

Beloved Dog 101

Chapter 101

I used Weed Cultivation to make herbs for the duke

“Here you go, Mr. Takumi.”

“Is this...an order sheet?”

“Yes. I...thought I should create a list of herbs for you to cultivate.”

As soon as we went out into the garden, Sebastian handed me a sheet of paper. It was a list of herbs with types and quantities. And it also told me how much I would receive as payment for delivering them.

Hmm... One gold per Loe leaf... I see... But I had no concept of money in this world, so I wasn't sure what to make of the prices...

That was another thing I could discuss with someone when there was time.

However, the number of orders were...

“Sebastian, I feel like the numbers are quite low?”

With Weed Cultivation, it would only take a few seconds...or half a minute at most, to make a single herb.

And Sebastian had watched me do it enough times to understand it...

If I only had to make eight different types of herbs, including the Loe, and ten of each, then my job would be finished very quickly.

“In regards to that, Mr. Takumi, I had to think about how you fainted the other day.”

“We cannot overwork you, Mr. Takumi. We still do not know the limits of your ability. And so I think we should watch carefully in order to be safe. Besides, you said that you also wanted to conduct your own experiments. And so surely you should save some of your strength for that.”

“...I hadn’t realized you were being so considerate. Thank you.”

Whether it was a contract with favorable conditions, or allowing me to stay in this mansion, I was incredibly grateful towards them.

But considering how it had been when I was experimenting previously, I thought I could still make a lot more. Still, I decided to accept Ms. Claire and Sebastian’s kindness. After all, I didn’t want to be overwhelmed with work, like with my previous job.

“Oh? Claire...you seem awfully soft towards Mr. Takumi?”

“No-not at all! This is something that Sebastian and I discussed together!”

“No...it was Lady Claire who insisted...”

“Sebastian!”

“...Forgive me.”

At Mr. Ekenhart’s words, Ms. Claire became red in the face and started shouting.

Now her father was grinning at her, and so was Sebastian, even though he had been silenced... The two were quite alike... I’m not sure if that is a good thing.

“Uhh, now I will show you Weed Cultivation.”

“Wuff!”

“Leo...you should play with Tilura and Sherry.”

“Wuff...”

“I’ll play with Leo!”

“Kyau!”

I interrupted them so that I could start testing Weed Cultivation, but then Leo suddenly started to protest.

I think that she was worried that I would faint again. But I was fine.

Leo looked a little crestfallen by this, but then Tilura threw her arms around her, and Sherry jumped up onto her back. She seemed to like it up there.

And so the three moved away from us, and then Leo started to run around the garden while carrying Tilura and Sherry.

“...It really does carry Tilura and plays...in spite of being a Silver Fenrir.”

“Leo is very fond of people. Especially children.”

“The two of them play together often.”

When Leo had moved forward and barked, Ms. Ekenhart had shuddered and retreated a few steps. But he now returned and muttered.

He was still not at ease with Leo... It was the fear of Silver Fenrirs. The more you knew about them, the more likely you were to be afraid of Leo.

Though, I did hope that he would get used to her soon. I would feel bad for Leo if she continued to be the object of fear.

“Now, I will use Weed Cultivation.”

“...Yes.”

I held the book of herbs, which I had brought from my room, in one hand, and then moved away from Mr. Ekenhart and the others.

I still didn't know a lot about the herbs, so it was easier for me to do it while looking at the book.

But first, I would cultivate the one that I knew by memory. Loe.

And so I imagined the shape and effect while placing my hand on the ground, and then I used Weed Cultivation.

Approximately one hour later, there was a small prairie-like field of herbs surrounding me.

“Uhh... That's everything on the order sheet, right?”

“Let me see...”

I was careful not to step on any of them as I moved away from the field and over to where Sebastian was watching.

Sebastian took out a copy of the order sheet and began to check the types and quantities of the herbs.

“Mr. Takumi, how do you feel?”

“I feel fine, Ms. Claire. This isn't any different from when I was doing my research, before going to the forest.”

If anything, I had probably made more herbs that time.

Of course, I ate some myself, and the rest were all used by the others in the forest.

“Weed Cultivation really is an amazing ability. Loe is so very rare, and yet it can be grown so easily...”

Mr. Ekenhart muttered as he inspected the field of herbs.

I still wasn’t sure how rare it was, but the duke was very surprised that I could make ten of them all at once.

“While it was mostly curiosity...this ability will surely bring great profits for our house... Mr. Takumi, I must thank you once again for choosing us.”

“Not at all. I am the one who is grateful. You believed me and allowed me to live here, while offering such a generous contract.”

I was just glad that I could use my Gift to help people who I was indebted to.

Furthermore, I would be able to earn a living. It was more than enough.

“I’ve finished counting, Mr. Takumi. It’s exactly what we ordered. Thank you.”

“That’s good. I thought I might have gotten something wrong with the quantity or types.”

“No, it is perfect.”

Some of them I had only ever seen in books, so I had been extra careful to not make any mistakes.

And so I was quite relieved when Sebastian confirmed that everything was in order.

Now, we just had to gather them so that they could be sold.

With Weed Cultivation, you weren’t merely making herbs grow, but you could make it so that they were in the state where they would be the most effective as medicine.

“Now, Sebastian. I will start gathering them.”

“Yes. Thank you.”

“Huh? Mr. Takumi is going to do it himself?”

“Yes. It’s better if I do it.”

I replied to Mr. Ekenhart as I walked towards the small field of herbs.

Chapter 102

I succeeded in surprising Mr. Ekenhart

I suspected that Mr. Ekenhart believed that Weed Cultivation was just an ability that allowed me to grow plants.

And so I would show him.

As I had them in front of me, it would be much faster than explaining it to him.

Sebastian moved back, and I replaced him in front of the field and began to pick the herbs.

“What is he going to do?”

“Well, just watch him, father.”

“Your Grace, Mr. Takumi’s Weed Cultivation ability really is something special.”

Both Ms. Claire and Sebastian were praising my ability and raising Mr. Ekenhart’s expectations. I really wish they wouldn’t do that...

Especially Sebastian...

Still, I did not want that to break my concentration. And so I turned my attention back to the herbs, gathering them into bundles divided by type.

The Loe was the only herb that did not need to be processed in any way. You just needed to pick them, and then cut them open when used.

As for the others, I relied on the explanation in the books.

Depending on what treatment was the most effective, I dried or crushed them to various states.

But while I was doing this, I suddenly had an idea, and used one hand to make an entirely different plant grow.

And I also changed it so that it was in a usable state, and then my work was done.

Overall, the entire job took about half an hour.

It would take even less time if I could gather the herbs faster.

“...What did he do? I saw him picking them, but it looked like he also dried them in an instant.”

“It’s always astonishing to see...”

“Thanks to this, the time between growing and selling them will be shortened greatly.”

While Mr. Ekenhart tilted his head with a puzzled expression, Ms. Claire looked highly amused.

And Sebastian was talking about how they would sell them.

Indeed, normally the process of drying and grinding the herbs would take a lot of time.

I handed over the herbs to Sebastian, and then walked over to Mr. Ekenhart, and gave him the last herb I had made on a whim.

“Mr. Ekenhart, you’ll never know until you try. Now please eat this.”

“What is that? I’ve never seen it before...”

“Oh, it’s that herb, isn’t it, Mr. Takumi?”

Ms. Claire noticed, as she had eaten it before.

Mr. Ekenhart looked at it oddly, and hesitated to eat it.

It was no surprise. It was a strange leaf with a purple pattern on it. And he did not know me very well.

Still, this was the leaf I had given Ms. Claire and the others in the forest. The one that cured them of their tiredness.

I didn’t know if it was due to his age, but Mr. Ekenhart still seemed tired after his sleep.

He had ridden long and hard to get here, and it would take more than a night’s rest to fully recover.

“Your Grace, both I and Lady Claire have already eaten it. It is not poisonous, so please do not worry.”

“...Very well. ...Gulp.”

With Sebastian’s recommendation, Mr. Ekenhart shoved the leaf into his mouth.

Then he closed his eyes and chewed. However, his eyebrows narrowed, probably due to the taste.

As this was not something to eat slowly and savor, Mr. Ekenhart swallowed it hurriedly. And then his eyes opened and he looked at me with suspicion.

But a few seconds later, his expression turned to that of surprise.

“...What is this... I feel like the fatigue is leaving my body!? It’s like I was never tired to begin with... Can such a plant exist!?”

“Mr. Takumi created it after much testing with Weed Cultivation.”

“You can even make new plants... I didn’t realize Weed Cultivation was so amazing...”

“Not only that, but what Mr. Takumi was doing to the herbs earlier was to change them so they are in the most effective state for use. In other words, He can make them grow immediately, and then have them ready for use just as quickly.”

Sebastian explained to him about my Weed Cultivation ability.

How I had not only used Weed Cultivation to make the herbs, but had altered them.

And that I had made herbs that aren’t in any book, and how their effects were immediately tangible.

It looked like Mr. Ekenhart was having trouble processing all of this information.

It was almost amusing to see how his facial expression kept changing.

Though, I did feel a little bad... Perhaps it would have been better to show him at a slower pace.

Still, he was the head of the Liebert house. And perhaps he would be able to think of different ways of selling and using these herbs in the future.

Since he was someone who I could trust, it was best to give him all of the information needed.

He did not look like the type of person to deceive or use people... Well, I mainly trusted him because he happened to be Ms. Claire's father.

"...I had no idea just how... I cannot thank you enough for signing the contract with us... Gifts... certainly are amazing."

"Your Grace, there is still much that we don't know about Gifts. Not all of them will be useful, like Mr. Takumi's."

"Indeed... Mr. Takumi, the fact that you are able to use it so well, and have come up with new ways... I like you even more now! Hahaha!"

While not all Gifts are useful to others, mine is.

Once again, I felt grateful to whoever it was who had given this ability to me.

...Still, it was from this point on that it would really show its worth.

Mr. Ekenhart liked Weed Cultivation very much now, especially since he had felt its effect. And so he opened his mouth wide and laughed loudly while slapping me on the shoulder.

...He did that a lot...and it hurt quite a bit...

In fact, the slapping and laughing was so loud, that Leo, Tilura, and Sherry were now looking at us oddly.

Don't mind us. Just keep playing!

I didn't say it out loud, but I hoped they understood.

I gritted my teeth until Ms. Claire came to the rescue.

Chapter 103

I was told that I needed a way to protect myself

“Father, you are hurting Mr. Takumi. ... You must do something about that habit.”

“Ah, I am sorry. It happens when I am happy... I do try to control myself, but...”

It was only after Ms. Claire’s warning that he finally stopped hitting me.

So he did it out of habit... I suppose I should guard myself from now on? ...Like wearing armor underneath my clothes.

After that, Mr. Ekenhart continued to gush about the usefulness of Weed Cultivation, and Sebastian thought of different ways of expanding that usefulness further.

I was glad when Ms. Claire reminded me that I mustn’t overextend myself.

Well, it wasn’t as if Sebastian or Mr. Ekenhart were making unreasonable demands...I think.

So I was fine.

A maid then came to tell us that lunch was ready, and so we left the garden.

Sebastian took the herbs to the storage, while Ms. Claire and her father discussed future plans as we headed to the dining hall.

I followed after them, while walking with Leo, who was carrying Sherry and Tilura.

Leo seemed to be very happy about being able to play with Tilura.

We then entered the dining hall, and once the food and Sebastian arrived, we ate.

As we enjoyed Ms. Helena’s always delicious cooking, Mr. Ekenhart suddenly muttered.

“Can you wield a sword, Mr. Takumi? Well, not just a sword, but any weapon.”

“Father, what are you talking about?”

“...A...sword...?”

No...a weapon...

I had never even wielded a bamboo sword... And while I had held a wooden sword once...it was just a souvenir when I was a tourist... And that wasn't going to be of much use to me.

As for blades, I've only held a kitchen knife... Though, there was also the short sword that I had borrowed from Sebastian in the forest. But I had only used it to cut down vines and tree branches.

So I could not say that I knew how to wield it.

“I have...no experience with weapons.”

“Hmm...I see...”

“What are you thinking?”

After hearing this from me, Mr. Ekenhart stopped thinking and began to stroke his beard.

Ms. Claire asked him what was on his mind, but he ignored the question.

Was it bad if I couldn't use a weapon?

And so for a while, the meal continued silently.

Once everyone had finished eating, Mr. Ekenhart seemed to have gathered his thoughts together, and he began to eat again as he spoke.

“Mr. Takumi. I think it would be best if you could use at least one weapon.”

“...A weapon?”

“Yes. While you have Leo with you, the two of you might not be together at all times.”

“Wuff.”

Leo reacted to those words.

It seemed like she was saying that she would always be close by to protect me.

I patted her gratefully, and continued to listen to Mr. Ekenhart.

“There is no doubt in my mind that the selling of the herbs will be a success. No other outcome is fathomable. However, it will surely result in people targeting you.”

“...You think so?”

“Well, who would not be interested in something that guarantees success? Of course, we will do our best to keep word from spreading...we will...”

“Mr. Takumi. No matter how much one attempts to keep information a secret, it will always leak.”

Sebastian said, as if to continue from Mr. Ekenhart’s last words.

Indeed, information always did seem to leak, no matter how well kept.

There was a saying about how you couldn’t build a door over a mouth. But there was no internet in this world, so information would surely travel slowly.

However, rumors and word of mouth would still spread. Both good and bad.

And so even if they were careful, people would eventually know that it was me who was cultivating the herbs.

“I understand that...but would I really be in danger over some herbs?”

“You make it sound like it’s nothing, but in this country, the people rely on herbs to cure illness and injury. And you, Mr. Takumi, can easily make Loe...”

“Additionally, you can also make herbs that are...poisonous.”

“Poisonous...”

As I had not even tried to make something poisonous, I had no confirmation. But it was surely within the abilities of Weed Cultivation.

There were herbs that could be poisonous if used wrong, and some that were poisonous to begin with.

“People who would want poison...are clearly up to no good. And you are likely to catch the eyes of such people. While others will simply care about profits.”

“And there is also the possibility that rival merchants will see you as an enemy.”

What Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian were trying to say was, as I was now someone considered to be valuable, it was possible that I would be targeted by all kinds of people.

“And so, Mr. Takumi. You must be able to protect yourself. Or at least, be able to run away if you are attacked. While the guards will protect you while you are here, we do not know what could happen when you go outside.”

“That’s true. And while Leo is with me now, I will likely be targeted during a time that we are separated. And so I understand what you mean.”

“Mr. Takumi should learn how to use a weapon.”

“Wuff...wou-wou!”

I see... There would surely be times when I separated from Leo. Even if it was brief.

For instance, when we go to Ractos, Leo is not able to enter the stores, and must wait outside.

If I was attacked during such times, I might not be able to protect myself.

Leo must have thought the same thing, as she was nodding at their words.

...Though, just a little, she had the air of someone intent on protecting me no matter what...but that was only when we were together... Still, nothing of the sort was happening now, so you can relax, Leo.

I patted her on the head and thanked her so that she would calm down.

Chapter 104

Leo agreed that I should train

“...Besides...perhaps you may need to protect Claire...”

“Father. Whatever do you mean?”

“Well...should you two be married, wouldn't it be natural for him to protect you?”

“What!? Mr. Takumi and I? Married!?”

Ms. Claire's face turned bright red at her father's words.

...Hmm. Ms. Claire was so beautiful, and surely there were many others more worthy of her... I would feel bad if she ended up with the likes of me.

Also, it seemed like Mr. Ekenhart had yet to shake the habit of arranging marriages for his daughter... I suppose it had been this way for so long...

“I think you two would be a lovely couple!”

“You too, Tilura!?”

Tilura had been listening to the conversation, and even she agreed.

Sebastian was grinning without any attempt to hide it... Was everyone here trying to push us together?

...Why were we even talking about this...

“...In any case, Mr. Ekenhart. How should I go about learning to wield weapons?”

“Ah, indeed...”

I said to Mr. Ekenhart, in order to change the subject.

Perhaps it was a little forced, but Ms. Claire also looked relieved, while Sebastian looked unsatisfied.

Really...this butler...

“For now, I will teach you to wield a sword, Mr. Takumi.”

“You?”

“...Father, I don't think...”

Apparently, Mr. Ekenhart was going to teach me.

But was this really a job for a duke?

Though, judging from his appearance, there was no doubt in my mind that he could handle a sword just fine.

Ms. Claire let out a great sigh.

“Mr. Takumi. My father has a habit of wanting to train anyone he thinks is promising. In fact, a few of the guards that work here have been trained by him.”

“That is impressive. Are you that skilled with the sword, Mr. Ekenhart?”

“Indeed...His Grace can beat even the captain of the royal knights, and is surely among the best in the country.”

“Hahaha! The knights captain needs to train more, that is all. But being a captain means a lot of desk work.”

“Your Grace, it is his job to maintain unity in the order. So it cannot be helped that he has many other duties.”

So, Mr. Ekenhart was a master swordsman.

I suppose I was lucky to have such a teacher...but it would likely be hard as well...

“The sword is like the foundation of weaponry. If you can wield a sword, you will be quick to learn with the other weapons.”

“...That is what father believes.”

I didn't know if the sword really was the foundation, but it did make sense that if I learned one weapon, that it would be easier to learn the others.

For now, I needed to get used to wielding a blade.

“All right, training will begin as soon as I finish eating!”

“...Father. Mr. Takumi was using his Gift only a moment ago. I thought I told you what happens when he uses it too much.”

“...Oh, was it something about suddenly fainting?”

“Exactly. There is still much we don’t know about the Gift’s side effects. And so surely it would be safer to avoid any training today.”

“Hmm...however... When it comes to weapons, it’s best to start training as soon as possible...”

Mr. Ekenhart had wanted me to start training after lunch, but Ms. Claire and Sebastian stopped him.

But while I had been using Weed Cultivation to make herbs, I didn’t feel tired at all, so I was probably fine.

However, I hadn’t felt any tiredness when I fainted.

So they were likely right, and I should rest for today.

Though, I wasn’t sure if the strength used for training was the same as the Gift.

And so I watched Ms. Claire and Sebastian persuade the duke as he finished eating.

Then I returned to my room to rest.

Leo was with me, and I started to think about what had been discussed.

“Training with a sword, huh... Do you think it’s necessary, Leo?”

I muttered as I sat down on the bed.

I suppose there was a part of me that always wanted to wield a sword. But now that the opportunity had presented itself, I couldn't help but hesitate.

Because wielding a sword meant the possibility of hurting people.

But just as Mr. Ekenhart said, I had to be able to protect myself.

I didn't want to die here and leave Leo all alone.

"Wuff."

Leo said with a nod.

So Leo agreed that I should learn to wield a weapon.

Indeed, there were places where Leo could not go, and we would be separated.

Besides, I didn't like the idea of Leo being the one to always protect me.

"Yes. Mr. Ekenhart is enthusiastic about it, so I'll do what I can."

"Wuff. Wuff."

Now that I had a more positive view of the situation, Leo barked happily at me and wagged her tail.

Apparently, she had been quite worried that I wasn't able to fight.

And I did not want Leo to worry.

"Thanks, Leo. I know that I can't keep on relying on you to protect me. So I'll do my best."

“Wuff...wuff...”

Leo shook her head as if to say that I didn’t need to worry about that so much.

Still, I had made my decision and would move forward.

I didn’t know how far I could go, or if I had any inherent skill.

However, I still wanted to be able to protect myself.

As I thought about this, a voice rang from the other side of the door.

“Mr. Takumi, may I come in?”

“Oh? Of course.”

After the knock, it was Sebastian’s voice that I heard.

I wonder what it could be... The matter of the contract had been settled, but was there something else?

I got up from the bed, opened the door, and invited Sebastian into the room.

“Wuff.”

“Good Leo seems to be in a fine mood.”

“Hahaha. She is happy that I’ll start training with a sword. She was worried that I was so defenseless.”

“I see. Then perhaps she will not have to worry as much from now on.”

Chapter 105

I learned about the currency value

I looked at Leo as she greeted Sebastian.

We had been living in this mansion for a while now, and so Sebastian was able to tell if Leo was in a good mood or not.

Well, perhaps butlers needed to be extra perceptive about such things.

“Mr. Takumi. As you will begin your sword training tomorrow, I thought I should give you this.”

“Is it...the same sword?”

“Yes. The one you used in the forest.”

Previously, when we had explored the forest, Sebastian had handed me this sword, just in case.

It was short, light, and easy to use. I had swung quite a few times to cut vines and branches, and was decently familiar with it.

Still, it did start to feel heavy after a while.

“And this too.”

“What is it?”

The next thing Sebastian handed to me was a small leather bag.

When I took it, I felt both its solid weight, and the sounds of metal scraping against each other inside.

“Your payment for the herbs you made this morning. According to the contract, you are to be paid as soon as you produce the herbs. But there was a delay, as the purpose was to demonstrate your Gift for His Grace.”

“Ah, I see.”

That’s right. I had done that for actual payment.

I had only been thinking about Mr. Ekenhart’s desire to see Weed Cultivation, that I forgot about the reward.

I emptied the leather bag over my desk, and saw that there was quite a lot of silver and gold inside.

Ah, now that I think about it, I didn’t know the currency value in this place. This was a good time to ask Sebastian about it.

Leo, this might go over your head, so you can sleep quietly.

“Sebastian, I don’t know much about money matters in this world... Could you teach me?”

“...That is true... You did say that you came from a different place. Then I must explain it to you.”

For a moment, a light flashed in his eyes. I think he was happy that his moment had arrived.

You could always count on Sebastian to give you a good explanation.

“First, the one with the least amount of value. Uh, here is one. An iron.”

Sebastian picked up a gray coin from the pile and showed it to me.

An iron, huh?

“It is made from melted scrap iron, but nevermind that. A hundred of them will get you one loaf of bread. And a hundred of these together...makes a copper.”

“Hmm.”

“Wuff.”

Leo was also listening to Sebastian and nodding her head.

Shouldn't you get some sleep...? Also, can you really understand?

I didn't know if Silver Fenrirs understood anything about money, however, Leo did seem to be enjoying herself.

“Ten coppers should be enough to feed one person for a day. Well, that would depend on your lifestyle. Regardless, a hundred of these makes a silver.”

“I see, a silver.”

It wasn't silver-plated, but actual silver.

While it was dull, it would likely shine beautifully if polished.

“And ten silvers makes a gold, which is the most valuable. From what I understand most commoners receive their wages in silvers and coppers.”

“Why silver...and not gold?”

Wouldn't that be like...receiving your salary in thousand yen bills instead of ten thousand yen bills in Japan?

I guess if you wanted it to look like there was more...

“Gold is difficult to use at stores. If you were to buy one loaf of bread with gold, then it would be very inconvenient for the store to give you change, and it would take a long time.”

“Ah, I see.”

Unlike paper bills, gold and silver coins took up a lot of space.

I wouldn't want to have to accept so many coins as change...

After that, Sebastian's lecture on money continued for quite a while as Leo and I listened.

And while my understanding of it wasn't perfect at the end, I did have a decent grasp on how money worked in this world.

1 gold = 10 silver, 1 silver = 100 copper, 1 copper = 100 iron, and 1 iron was similar to 1 yen in Japan.

So a 100 iron loaf would be 100 yen in Japan.

In other words, 1 copper = 100 yen, 1 silver = 10,000 yen, 1 gold = 100,000 yen.

Hmm...wait a minute... Didn't they say that one Loe was 1 gold... So that was 100,000 yen for a single herb!?

Now that I understood the value, I looked at the payment I received with a feeling of franticness.

Uhhh, irons, coppers, silvers...gold...there were 13 gold coins...

So a simple job of using Weed Cultivation to make Loe and other herbs had made me more than 1.3 million yen...

“Um...Sebastian...”

“What is it?”

“Can I really accept this much?”

It was the kind of amount I would usually have to save up for. I had never been paid this much all at once.

My salary at my old job was less than one fifth of this...

“It is in accordance with the worth of the herbs you grew today. Besides, Lady Claire was actually worried that we weren’t paying you enough.”

“No, no. I would never say that this was too little!”

“When it comes to the herbs you grew today, particularly the Loe...the market value is said to be 5 gold...but it can rise as high as 10 gold. Considering this, I can understand why she might feel that 1 gold is too low...”

In spite of my words of protest, Sebastian calmly explained to me of Loe’s value.

I had heard many times that it was a luxury, but...

A plant that was worth 10 gold...a million yen... It was no wonder people were so stunned when I had made them so easily... I could buy a cheap, used car with this.

While I sat there, quite stunned, Sebastian ended his explanation, bowed, and took his leave.

And so I was left there, with a great deal of money that I didn’t expect to have. However, Leo had a rather smug expression on her face, as if she had learned a lot.

...This Gift really is something... But I can’t let myself get carried away. So I’ll try not to think about it too much...

Yes, it would be best to not think so much about money... Like Mr. Ekenhart and the others said, I now understood why I might have a target painted on my back.

Though, I had been paid, and it was a bit late to be coming to such realizations...

Chapter 106

Tilura wanted to learn how to use a sword as well

I looked at the money with a stunned expression for a while, but managed to pull myself together.

“Wuff. Wuff.”

Leo’s fur was nice and clean after bathing yesterday, and so I ran my fingers through it, which had a calming effect.

So I would be paid a lot more than I had been expecting. And I decided to think of it as something that would help me live in this world.

Shortly after, it was time for dinner.

Ms. Gelda came to call us, and so I took Leo and followed her to the dining hall.

As Sherry and Tilura had arrived ahead of everyone, they played and climbed onto Leo’s back for a while until Mr. Ekenhart and Ms. Claire entered the dining hall.

And then the food was quickly served and we sat down to eat.

Mr. Ekenhart ate ravenously like before, and we talked of things of little consequence.

But once we were finished and were having our tea, Mr. Ekenhart turned to me.

“So, Mr. Takumi. Have you received the sword from Sebastian?”

“Yes. It was a sword that I used when we were in the forest, so I’m quite comfortable with it already.”

“I see. That will help, if you are used to it even a little.”

“Father, Mr. Takumi. Are you going to be using swords?”

Tilura was very interested in our conversation, and she listened intently while carrying Sherry.

“Indeed. I will start Mr. Takumi’s sword training tomorrow. ”

“Sword training... Can I join in too?”

“Tilura?!”

“...Tilura. Why do you want to train with a sword?”

Perhaps she was interested in swordsmanship.

While she was a girl, children in general seemed to like the idea of wielding swords...

Still, Ms. Claire was quite surprised by this request, and so was I.

“I am interested in swords. But I also want a familiar like my sister. And for that, I must be able to fight!”

“...Hmm... I see.”

“Tilura... This isn’t a game, you know? Takumi will be training so that he can protect himself. And just because you learn to fight, it doesn’t mean you will be able to get a familiar.”

“I know that! I’ve been studying it ever since Sherry became yours.”

At this mention of studying, I saw Sebastian's eyes gleam as he stood behind Mr. Ekenhart.

Could it be that it was Sebastian who had been teaching her about familiars...?

"Tilura. Is playing with Leo and Sherry not enough?"

"I enjoy playing with Leo and Sherry. But I still want a familiar of my own."

"Wuff!"

I didn't know if it was to have a playmate or some other reason, but Tilura was desperate to have a familiar now.

Leo was nodding as if she agreed with Tilura... Are you sure?

"Tilura, if you want a familiar, then you'll have to fight. Because they are monsters. Monsters do not obey the weak."

Said Mr. Ekenhart. And he was probably right.

Perhaps not all of them, but monsters attacked humans.

And in order to make them submit so that they can be tamed, you had to fight them.

Leo wasn't my familiar, and Ms. Claire and Sherry were a special case.

Ms. Claire had taken care of her when she was badly injured, and she had already been submissive, because Leo was with us. So it was no wonder that Sherry had allowed it.

Well, maybe it was less about that, and Sherry had merely become attached to Ms. Claire...

"Training with swords is not a game. As an instructor, I will hold back, obviously, but you might still get hurt. Besides, you are still small, Tilura. It will be very difficult for you, you know?"

“I don’t mind! I want to become stronger!”

Obviously, Tilura was still growing, and so would be taller eventually.

So perhaps it would be an advantage for her to start training early. But as the training would have to be adjusted as she grew, it might be quite severe.

Mr. Ekenhart talked like he was trying to scare Tilura, but her resolve remained firm.

But why did Tilura want a familiar so badly?

“Tilura. Is there a reason that you want a familiar so much?”

“I cannot tell you that. But, I must have one no matter what!”

Must have one... It was like she was talking about finding her calling in life...

Perhaps it was like how Ms. Claire had such strong feelings when it came to Silver Fenrirs.

“You cannot say why, but you want one... I see. You are a lot like Claire.”

“Father?”

“Yes, I know that Claire feels a special connection towards Silver Fenrirs. And perhaps you feel something similar, Tilura.”

“...You knew...”

“I am your father, am I not? I’ve been watching you more closely than I watch myself... Though, there is still a lot that I don’t know.”

However, Mr. Ekenhart understood the reason that Ms. Claire had wanted to search the forest.

For a moment I thought of praising his ability as a parent, but then I remembered the stories about arranged marriages and how he had come here when they didn't want him to. Perhaps he wasn't as perceptive as he thought.

But then again, perhaps he came because it was close to a forest that was related to the Silver Fenrirs...or I'm just overthinking it.

Like Mr. Ekenhart said, even though they were his daughters, there was a lot that he didn't know about them.

"Father, does that mean!"

"Aye, I will teach you the sword. ...However!"

As Tilura looked at him with great expectation, Mr. Ekehnhart agreed to her request. But he paused and gave her a serious look.

He had made this expression while signing the contract as well. It was rather intimidating.

Upon seeing his gaze, Tilura seemed just a little shaken, but she straightened her posture and then looked back at him with an equally serious gaze.

She was certainly his daughter... I had a feeling that if she was in the same position, Ms. Claire would have also shown a similar spirit, and would not back down. I couldn't help but imagine it.

But I shook such thoughts aside and waited to hear what Mr. Ekenhart would say to her next.

Chapter 107

I was so nervous that I woke up early

"The sword training won't be easy. There would be no point if it was. Do you still want to do it?"

"...Yes!"

Tilura gulped once after hearing Mr. Ekenhart's words, but then she answered loudly.

...Up until now, I had only seen her as the cute child who liked to play with Leo and Sherry, so it was surprising to see this side of her.

"Very well. Then I will teach both you and Mr. Takumi."

"Thank you!"

"...Tilura...it's fine if you train with the sword, but you must continue your other studies as well."

"...Sister..."

Ms. Claire's harsh words rained down over Tilura before she had much time to celebrate.

For just a moment, the word 'studies' caused her shoulders to droop... Well, she was that age...

It always seemed that it was the more active children who did not like having to focus and stay still while studying.

"Tilura. It is your duty as the daughter of a duke. ...Did you really think that you wouldn't have to study anymore if you started your sword training?"

"...No...I didn't think that... But, I did hope it would be lessened a little..."

"Hahaha! I see that you still hate studying, Tilura. But most do at your age. However, Tilura, you insisted on training with a sword. And so you must be equally serious with your studies."

"...Yes, father."

"Wuff. Wuff."

“Kyau!”

As Tilura replied to her father with her face downcast, everyone in the dining hall, including myself, chuckled.

But Leo rubbed her face against Tilura encouragingly, and Sherry, who was being held in her arms, licked her face in an attempt to cheer her.

...No, I doubt Sherry even knew what was happening... I think she just wants to play.

It was amidst this peaceful atmosphere that it was decided that Tilura would receive her sword training, and then we all retired to our rooms.

I think we were supposed to sleep early, so we would be prepared for tomorrow.

...Aside from the expedition into the forest, I had not really done anything in this world that could be considered exercise, and so I was worried about my strength.

And so I would keep the play with Leo short, and go to bed as soon as possible.

I told Tilura that she also shouldn't stay up late playing with Sherry, and then I returned to my room.

Then I took a bath in order to warm my body, and then I went to bed early.

Leo had looked like she wanted attention, but must have understood that I had sword training tomorrow, as she quickly gave up and rolled up on the floor.

Sorry, Leo.

We can play some other time.

Perhaps Tilura and Sherry could ride with me on Leo as she runs all of the way to the town...

In the morning, I woke up as the sunlight came into the room. I got up and dressed quietly so that I wouldn't wake up Leo.

I felt quite refreshed as I had gone to sleep early, but...maybe I had awakened too early as well.

After all, training wouldn't start until we finished breakfast, so I still had some time to kill. It was with such thoughts that I sat back down on my bed and gently petted Leo. And then there was a knock on the door.

"Are you awake, Mr. Takumi?"

"Tilura? I'm awake. Come in."

I heard Tilura's voice after the knock.

Apparently, Tilura had gotten up early as well.

She slowly opened the door and then realized that Leo was still sleeping. And so she tip-toed in quietly.

"What is it?"

"I woke a little early. I would have had nothing to do if you weren't awake... Sherry is still sleeping."

So, she really had woken up early, just like me.

Though, I was sure that Ms. Claire and Sebastian were already up. But Sherry was apparently still asleep.

I suppose Ms. Claire was busy with the morning preparations, so Tilura had wanted to come and see Leo.

“Sorry, Tilura. Leo is still asleep.”

“It’s fine. I like watching Leo sleep too. ...Leo is so cute.”

Now that I thought about it, Leo had never slept while Tilura was around.

Her senses seemed to have become much sharper now that she was a Silver Fenrir, and so would always notice and wake up when someone entered the room.

But today, Leo was sleeping peacefully, even after Tilura’s arrival. Perhaps it was because she was so used to being in this mansion now, that she had let her guard down.

Tilura stared at Leo’s sleeping face as if peering into a window. This seemed to make her very happy.

Well, it was true that Leo looked very cute when she was sleeping.

Even though she was so big now, I couldn’t help but be reminded of when she was still a Maltese.

It was a little odd that her sleeping face had not really changed... Even though she looked so much more powerful.

“It’s good that you got up early, but did you get enough sleep?”

“Yes, I went to bed early like you said. So I’m fine.”

Tilura said quietly so as not to disturb Leo.

She seemed to be amused, as if talking in secret.

“But I am a little nervous.”

“Will you be using a sword for the first time? Then it cannot be helped. I’m quite nervous myself.”

“You’re nervous, Mr. Takumi?”

“Of course, I am. I’ve never used a sword. Well, just a little in the forest... But it’s different when you’re actually going to train with one.”

“I see.”

Tilura seemed relieved to hear that I was just as nervous as her.

Doing something new always came with some anxiety.

“...Wuff?”

“Ah, she woke up.”

“Good morning, Leo.”

While we had been talking quietly, Leo wasn’t so unguarded that she would keep sleeping.

She raised her head and looked around as if puzzled.

“Sorry, good Leo. I didn’t mean to wake you.”

“Wuff. Wuff!”

While Tilura apologized, Leo rubbed her face against Tilura’s cheek as if to tell her to not worry.

“Wuff. Wuff-wuff.”

“Hehe. Good morning.”

Tilura said with a smile as Leo greeted her with a bark.

Chapter 108

I started my sword training

As I watched Tilura with Leo, I thought about how much her laugh resembled Ms. Claire's.

But I suppose it was no surprise, because they were sisters.

Once they had greeted each other, Leo got to her feet and stretched her limbs.

She was fully awake now.

"So that's what you do when you wake up, Leo."

"Wuff."

Tilura was looking at Leo stretch with great interest.

Her feeling of nervousness seemed to be completely gone now.

Tilura always seemed to be at her most normal when playing with Leo or Sherry.

Now that Leo was awake, she played with Tilura for a while and the time passed peacefully.

And then Ms. Lyra arrived to tell us that breakfast was ready, and so we went down to the dining hall together.

"Good morning, Ms. Claire. ...I see that Mr. Ekenhart isn't here again?"

"Good morning, Mr. Takumi. That's right. He hasn't come down yet."

“Good morning, sister. And Sherry.”

“Wuff. Wuff!”

“Kyu!”

I greeted Ms. Claire, who was already waiting for us, and then asked about Mr. Ekenhart.

Apparently, he was still sleeping, just like yesterday.

Tilura and Leo went over to Ms. Claire, who was carrying a sleepy Sherry, and said good morning.

And though she was sleepy, Sherry barked back in reply.

We then sat down at the table as usual, and ate the food that Ms. Gelda brought in.

It was a simple meal of bread, salad and soup.

Apparently, this was Ms. Helena’s day off.

While she always worked hard to make all kinds of delicious meals, it was nice to know that she had time off.

Besides, while simple, it was still a good and satisfying breakfast.

Perhaps it was in preparation for her sword training, but Tilura seemed to eat a little more than usual.

And then, just like yesterday, the door burst open while we sipped our tea, and Mr. Ekenhart entered.

No one was surprised this time, though, Ms. Claire couldn’t help but sigh at her father’s energy.

“Morning, all. Ah, I see Mr. Takumi and Tilura are here.”

“Good morning, Mr. Ekenhart.”

“Father... Good morning.”

The sight of her father seemed to bring back the nervousness, and Tilura’s face grew tense.

Hmm. And it had been such a relaxing time as she played with Sherry... Well, it was probably good to be nervous when it came to training... I think.

“Have you finished eating?”

“Yes.”

“I ate a lot!”

“Your Grace, perhaps I don’t need to ask...but your breakfast?”

“No, I won’t be having it.”

As Mr. Ekenhart scanned the room to see that we had finished eating, Sebastian stepped in from the side.

However, just like yesterday, Mr. Ekenhart did not want to eat.

And then he looked at me and Tilura and nodded.

“All right, you two are ready then. I think we better begin. As for the place...”

“Perhaps the back garden?”

“Indeed. Then we will train in the back garden.”

“Yes!”

“Certainly!”

As Sebastian had suggested, the back garden was large enough so that you could swing a sword without disturbing anyone.

And so Mr. Ekenhart decided it was the best place.

Tilura and I braced ourselves and replied.

The training would finally begin. I was starting to feel a little nervous as well...

Aside from knowing that we would be handling swords, I had no idea what Mr. Ekenhart would make us do...

Perhaps it would start with simply swinging through the air? Or maybe we would learn the right way to hold them?

I tried to guess what it would be as I returned to my room in order to retrieve the sword. And then I headed to the garden where the others waited.

“Good, you’re both here now. Are you ready, Mr. Takumi and Tilura?”

“Yes!”

“I am!”

Me and Tilura stood side by side, and Mr. Ekenhart stood in front of us.

He looked at us and nodded.

Ms. Claire, Sebastian, and even Ms. Lyra and Ms. Gelda was in the garden as well. Apparently, they wanted to watch.

Leo and Sherry were also sitting quietly near Ms. Claire and looking our way.

Well, Sherry was on Leo's back and seemed to be enjoying herself.

"First, you must learn how to hold your weapon. You are both right handed, yes?"

"That's right."

"Yes."

Mr. Ekenhart unsheathed the sword at his waist, and showed us how to grip it.

The blade of his sword was very long. I suppose it would have been categorized as a longsword.

The handle was decorated, and the blade was polished so that it reflected the sunlight.

...It looked very expensive.

Tilura and I were wielding much smaller short swords.

Hers looked a little heavy and unwieldy, but I suppose they had nothing for someone of her height.

Besides, even if they did have something that fitted her, it would likely be of little use in actual combat.

And so the two of us watched Mr. Ekenhart and copied the way he gripped the handle.

“That’s right. Now, hold it like that and swing. And remember to focus on the direction that the blade is facing. And swing it so that it follows the trajectory you have set!”

Mr. Ekenhart swung as if to show us an example.

It was so fast and powerful, that I thought it would scare away little children who watched.

While I doubted we would be expected to do it exactly the same, we would have to get close... This training was not going to be easy.

“Like this? Hmmph! ...It hurts.”

Tilura watched her father swing and then copied the movement.

But she was not used to the weight of the sword, and it swung down to the ground instead.

Her hands became numb, and her eyes welled up with tears...

“Now, that will not do, Tilura. It didn’t follow any trajectory. It won’t matter how great a sword you have, you will never be able to cut something like that.”

And so under Mr. Ekenhart’s guidance, I swung my sword a few times.

It seemed like I was getting better? It was then that he told us to sheath our swords again.

“...Now you know how to swing them. However...you two are being swung by your swords. Of course, it’s only natural for beginners.”

“Sorry...”

“Yes...”

Yes, we really weren't used to the weight, and so we could not focus on the direction of the blade or its trajectory.

So I did not think he was wrong when saying I wasn't swinging the blade, so much as I was being swung by it.

Chapter 109

I thought of a herb that would heal muscle fatigue

"Now let's start with the basic training... Especially since Tilura won't have much energy."

"Basic training..."

"What will we do?"

Was that like exercising?

Indeed, if you had no strength to begin with, then you won't be able to swing a sword with any accuracy.

However, Tilura was tilting her head with a puzzled expression.

"I wanted to teach you how to hold a sword before you developed any strange habits. So do not forget that... But now, we'll have to spend a lot of time toughening you both up."

"Yes."

"I understand."

After that, it was a lot of boring exercise.

Pushups, squats, and situps. We also had to do back exercises as he said back muscles were important when swinging.

All of the training involved your own weight.

It wasn't exciting, but it should be effective.

On top of that, he also added running to the regimen.

As Tilura and I ran around the garden, Leo and Sherry would join us as if we were playing.

And though we were both out of breath, Leo and Sherry looked like they were just warming up.

Obviously, we were made completely differently, but I couldn't help but feel a little jealous by their energy.

Once we were thoroughly exhausted from our training, it was time to rest and eat lunch.

"You have to eat even if you're not hungry, or you won't be able to train for long."

Thankfully, Tilura, who looked like she wasn't very hungry yet, ate all of her food after hearing those words from Mr. Ekenhart.

And after lunch, we repeated the same basic training again.

But as I was training, I had an idea.

"Mr. Ekenhart, do you have a moment?"

"What is it, Mr. Takumi?"

"Well, there is something that I want to make with Weed Cultivation."

"Hmm... As long as it doesn't get in the way of training, I don't mind."

With Mr. Ekenhart's permission, we took a short break from training.

I just needed a few seconds to focus on Weed Cultivation.

Once it was done, I picked the plant and gave some to Tilura...and also Mr. Ekenhart, as he was looking at me as if he wanted some.

"What is this, Mr. Takumi?"

"It's a herb that will heal your tiredness."

It was a blue leaf.

I wasn't thinking about the taste while making it, so it was probably not good.

And so I asked Ms. Lyra to bring some water before we ate it.

After seeing me eat it, Tilura and Mr. Ekenhart also stuffed the leaves into their mouths.

The bitter taste spread in my mouth, so I quickly drank the water.

"Mmm...glug... It tastes bad..."

"It's horribly bitter...but not enough to make me vomit..."

They said with scowls.

It had been pretty bitter for me as well, but I did a mental fist pump, as I could immediately feel the effect.

"...Ah! It's amazing! I'll be able to keep training like this!"

“Incredible... Mr. Takumi. Is this different from the herbs you made yesterday?”

“Yes. While this one is also for tiredness, its purpose is specifically for physical fatigue and sore muscles.”

The one I made previously was for tiredness that built up in your body over time.

And while it did help, the tiredness from training was a little different.

So it wasn't that it wouldn't be effective, but I thought of making something more perfect.

Something that focused on muscles used in training.

If it was possible to get rid of muscle fatigue, then perhaps training will become more efficient. That's why I had used Weed Cultivation.

And it looked like I had succeeded.

All the tiredness and sluggishness I had felt was gone.

Though, unlike the other herb, it didn't seem to do much for energy...

“...It would be nice to have this from now on... Well, we'll leave that for now. But now you two can endure even harsher training.”

“...What...”

“...Mr. Takumi...”

Mr. Ekenhart was true to his word, and we had to go through much harsher training after that.

Everything was doubled, and we had to run at top speed while Mr. Ekenhart chased us while shouting.

...At least Leo and Sherry seemed to be enjoying the increased speed as they ran next to us...

Also, he added sword swinging to the regimen.

We took a few breaks in between, as I would use Weed Cultivation to make recovery herbs, and then it was back to training.

Even without any sore muscles, our energy wasn't fully recovered, so it just felt like things got worse for us...

"Maybe...I shouldn't have made any herbs..."

I couldn't help but mutter.

But Mr. Ekenhart was laughing gleefully about this new efficiency as he continued to torment us.

Training didn't end until dinner was ready in the evening.

And so we all retired to the dining hall.

"Oh, but first..."

We wiped ourselves with some hot water and towels.

While we couldn't wash up completely here, we could at least do something about the sweat... especially since we were about to eat.

However, were Ms. Claire and Sebastian not terribly bored watching us train?

Thanks to the herbs, there was almost no soreness of the muscles, and so I was able to walk back to the dining hall.

Though, the lack of energy made me slow. In fact, Tilura had just hitched a ride on Leo's back.

"You two aren't terrible when it comes to the basics with the sword... Though, some of it is because of the herbs."

"I'm glad to hear that."

"I'll do my best to get stronger."

"So Mr. Takumi can use a sword now."

"Magic, sword, and the Gift... Mr. Takumi really is quite important."

Those were the words Mr. Ekenhart said as we ate.

Both Tilura and I had promise, which was very encouraging to hear.

Even if we were helped greatly by the herbs, I was just glad that I'd be able to use a sword.

"Of course, you still have a long way to go. And so the training will continue."

"Yes."

"I understand."

"...Let's see...do one thousand swings before bed. It's necessary so that the sword becomes one with your hands."

"...What."

“Before we go to bed...?”

Mr. Ekenhart made another addition to our regimen before sleep.

I understood that learning to swing was important, but a thousand times...

“...I’ll be sure to make some more herbs then... So I can give some to Tilura.”

After dinner, I took my sword and went out to the garden in order to train. And I also made a lot of herbs with Weed Cultivation.

Then I gave some to Tilura, who also came out while holding her sword. And the two of us swung silently.

There was no one instructing us now, but we knew that slacking off wouldn’t benefit us at all. And so I continued to swing as Leo looked at me boredly. And then the day was done.

...When I was finished, I took a bath and washed away the sweat.

Chapter 110

I fought a mock battle against Mr. Ekenhart

For a few days after that, we continued our basic training every day, as well as the one thousand sword swings.

And just when my body was starting to get used to the training, Mr. Ekenhart came out into the back garden and told me that the training would now include some actual combat.

“Actual combat... How will we do that?”

“Oh, a simple duel with swords. Obviously, that will mean that I’ll be attacking you two as well.”

“With father...”

Mr. Ekenhart was holding a sword made of wood as he faced us.

Tilura looked at it nervously.

A real fight then... Well, we had learned how to swing a sword, and the basics, on top of our nightly training. So we should have improved a lot. But I was still anxious.

Mr. Ekenhart wasn't even pointing the sword at us. But just by holding it, he looked intimidating.

People who were used to fighting had a different aura...

"Father, are you sure about this?"

"Of course, I will have some restraint. This is just a test to see how much progress they made during the past few days."

Ms. Claire sounded concerned, and Mr. Ekenhart replied while swinging the wooden sword a few times as if to test it.

...It definitely made a much louder sound when cutting through the air, compared to Tilura and I...

As I would be starting first, Tilura stepped back, and Mr. Ekenhart and I faced each other.

Ms. Claire and the others were here again, and they watched us from a distance.

"Now then, you can start. Come at me."

"Yes!"

While he had a wooden sword, I had an actual blade.

And for just a second, I wondered if he would be all right. But then I remembered that such thoughts would be quite rude, considering his ability. And so I raised my sword.

As if I was practicing, just as I had been taught...

In my head, I decided on how I would move, and then I swung the sword at Mr. Ekenhart.

Well, he hadn't taught us that much yet, and so I was mostly just swinging down with all of my might.

"Ha!"

"...Your swordsmanship has improved...but it's not enough."

Even though I was swinging with all the strength I could muster, Mr. Ekenhard seemed to just flick his wrist, and push my sword to the side.

With my trajectory altered, my sword slammed into the ground instead.

The vibrations that I could feel through the sword started to make my hands numb, but I ignored it and tried to raise the sword again. But then I saw Mr. Ekenhart sway in the corner of my vision.

"It looks like you've died once, Mr. Takumi. You cannot take your eyes off of an enemy during a real fight."

"...Yes. Thank you."

By the time I had registered Mr. Ekenhart's movement, he already had his sword at my neck, and the battle was over.

If this was an actual sword, and he wanted to kill me... Then I would really be dead...

I knew that I had made a mistake by caring only about the sword after it had been turned aside.

Though, I doubted I would have been able to do anything even if I did keep my eyes on Mr. Ekenhart.

“Next is Tilura.”

“Yes!”

Tilura was called by Mr. Ekenhart, and so she took a step forward and faced him.

In the meantime, I sheathed my sword and moved back, while shaking my numb hand.

...It will feel prickly for a while...this hand...

Tilura swung down, much like I had, but her attack was blocked, and her sword bounced away.

Once she had lost her balance, Mr. Ekenhart thrust the wooden sword towards her face.

“And now you are dead too, Tilura. It is not a bad thing to swing with all of your might, but you have to think about what you will do if you are thrown off balance.”

“Thank you.”

And so in just a few minutes, both Tilura and I were defeated by Mr. Ekenhart.

It could not be helped, as we had only been training for a few days, but I did feel a little resentful over how easy it had been for him.

“Now, I think you both can see how lacking you are. It’s only natural, as your training has only just begun.”

“Yes.”

“Yes.”

“But there is not a whole lot that I can teach. In order to use a sword, you need to practice until you can become one with it. And you have to be able to think.”

“To think...”

“To think ahead. How will your opponent move? How should you move? And whether or not you can actually do it... Well, there are also a lot of smaller details...”

The movement and countermeasures would depend on the opponent.

And the thing that would tell you how you should move, was your daily training.

According to Mr. Ekenhart, that was the basics of combat.

I didn't know much about fighting, but the words of someone who easily beat us sounded quite convincing.

“I'm a busy man, after all. And so today will be the last day that I can oversee your training.”

“You are leaving, father?”

Mr. Ekenhart was a duke. And so it was no surprise that he was busy.

I had to be thankful that he had spent time to train us during these past few days.

Tilura had looked nervous and a little crestfallen when learned that he was visiting, but she looked very sad now.

Well, she was still young, and so it made sense that she'd want to be with her father. She had only been upset earlier because of the matter of arranged marriages.

“Yes, I cannot stay here forever. Besides, there is the business of selling Mr. Takumi's herbs.”

“I apologize for the trouble.”

“There is no need for you to apologize, Mr. Takumi. This is also for the benefit of our family.”

After that, Mr. Ekenhart tousled Tilura’s hair to cheer her up, and then he told us the next part of our training.

It was a little less harsh than before, but still harsh enough.

We repeated it over and over, and then he said that there was one more thing that we could do. By mastering this training, we should be able to handle a sword without any help.

But as it was time for dinner, the training would have to wait for the following day.

And after dinner, Tilura and I practiced our swings as usual.

I thought back on my fight with Mr. Ekenhart as I tried swinging in different ways. And I did feel that I was swinging less aimlessly and more efficiently, compared to before.

Mr. Ekenhart had also warned us to not develop any troublesome habits, which I had kept in mind.

On the other hand, I hadn’t been able to play with Leo very much... It was with such thoughts that I went to bed.