

## **World Mall 91**

### Chapter 91 Money

A few hours later.

"We're finally back." Kanaria stretched her hands up. They had fought so hard today.

"Melody. Do you want to join us for some good food?" Clovis asked.

"Nah, I'm good. You guys can have fun." Melody shook her head. "Just don't forget about my payment."

"Since the contract lasts until tomorrow, I will send you the money tomorrow." Clovis winked his right eye. If they stopped today, it meant they only had to pay Melody for two days. But Clovis chose to end it tomorrow as compensation for her help this time.

"Mhmm. Thank you. If you need anything, you can contact me. As long as it can increase my reward, then I will gladly help you. And I hope you don't give me a rating."

"Are you sure?" Clovis furrowed his eyebrows.

"Yeah." Melody nodded. It wasn't that she cared about the rating. She simply didn't want to attract more trouble from those trying to kill Clovis.

"I don't really mind if you're alright with it." Clovis agreed with her.

Now that they were done with the mission, Melody left the car, ready to take a taxi to go back home.

But before closing the door, Melody added, "Well, the hunt was fun. If you still need me, I don't mind if you hire me again. But I might have to raise my rate since I have to bother with your unknown enemies."

Clovis gave a wry smile, not being able to refute her words. This was the reason why Melody didn't want to join them after all.

"So, we're going to Clovis's home now?" Jay asked. "Kanaria, are you going too?"

"Yeah. I still have some clean clothes I can use, so I'm going to celebrate with you guys together." Kanaria nodded. Now that Melody was gone, Kanaria positioned herself on the backseat with Clovis, leaving Jay alone in the front.

After Jay stepped on the gas, Clovis turned to her. "By the way, have you done the calculation?"

"Yep. First of all, we have completed these three quests." Kanaria projected three panels between her and Clovis.

Mission: Mutated Thylacoleo

Reward: 20,000 Union Dollars

Mission: Megalania Subjugation.

Reward: 15,000 Union Dollars.

Mission: Proconsul Overlord

Reward: 100,000 Union Dollars.

"That's quite a lot. 135,000 union dollars just from the mission rewards. We still have essence to sell, huh?" Clovis squinted his eyes.

"Yeah. As for the essence, that depends on how much you plan to sell. Unfortunately, we've got no beast soul."

"Well, Beast Soul is said to be an extremely rare item that will only drop once out of one thousand beasts. So, it can't be helped." Clovis shook his head helplessly. "Besides, we still have two beast souls in our possession. We just don't have anyone who can utilize it right now. As for how much I plan to sell... I'm thinking about selling 80% of my portion."

"What?" Kanaria looked like she was going to object. However, Clovis managed to catch up to them with that kind of reckless behavior, so this 80% might have been calculated carefully.

On the other hand, if she pitied him and sold the same amount, her progress would definitely be much slower than Clovis.

In the end, Kanaria said, "I'm only planning to sell 30% of the essence."

"Me too," Jay interjected.

Kanaria calculated the essence they had. "If we're following the market price, we should get about 150,000 union dollars from the essence. So, close to 300,000 overall. That's only the money. The rest of the essence can still be sold for another fifty thousand. Unfortunately, we have to cut short our trip or we would get another hundred thousand."

"It's not bad." Clovis nodded with a serious expression. He was going to register all the money at Another World Mall first before distributing their portions.

"It's not bad? If Melody were here, she would be saying that we're freaks. Normal parties would only bring back about a hundred thousand union dollars. And if they cut out the cost of the bullets and other things, each person only gets about ten thousand. That is, if they sell all their essence and are not using some for themselves.

And if you are affiliated with a company or organization, you will get less than that. In fact, most Tier 1 explorers only get about a thousand to two thousand per expedition. Although the number adds up if you keep going on an exploration for a month, it's barely enough for a decent life in the base, let alone purchasing a good house or equipment." Kanaria sighed.

"Well..." Clovis gave a wry smile. Because of the uniqueness of his group, his sense of money was already distorted. "Anyway, let's have some celebration tonight, and we will submit the rewards and sell the essence after that. Then, wire the money to Melody tomorrow, which ends the contract."

"Sure." Kanaria nodded.

Still, Clovis felt a bit excited but, at the same time, faced a dilemma. On the one hand, he could rank up the membership and open a new store. On the other hand, he might not have enough left to increase the visit limit. He had to sacrifice one of them this time.

"Either way, I am going to tell my mother first that we're already back, and I'll go back tomorrow." Kanaria sighed while searching for her mother's number.

But at this time, she received a message from her mother.

Mom: It seems that you're back already. What? Going to stay at Clovis's home? I think I should pack up your luggage soon so that you can permanently stay there. By the way, I have noticed that a backdoor has been set up on your device. You must haven't paid that girl.

She is probably using that to make sure the payment reaches her. Anyway, have fun.

'How the hell did she know about all this?' Kanaria was screaming inside.

"What's wrong?" Clovis looked worried since Kanaria only stared at the screen without calling her mother.

"Nothing. It seems that my mother already knows about it."

Chapter 92 Clovis's Choice

"The total will be 167,355 union dollars. Please check." The receptionist showed the list of items as well as their price.

Clovis remained silent while Kanaria carefully examined the list. It was a huge transaction, so they should be a bit more careful.

"Indeed. Everything is correct." Kanaria nodded with a serious expression. "Please proceed with the transaction."

"In that case, where would you like to receive the money?"

Kanaria grabbed Clovis's ID card and handed it to her.

"And it's done. Please check the money." The receptionist took a moment to send the money before giving the ID card back.

As soon as Clovis saw the figure on his account, he gave a nod to Kanaria, concluding the transaction.

"Thank you for choosing Essence Bank. Please come again next time." The receptionist politely bowed to them.

Clovis and Kanaria hurriedly left the bank. There were a few things they planned to do, especially regarding the next exploration.

"So, I guess we get more than we initially calculated. To think we would get more than three hundred thousand in this exploration." Clovis smiled, feeling happy because he could buy a lot of things at Another World Mall.

"Yep. But before that, we need to resupply."

Normally, Clovis would give the money to her, but he was curious about something.

"Say... what do you think about going around the city tomorrow? I'm a bit curious about our equipment and ammunition. Where do you usually buy it?" Clovis asked.

"Mhmm?" Kanaria raised her eyebrows as if she didn't expect this invitation. She asked inwardly, 'Did he just invite me to a date? The curiosity is just a disguise, right?'

It might look that way if it was anyone else. But while Clovis was clever in seeing through things, he was still similar to Jay, very straightforward.

As Clovis said, he was truly curious about all the items.

Kanaria let out a long sigh.

"What's wrong?" Clovis looked worried, thinking that Kanaria might see it as if he wanted to take away her job.

"It's nothing. We will be going to a lot of places tomorrow, so get ready for it. While we are at it, why don't we buy some equipment for you?"

"Sure." Clovis didn't realize at that time that his curiosity would lead to a much bigger problem.

Right now, Clovis was more interested in the items he could buy from Another World Mall.

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The day had finally passed. Right after midnight, Clovis immediately teleported to the Another World Mall, of course, with all that money.

Clovis immediately opened his system to check what he had so far.

[Name: Clovis Hacfield.]

[Membership: Level 6 (Novice)]

[Money: 308,505 Otherworldly Coins.]

[Item Limit: 7/Visit]

[Visit: 0(1)/Day]

"I have a lot of money now... Then again, my membership is still categorized as 'Novice.' I wonder how much I need to spend to upgrade it to an expert." Clovis muttered before opening the upgrade membership.

Membership: Level 6 (Better Novice)

Upgrade Membership: 50,000 Otherworld Coins/Month.

Benefit: Store +1

"Hmm... Upgrading the membership will cost me 50,000 coins. Now that I think about it, when will the membership be renewed? I'm already close to the third week since I bought the membership. Does that mean I will have to pay this amount of money in less than two weeks?"

Clovis frowned. If this was true, then he had to reconsider his purchase.

Still, this new store actually piqued his interest. All the stores in Another World Mall were amazing. So, he wondered if he would get another useful store once he upgraded the membership.

The other option was to remain at this level for a few more days and get his membership renewed at this price before upgrading the membership.

"Well, saving all the money is probably a safer choice. But if I get a new store and the items are useful enough to increase the money we can get from an exploration..." Clovis fell into deep thought.

The reason he got all this money was because they killed the Tier 3 proconsul. So he shouldn't feel too complacent.

"There is also a chance that I won't have this Another World Mall for my entire life. If it gets taken away from me, what should I do? I should make a decision that can optimize my growth, believing that tomorrow I might not be able to access this mall anymore. If I add the number of visits, the amount of money I have to spend is doubled, but I can progress twice as fast.

"But if I choose a new store, I can probably upgrade it once more? No, wait." Clovis suddenly thought of an idea. "If I purchase the membership and increase the item limit, I will only use half of the money. While it's true that my spending will be doubled, that doesn't necessarily mean I have to make purchases, right?

"Having another visit can allow me to actually lure the enemy in my direction to save my teammates before vanishing (going to the mall). So, the first visit will be used to purchase things. The second visit will be reserved in case an emergency happens.

If there's no emergency, I can simply buy some cheap items like recovery water or something instead of the food that will increase my evolution attributes."

Clovis put another thought in this matter. It might look a bit reckless to spend half of the money right away, but he thought this was probably the best thing he could get with his current money.

"In that case, I shouldn't hesitate. Upgrade the membership and purchase the visit limit."

[Name: Clovis Hacfield.]

[Membership: Level 7 (Beginner)]

[Money: 158,505 Otherworldly Coins.]

[Item Limit: 7/Visit]

[Visit: 1(2)/Day]

Like the previous one, he could see that the store next to the boutique shop was glowing. He wondered what kind of store Another World Mall had prepared for him.

Sadly for Clovis, the moment the light vanished and he could see the store, he dropped his jaw to the ground and started regretting his choice.

Chapter 93 New Store

"This is..." Clovis walked toward the store with a horrified expression.

He could see a lot of glistening items inside. The store itself was similar to the boutique, but it didn't have any hangers in the middle of the store. Instead, there were multiple glass boxes with some shiny items inside.

Ring, earring, necklace, watch, or even sunglasses. The next store turned out to be an accessory store.

"How can this be..." Clovis panicked as he dropped to his knees. "An accessory store? Isn't this the most useless thing in a mall? Why would you bother with accessories? They are very restrictive, especially during a fight. What if you wear an earring and the enemy just rips your ears apart by pulling that earring?"

"Ring? It's going to be hard to hold weapons properly with it, especially those shiny rings with big gems." Clovis's expression turned grim as there was one more reason why he hated accessory stores. "And this store... is usually very expensive."

The biggest reason was none other than money. He had been living as a poor man after losing his parents, so he simply didn't have money to spend.

Clovis was just tricking himself to hate the store and forget that he didn't have the money to buy those accessories.

"No, no. This is Another World Mall. There might be something good inside." Clovis's expression turned grim as he entered the store.

The first thing he saw in this store was a ring. It was a simple golden ring, but there seemed to be a shiny blue jewel on top of it.

Name: Ocean Ring.

Description: A golden ring with a pearl that comes from the bottom of the ocean. It is the specialty of the mermaids.

Effect: Cooling Effect and Purifying Water Effect

Price: 20,500 Otherworldly Coins.

Instead of the effect, Clovis's eyes were glued to the price. "Twenty thousand for a ring? What? Are you serious?"

He was completely speechless, but when he turned to the side, he saw a beautiful necklace with green jade.

Name: Elven Necklace.

Description: A necklace blessed by a High Elf. It is said to bring prosperity to its wearer.

Effect: Luck +1

Price: 25,000 Otherworldly Coins

"What? Luck? Huh?" Clovis felt something weird about this effect. He couldn't help but recall his grandfather's story.

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A decade ago.

"Grandfather. He is lucky to survive from you," said Clovis with an innocent expression.

"Lucky? Not at all..." Michael shook his head. "Tell me, what do you think will happen when there are two people, you and your enemy, standing in the middle of a field?"

"I will defeat my enemy," Clovis answered without hesitation.

"That's correct. Then, what if it's not a field but a forest?"

"It's the same. I will defeat my enemy."

"Then... What if when you are about to defeat him, a wolf suddenly comes from the side and spots you. Because of that, you have to stop this wolf... which results in your enemy getting away?"

"That's..." Clovis frowned. "Grandfather. You are too sneaky."

"Are you going to say that your opponent is lucky? Or are you going to say that you are too unfortunate?"

Clovis carefully considered his answer. "He is lucky?"

"Then, what if I tell you that your opponent has lured you to that area, knowing that a wolf will attack you?"

"That's..." Clovis couldn't answer it. However, he could see his grandfather's point. "So, he is not lucky?"

"That's right. Everything can be calculated. However, I can say that my opponent at that time didn't calculate the one that saved him."

"So, he is lucky?" Clovis tilted his head.

"No. The variable was already there, but he simply didn't know and put it into his calculation. What I'm saying is... if you can see all the variables, you will be able to calculate everything. Luck is something that I have never believed in. If there is something that can change someone's fortune, then I'd surely love to have that."

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When Clovis recalled this memory, he couldn't help but look at the necklace again. "Luck? It's an item that can increase luck?"

Clovis looked at the item carefully. He wanted to buy it, but when he looked at the price, he panicked.

"Twenty five thousand? But Luck..." Clovis's expression turned grim. "What should I do... Should I buy this one? If yes, should I use it on myself? Kanaria is the one who purchases a lot of things... If she gets lucky, will she get a discount or win a prize?"

"Maybe when she shoots the enemy, the wind will suddenly change direction and hit another enemy that she needs to kill more?"

There were a lot of assumptions appearing in his mind, but he confirmed one thing. He might truly need to buy this necklace.

Before grabbing this necklace, Clovis couldn't help but look around to find other items.

"Wait a minute... Now that I think about it, Melody sweats a lot, right? What if I buy the ring with a cooling effect? Can I lure her through this? With this, she won't need to stay inside the car to remain cool, right?"

Clovis's expression turned grim. The price was ridiculous, but the rate of paying a mobile operator was much higher. It could be said that this ring might be enough to make her join the group.

Clovis was seriously contemplating his choice. He also couldn't buy a lot of things, since all these items were expensive.

In the end, he only bought the necklace and the ring from this store. If they made another few hundred thousand, he would definitely buy an accessory for Jay and Kanaria.

"Sorry, Jay, Kanaria. Just bear with me for a bit." Clovis muttered while paying for the two items. In exchange, he bought more chicken nuggets for them.

Now that he was done shopping, Clovis opened the system again. "I have spent too much money in the accessory store. I have to prepare for the next exploration fast... ah, I wonder if there is a sugar mo... I mean, a sponsor that can allow me to buy all this stuff."

#### Chapter 94 Melody's Investigation

"Hu..." Clovis returned from Another World Mall with the ring and necklace. He immediately took out the necklace and wore it. Because it would look weird for a necklace to appear, he made sure that he hid this necklace underneath his shirt.

Meanwhile, Clovis also noticed another thing at the Another World Mall.

"As I expected, the Another World Mall has another yet realistic concept." Clovis recalled what happened after buying the items. "In the supermarket, the items will be restored after some time. Meanwhile, the ones in the boutique store aren't replaced after some time."

"I think that each store has their own way to get their supply. And there is a possibility that the item in the boutique store won't appear again. Or they might be replaced by something else."

Clovis thought that this system was a bit annoying, but also relatable. If they got restored anytime they wanted, he could buy a lot of the luck necklace and stack the luck for himself.

"Either way, tomorrow is going to be interesting." Clovis smiled.

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Meanwhile, Melody couldn't help but look at the screen with Clovis's profile on it.

"Even after putting in a lot of effort, this is the only thing I can get..." Melody muttered. "His name is only Clovis as if his last name has been erased. He was born in Starfall City. However, his childhood seemed to be far from that city..."

This was just the basic information she could get from Skynet. There were a few childhood pictures posted on Skynet that seemed to be coming from his parents.

"Starfall City is a Tier 8 city, right? If I'm not wrong, they are located in the neighboring country and are guarded by three Tier 8 explorers. It's a really prosperous city and a very safe place.

"It's a dream base for a lot of people. However, for some reason, his parents left this city with him. Why? Was it because they didn't have enough money to stay there?"

"Either way, he was last spotted in the neighboring city that fell from a beast wave. He gradually reached this place as a refugee.

"The reason why I was sure that his parents didn't leave Starfall City because of money was due to the fact that he still had a house here. In fact, he might have a lot of houses in other cities. With that wealth alone, it was clear that his family was wealthy.

"However, his parents fell in the previous beast wave. Even after searching for his parents' information, I got nothing."

Melody fell silent for a while, trying to connect the dots. "If I'm not wrong, his family should be extremely powerful. There should be at least a Tier 7 in the family. It's just... I don't recognize their faces.

"And how could they erase the information about him? Does a Tier 8 explorer have that kind of authority? Or does it..." Melody abruptly stopped as her expression turned solemn.

Her thoughts went a bit too wild to the point that she thought something unimaginable. At the same time, she couldn't help but recall the fight between Clovis and the Tier 3 proconsul.

Back then, Clovis showed a strength that she couldn't comprehend. It was as if his nature was changing.

Melody shook her head furiously. "No. Why should I bother with this? I'd worked hard enough to dig up his background... Wait, no. I didn't do this normally. Why would I even bother searching for his information?"

If she had to come up with a reason, it would be Clovis's invitation as well as the attack of a mysterious force.

And in the midst of her investigation, she found one amusing thing.

"If you want to kill him, do so without being directly involved. If you ignore this warning, I will find every single person involved in his murder. And I won't stop even if I have to level off a few countries."

This was a message she found. On the one hand, she could see why the people who wanted to kill Clovis were actually using the jamming device or sending the beast wave toward them. On the other hand, this message just reinforced the theory in her mind.

Clovis might be related to a Tier 9 Explorer. Only a Tier 9 Explorer dared to say that they would destroy several countries.

"I was just trying to get to know him a bit better. He didn't seem to be someone who would give up with a simple rejection. So, I should get enough information to reject him. Only by doing so would he give up. It's annoying, but I guess it can't be helped." Melody sighed, convincing herself. "Anyway, I will meet him again tomorrow to get my money."

With that thought in mind, Melody turned off her device, trying to think this matter through.

It was unlike her to be this diligent to find out about someone's information.

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The next day.

Clovis, Jay, and Kanaria were already outside the house. Jay was going home since it wouldn't be appropriate for him to stay in Clovis's house by himself even if Clovis didn't mind.

On the other hand, Kanaria had listed all the items she needed to buy today. And she also planned to introduce Clovis to a good store for the bullets.

Clovis was just tagging along, thinking of buying a few things. He wondered how he should convince Melody to join with the help of the ring. It was probably the only thing that could solve Melody's physical problem.

In the end, Jay drove them to the first store.

"Make sure you drop my luggage at my house, Jay. I'll be going home after buying a few things." Kanaria waved her hand.

"Sure, sure. Have fun with your little date. I'm not going to be a third party here." Jay nodded nonchalantly.

Both Kanaria and Clovis raised their eyebrows, not expecting Jay to say it. But the latter immediately drove off after saying those words, leaving the two dumbfounded.

Little did they know, in Jay's Skylink, there was a message from Vania Renvolt.

Kanaria's Mother: I bet they are having fun. Drop Kanaria's stuff in our house and exchange it for some fresh clothes. Don't forget to drop it again at Clovis's house. Thank you.

Jay: You're welcome. Just helping my childhood friend.

Chapter 95 Equipment

"Well, what are we going to buy here?" Clovis asked, looking at the store. It wasn't a big store. In fact, it was located in a small alley that barely fit a single car.

Jay dropped them off outside the alley, so they had to walk in for quite a bit.

"I usually buy electronic equipment here. I am thinking about customizing our skyglasses in this store. Since we still have some time before meeting Melody, how about going in?" Kanaria extended her hand.

"Sure." Clovis nodded with a smile.

As soon as Kanaria opened the store, they were greeted by a warm welcome.

A short middle-aged man politely bowed to them. "Welcome to the Bull Electronic."

Even the store was furnished with a lot of wooden materials to make it much warmer compared to the dark and cold alley.

In the center of the store, Clovis could see several shelves. There were skyglasses, radio communications, and even trackers. The big items were placed on the right corner, while the opposite side only had a long table. It seemed that was where they usually handled the maintenance.

"Oh my. What a familiar face! Welcome, Miss Kanaria." The middle-aged man immediately corrected his words and noticed the man next to her. "It's rare to find you with a gentleman. Are you perhaps on a date?"

"Don't tease me." Kanaria pouted, hiding her embarrassment.

"I apologize." The middle-aged man smiled as if he were satisfied with her reaction.

"Anyway, is the master there?"



"Of course."

"I'd like to customize the skyglasses and buy some stuff here." Kanaria took off the device and projected a screen that contained the list of items.

The middle-aged man looked at the list for a bit and said, "We do have everything here. It's just that we don't have enough supply for two items here."

"Which ones?"

"The infrared sensors and the connectors."

"Oh?" Kanaria looked down, contemplating.

"I understand infrared sensors, but what are connectors?" Clovis asked.

"Well, an item to connect radars. I mean, you can get information about the radar easily, but the radar will be with you the whole time. Hence, I'm thinking about getting a lot of radars and connecting them, creating a huge area of visibility. It's a bit hard to explain, but we can actually see the way the beast waves move, which allows us to divide them and even eliminate a portion at a time."

"Oh!" Clovis nodded. He understood the usage. If there was another beast wave like last time, they could eliminate them with this method.

"When are you going to restock them?"

"We are not very sure. The master has talked about it, but it's a bit hard to procure them. The most we can do is get some materials and make this ourselves."

"I see. I will try to find an alternative. But I will call you if I still need it." Kanaria nodded in understanding.

"Thank you. In that case, I will call the master and prepare the items you need." The middle-aged man smiled.

It didn't take too long before a deep, rough voice echoed inside the store.

"Oh! Kanaria is visiting?" A bald middle-aged man came. Clovis was a bit surprised because, despite working on such delicate items, the man was very muscular. His height was beyond two meters, making Clovis feel so small.

"Yep." Kanaria waved her hand. "I'd like to customize the skyglasses. Can you do it?"

"Of course, but it seems that we have another friend here." The bald man looked at Clovis with a frown.

"Hello, I'm Clovis." Clovis nodded his head as a greeting.

"Are you the one playing with her heart?" The bald man's face was distorted as if he wanted to gnaw Clovis's head.

"Why are both of you teasing me?" Kanaria glared at the bald man.

\*Cough!\* The man calmed down and hid the embarrassment with a cough. He said, "It can't be helped. I still remember the first time you came here with your mother. You were so tiny."

"It was almost a decade ago."

"But you came every now and then for the last few years. It was like seeing my own daughter grow up." The bald man chuckled.

"Geez." Kanaria pouted. "Anyway, I want—!"

"I know, I know." The bald man walked toward the table on the side. "Come here. Let's customize the skyglasses. What do you want?"

Kanaria and Clovis followed the man. Kanaria explained, "Can you stop the communication from being jammed?"

"Mhmm..." The bald man thought for a moment. "It's not possible, but I have an alternative. If we can add a force field, you should be able to communicate within a certain area. It will block the jamming."

"A force field?"

"Well, I'm just making it simple for you to understand. Or do you want a lesson about it during your date?"

"..." Kanaria wanted to say something, but ended up shaking her head. "I will look into it later. So, this will produce some sort of magnetic field that will block the jamming... Will the item be heavy?"

"No. But it will need a lot of energy. So, at best, you can only use it for ten minutes."

"The range?"

"5 meters in radius. You can overlap it to get a longer reach."

"Then, we'll take that." Kanaria agreed without hesitation.

"It seems that you fought a rather annoying opponent..." The bald man smiled.

"Ahahaha..." Kanaria rubbed her cheek. "That's right. I also want to integrate a Gold Class map later. So, can you adjust it?"

"Oh, a Gold Class? If I'm not wrong, your parents aren't going to pay for this one, right? It seems that your group has become good enough for a Gold Class map."

"Hehe." Kanaria smiled, but Clovis suddenly handed over his device. "If you want a Gold Class map, you can use mine. I still have over a month."

"Eh?" Kanaria blinked a few times while the bald man dropped his tools. Kanaria asked, "You have a Gold Class map?"

"I got it. Consider it a freebie for newbies." Clovis had been using the map for himself, but after a while, he knew he could trust them. At first, he wanted to reveal it before the last exploration, since they already had items from Another World Mall as well as the teachings of his parents.

But giving them too much would just make them think that Clovis had done all this while they didn't contribute much. So, he postponed it.

Since Kanaria wanted to have one, he finally revealed it so as not to waste their money.

