on the right while using his short blade to block the one behind him. With his sword clashing with the Tier 6 beast, there was nothing left to protect him from the last Tier 5 beast.

"Tsk." Clovis clicked his tongue as the deinonychus antirrhopus struck his body.

Fortunately, the clothes absorbed some damage, and his affinity should be able to close that injury in no time.

Still, other beasts, including the Tier 5 beasts, had finally shifted their directions, completely surrounding Clovis. Even if he managed to stop four Tier 5 beasts, other beasts would definitely reach him.

Knowing that his master was in a bad predicament, Reolf let out a howl as he pounced on the beast on the left.

The surrounding beasts turned around to check, only to feel scared of Reolf. There was an indescribable fear in their eyes.

This was Reolf's new beast soul. Without them being able to fight him at their full strength, Reolf began killing one beast after another, forcing two Tier 5 beasts to stop him.

Reolf's eyes turned bloodshot. Although he didn't know Clovis' plan, he instinctively understood what Clovis was aiming for, especially after seeing how he had fought the beasts this whole time.

Instead of fighting these two Tier 5 beasts, Reolf actually pushed forth, taking down all the beasts in his way as quickly as possible while ignoring the two Tier 5 beasts.

As a result, he pushed pretty far into their ranks, distracting the deinonychus antirrhopus.

Clovis finally found an opportunity. He spun his body and unleashed his ranged attack right away. The Tier 6 beast managed to avoid it, but the other three Tier 5 deinonychus antirrhopus had gotten hit on the body. It wasn't enough to kill them, but it was good enough to make them wary of blood loss.

Then, Clovis gathered his momentum in his foot and kicked the Tier 6 beast, pushing him back for several meters.

Once he was free, Clovis headed in Reolf's direction while killing as many beasts as possible. Unfortunately, Reolf's charge seemed to have been stopped by the number of the enemies as well as the Tier 5 beasts who managed to catch up to him.

Roar!

The deinonychus antirrhopus tried to give a warning.

In addition to the deinonychus antirrhopus, there were 8 Tier 5 beasts and 1 Tier 6 beast. Because of Clovis' first attack, one of them got severely injured, while two stopped Reolf.

With the three Tier 5 deinonychus antirrhopus getting pushed back, the remaining two Tier 5 beasts chased after him this time, bringing all the beasts they led to crash into Clovis.

Clovis skillfully used their numbers against them. If they wanted to crash into them, they needed to hit other beasts first, buying him some time.

During that period, Clovis sped up even more and opened up a path toward Reolf.

The Tier 6 deinonychus antirrhopus understood what Clovis was trying to achieve. If he killed those two Tier 5 beasts that were currently stuck with Reolf, there would be less of a burden for Clovis, as the wolf could take on another two.

That was why the Tier 6 beast utilized its sudden change of pace to catch up to him.

"You're really fast." Clovis smiled. He put his left foot forward and slid it on the ground to stop his momentum before waving his blade to the Tier 6 beast.

He spun his body to generate enough strength to swing that sword. Surprisingly, the blade actually cut through the Tier 6 beast's skin.

"..." The Tier 6 beast was in shock, but the beast was one step faster than Clovis as it slapped Clovis' arm by the time it stopped.

Clovis intended to stop that blade and send another slash, but he couldn't do it. This was the reason he wanted this beast's essence in the first place.

By taking advantage of its change of pace, Clovis could actually create a consecutive ranged attack. Other lower-level beasts attacked him from the side, helping their leader.

Clovis had no choice but to let go of the engagement and skillfully slashed all these beasts before running toward Reolf again.

Obviously, the Tier 6 beast chased after him. With its change of pace, it could match Clovis' speed the whole time while traveling between so many beasts. Even Clovis didn't expect it would be this hard to break through.

Clovis had no choice but to reveal another strike he had learned from Mara. He gathered his momentum into his short sword instead of the long one. Then, he pierced the beast next to him.

Roar!

The beast screamed in pain, but the next thing it realized, the wound widened as if the rest of the stabbing momentum had just reached it, creating a hole in its body. Of course, this momentum continued and hit the beast behind it, which was the Tier 6 deinonychus antirrhopus. The latter was forced to tweak its body but still got hit by the momentum.

Chapter 759: Killing Half of the Beasts

Beast Manifestation Art, Thunderous Charge.

Clovis stabbed the beast as though there was a huge rhino charging toward it and redirected all its momentum into its horn. It pierced through and formed a gaping hole in the beast's stomach. The residual momentum continued and reached the Tier 6 beast. The latter managed to avoid the fatal hit, but three other beasts behind it got their bodies destroyed.

What Clovis learned from Mara was not that complicated. He just learned all the basic motions of swordsmanship, such as swing, stab, block, and so on.

However, she taught him how to utilize the killing intent in each motion, turning it into a special technique.

After the Tier 6 beast fell down, Clovis continued onward. He pushed his speed to the limit, cutting down the remaining beasts in his way.

Other Tier 5 beasts looked like they were going to catch up to him, but they were one step too late.

Clovis broke through, finding the two beasts that stopped Reolf. At the same time, these beasts jumped into the air, pouncing on Clovis.

There was no need for the two of them to say what was on each other's minds. Reolf knew what he had to do in this situation.

Without missing a beat, Reolf dropped his stance against the two Tier 5 beasts and pounced on the other Tier 5 beasts that almost hit Clovis, blocking every single attack.

Still, this action made Reolf extremely vulnerable. If the two Tier 5 beasts decided to attack, he would be severely injured... And that was what they were planning to do, but Clovis was there.

When the beasts were about to hurt Reolf, Clovis leaped to their heads and sliced their necks.

Since the beasts weren't guarding him, there was no stopping his blades.

The Tier 6 beast had caught up to him as well. Reolf was much closer, so the Tier 6 beast thought about killing Reolf to show how angry it was when Clovis took down several Tier 5 beasts under him.

Unfortunately, all of them were in a single line. Once Clovis took down the two Tier 5 beasts, he charged his momentum in a single swing and turned around.

Other low-level beasts struck him during the meantime, but he still managed to unleash that strike while shouting, "Run!"

"!!!" Reolf understood what Clovis wanted to do.

Reolf ducked first because he felt danger on his back. It was clear he was in the way, so he had to get away first.

Once he lowered his body, Clovis' ranged attack struck the Tier 5 beasts alongside the Tier 6 beast who was about to ambush him earlier.

Because those beasts were high level, none of them got hurt as they blocked the attacks together, but it was enough to free Reolf.

Reolf turned around and struck the beasts on the left side of Clovis before howling. This was a signal from Reolf to get away.

Without hesitation, Clovis jumped onto Reolf's back while gathering his momentum again.

Reolf first charged forward. Since they were in the rear, there weren't many beasts stopping them from escaping. This was probably what Clovis wanted when sending Reolf to poke their rear.

Reolf broke his way through with sheer strength, ignoring the small wounds on his body.

Clovis, on the other hand, used his gathered strength to hit the beasts on the right instead, killing over 40 beasts in a single swing. There were no high-level beasts that could stop him there.

Once they were out, Clovis muttered, "The first engagement is completed. It's time for the second phase."

Reolf obviously didn't understand such a complex thing. That was why Clovis hadn't shared it with him from the start. His intelligence would increase the more beast souls he condensed, so once he reached that point, he would naturally teach him about it.

For now, Clovis only gave a simple explanation for the second phase. He first took the bite-sized food out of the inventory and shoved it into Reolf's mouth.

"Woof!" Reolf was surprised at first, but the strength increased drastically.

Of course, Clovis also ate some food while saying, "We'll overpower them and thin out their numbers this time. Once there's only a third of their original number left, we'll continue to the next phase by regrouping."

Reolf nodded as Clovis instructed him to run in a certain direction to confuse all these beasts. Thanks to Reolf's speed, they managed to create some distance between them and the rest of the beasts.

"Hit them from the other side," said Clovis while jumping off Reolf.

"Woof!" Reolf replied as he looped around, using his first beast soul to outrun them.

Meanwhile, Clovis could see the Tier 6 beasts catching up to him. If this were a head-on collision, no matter how strong Clovis was, he would be the one dying.

Hence, Clovis did the same thing as the one at the start. Of course, hitting them like that would stop their momentum, but the ones leading the charge were their high-level beasts. With their combined strength, stopping his attack was nothing.

That was why Clovis headed to the left and targeted the rear that had yet to turn around. Thanks to Reolf's speed and Clovis' direction, they managed to reach the side of their rear. The beasts in the rear looked like they were going to break off their rank to catch him, but this was exactly what he wanted.

Clovis swung his sword, cutting a lot of beasts to stop their momentum. With their bodies falling to the ground, the beasts behind them had trouble pushing forward.

Taking advantage of his small body, Clovis jumped over the bodies and cut down a lot more beasts.

This time, the beasts couldn't move easily, especially since Reolf was looping around them, preparing to attack them from behind. If they were too focused on Clovis, no one could stop Reolf.

The moment they were divided, Clovis' plan had succeeded. Both Reolf and Clovis hit them hard. Without having enough numbers on each side, there was no way of stopping them.

As a result, their number steadily decreased to half of its original number.

Seeing how his kin were slaughtered left and right, the Tier 6 beast went berserk.

Chapter 760: Last Phase

Roar!

The roar of a berserk Tier 6 beast was definitely terrifying. Clovis and Reolf could sense the killing intent emanating from this guy.

Obviously, that roar caused the beasts under him to do the same thing. They would be chasing after Clovis and Reolf until they were ripped apart before stopping.

Still, Clovis and Reolf had been prepared for such an attack.

"Heh..." Clovis smiled. To kill this Tier 6 beast, he had to take down its kin.

His Beast Manifestation Technique might be powerful, but these beasts gradually lost their rationality. They might not even stop when they were being cut.

Hence, taking them down would be much harder from this point on.

Even Mara took a step forward. 'The beasts only go berserk when they are certain they can kill their opponent.

'I have encountered a lot of similar points in the past, so he has only two options right now. The reason I want to make the Abyss Time his new normal and the Abyss Time to become something like overcoming his limit is to prevent this.

'If he has reached that state, he just has to enter the Abyss Time and overpower them. But he hasn't mastered the Abyss Time yet. Then again, it will take at least three to four years before reaching that stage.

'In that case, there's only one thing he can do. He has no choice but to run away. Let those beasts exhaust themselves. Besides, he has that wolf, so running away while lowering their number is possible.

'But looking at that stance... it does look like he's going to confront them head-on... What is he planning to do?'

Mara thought Clovis was doing something reckless, but Clovis himself had actually been waiting for this situation.

Once the beasts went berserk, Clovis actually took out a pill.

"Reolf!" Clovis shouted at the top of his lungs.

"!!!" When Clovis put the food in Reolf's mouth, he actually put another thing as he whispered, "Don't swallow this one. Swallow it when I give you the signal. We'll strike them harder once we reach that point and immediately kill the rest."

Clovis took out a small pill as Reolf used his tongue to force the pill down his throat.

Both of them suddenly felt a surge of strength that they had never felt before.

"Huh? Drugs? He should have known not to do drugs..." Mara tilted her head in confusion. But there should be no drugs in the first place. I don't think he brought anything like that before the training.

"He has taken out some food from his unique ability... Does that mean it's not limited to just food? Now that I think about it, his equipment... Whenever we're fighting something hard, he is using the same clothes. His physical strength has also increased..."

"It looks like his unique ability is not limited to food. It brings all kinds of items, including drugs."

"I don't think he's someone so foolish that he will fall for that vicious cycle, so does this drug from his unique ability have something different?"

The pills that Clovis and Reolf took had one effect.

Name: Minotaur Berserk Pill.

Description: A pill that boosts the physical strength of the minotaurs.

Effect: Muscle and Blood Affinity increases by 50% for 20 minutes.

Warning: Can't be taken more than once in the span of 15 days since the first consumption or the muscles will be torn completely.

Clovis took a deep breath as he felt this immeasurable power. Even Reolf looked like he could do anything he wanted.

With the help of the food and the drug, they felt invincible.

"Come!" Clovis leaped toward the beasts.

The Tier 6 beast let out a roar, ordering all beasts to kill Clovis and Reolf.

Reolf overpowered all his opponents. His strength alone had surpassed that of a Tier 6 beast, which was suppressed by the tower. With the addition of the items as well as the food, Reolf could easily take down a few Tier 5 beasts now.

Clovis was the same. To greet the beasts properly, he charged another momentum into his blade. Instead of a slash, he actually thrust his long sword.

The beasts, who had gone berserk, wouldn't recognize the true terror of this thrust.

The moment the thrust was completed, the extraordinary pressure was released forward. The pressure traveled for about forty meters. All the beasts that stood in its path had their own bodies destroyed. Their flesh and blood splattered on the ground along with their corpses.

Because there was a sudden hole in their ranks, the beasts tried to cover it so that Clovis couldn't regroup with Reolf.

The Tier 6 beast also brought all three of its kin to stop Clovis while letting the rest of the Tier 5 beasts stop Clovis. In addition, all lower-level beasts surrounded Clovis to block his escape route.

Even Tesron, who could see the future, would have a hard time against them, but Clovis... he turned into a demon.

After that thrust, the beasts would be more focused on his extraordinary strength than anything else. That was why Clovis instantly changed his approach from strength to speed.

Yes, he used his Muscle and Blood affinity to boost his speed and perception. The Abyss Time allowed him to have a stable form even at this speed.

Then, he used his flexibility to leap from one spot to another while cutting down all the beasts on his path.

Clovis even jumped into the air for a second as, the next second, six beasts' heads that were about to surround him suddenly flew into the air.

His target wasn't the high-level beasts. Instead, it was the lower-level beasts.

Although the Tier 5 or even Tier 6 beast was strong, the most troubling opponent would be the lower-level beasts. Their number was so enormous that they would just exhaust his stamina before they could fight the high-level beasts.

Utilizing the confusion, he tried to eliminate as many beasts as possible before they realized his plan.

The Tier 6 beast seemed to have seen through his trick and let out a roar, but it was one step too late.

Clovis and Reolf had just reduced their number from half of the original number to less than 30%. In other words, it was time for the last phase, killing the high-level beasts.