

## **Beloved Dog 121**

Chapter 121

I Organized The Leo Queue

“I think I better help her.”

“Yes, please do. ...Hey! Wait your turn!”

And so I moved away from Mr. Kalis, and went over to Leo.

Mr. Kalis seemed to be quite busy with stopping children who were running around and not waiting for their turn.

Leo looked quite happy when she saw me walk over to her... Even her tail had wagged a little.

And then I patted her body gently.

“Leo. You were very good to wait here quietly.”

“Wuff.”

I said while petting her.

Leo’s bark was very quiet, as if she did not want to startle the children.

Now, what could be done about this chaos... I know...

“Leo. Why don’t you bark very loudly once?”

“Wuff?”

Are you sure about this? Leo seemed to be asking.

“Yes. It’s fine. I’ll deal with the aftermath.”

“Wuff.”

I reassured her, and Leo barked quietly in reply and nodded.

And then she took a deep breath.

“...Grau!”

Leo howled loudly.

And then the area suddenly became very silent.

Leo barked much louder than even I was expecting, and though my ears rang a little painfully, I looked around to see the reaction of the others.

The clerks who were selling the herbs, Mr. Kalis, and all the children and adults who were around Leo...had all froze and were looking at her.

Now that they were quiet, it was my chance.

“Uh, first of all, could everyone step away from the Silver Fenrir? Parents, please take your children and step away!”

I shouted loudly as if to match Leo’s volume.

...Though, I did not get close...

Still, as the place was so quiet, everyone was able to hear me.

“This Silver Fenrir’s name is Leo! If you want to touch Leo, then please wait in the line in front of Mr. Kalis, over here! You can take turns playing with her!”

Upon hearing my words, the children began to move away.

And then the parents also came and fetched their children.

All right, that should do it.

“You can take it from here, Mr. Kalis.”

“...Uh...very well. ...If you want to touch the Silver Fenrir, please form a queue over here! You must take turns! By the way, good parents! We have very potent medicinal herbs that will cure ailments and injuries. Please take a look at the table over there!”

Mr. Kalis called, urging the children to wait in line.

...He also didn’t forget to advertise, which showed his skill as a merchant.

“Welcome. Be gentle when you touch Leo. Don’t worry, she’s not scary!”

“Can I hug her?”

“Of course. But do it gently. She might get startled if you do it too suddenly. You wouldn’t like it if someone did that to you, would you?”

“Yes!”

As the children waited in front of Mr. Kalis, I instructed them on how to play with Leo.

Leo was no longer being swarmed by them, and only a few came forward at a time.

After that...I don't know how much time passed. But I felt quite busy as I continued to guide the children forward.

I didn't know where they were coming from, but the line never seemed to end.

There were also some adults mixed in, but as long as they were respectful towards Leo, I didn't mind.

"Aha! I see you're selling something here. Business must be booming!"

It was just as my voice started to grow raspy from so much shouting, I heard a loud voice coming from the table where the herbs were being sold.

"...What?"

"Wuff?"

Upon hearing it, even Leo and the children stopped what they were doing and turned to look.

"Hahh!"

With a shout, I heard the sounds of something breaking.

I had to stop Leo from reacting and jumping forward, and then I looked between the gaps of the crowd to see what it was.

What I saw was the remains of the display table after it had been broken in two.

Thankfully, Mr. Kalis's ability as a salesman had meant that most of them were sold, and so only a few herbs were scattered on the ground.

...Still, while it was my ability, it hurt a little to see the herbs I made on the ground like this...

“Customer, what do you think you’re doing?!”

“AHHH!? I’m no customer! If you don’t want any more trouble, hand over the profits you made just now!”

While Mr. Kalis tried to deal with the situation, the man was in no mood to calm down.

If anything, from what I could hear, he was threatening to cause more damage unless they gave him some money.

“Leo, you wait right here. It will cause a bigger scene if you get involved.”

“Wuff?”

But I can handle it so easily? Leo seemed to say in reply, but I told her to stay put. And then I walked towards the voices in the crowd.

I moved through the spectators until I had a clear view of what was happening. There was a man there who was shouting angrily.

“You again... Weren’t you arrested?”

The man turned to look at me.

He was one of the men who had threatened us the last time we had all come to this town to shop.

They had been arrested and taken away by the town guards... Were they really released so quickly in this world...or country?

He had a mohawk, shoulder pads with spikes, and studded leather armor. Furthermore, he was wearing spiked gloves. Like someone from a post-apocalyptic world.

“Eh!? Who the hell are you?”

Apparently, the man didn't recognize me.

Well, Leo had been the one to deal with them. Ms. Claire was beautiful enough to leave a lasting impression, but I hadn't even been standing in the front.

"You tried to attack us before, and the guards arrested you."

"So you're...one of them!"

He finally remembered me, and then he pointed his gloved hand at me as if he had found his new target.

He was holding a small knife.

So that's what he had hit the table with...

"Well, your fenrir isn't here to save you this time... You're just smallfry now."

"Hahh... I guess you'll have to be arrested again."

The man had seen that Leo wasn't with me, and suddenly looked confident and relaxed.

## Chapter 122

### I Confronted The Man Who Caused The Ruckus

"I just escaped from there, and I am not going back!"

"!"

Apparently, the man had escaped from the prison.

He shouted such things as he raised his hands and then lunged forward with the knife he was carrying.

I unsheathed the sword from my belt and swept the knife to the side.

...I was only able to do this because his movements were slow... And I had studied the way Mr. Ekenhart's moved...

"What!?"

The man was stunned that his knife had missed. I then unleashed a kick at him.

My foot slammed into the side of his stomach, causing him to roll onto the ground. But even then, he tried to rise up in order to continue the attack. However, I thrust my sword out so that the tip pointed at his face.

"Do you still want to continue? If that's the case, I might have to push a little deeper with this?"

"...Tsk."

He must have realized that it was no use, as the man dropped the knife he was holding and the strength seemed to leave him.

So I was able to move like this now...

Not only was I thankful that I had trained so hard, but I was thankful to Mr. Ekenhart for teaching me, and to Leo for helping me train.

"Phew..."

"...! Gah...!"

"Wuff."

Just as I had sighed and withdrawn my sword, the man snatched the knife off of the ground.

So he was waiting for me to let my guard down... However, before I could even register the danger, Leo jumped over the wall of spectators and landed so that her paw pressed down on the man's stomach.

After being stepped on like this, the man let out a croak like a toad that was being squashed. And then he stopped moving.

Apparently, Leo had been watching the man and detected his movement.

"Thank you, Leo. You saved me."

"Wuff. Wuff."

I thanked Leo and patted her on the head. She was still stepping on the man.

You should be more careful. Leo seemed to say, but it was hard to take her seriously when she was enjoying being petted at the same time.

Just then, applause erupted around us.

It then grew louder as it spread.

They were applauding Leo and I for taking down the man.

I could also hear voices shouting.

"That was amazing, mister!"

"The way that the Silver Wolf swooped in...it was so gallant."

"Thank you, mister."

"Leo is so cute."



Came the various voices.

Most of them were praising us.

“Mr. Takumi!”

As the crowd thanked us, Ms. Claire and Sebastian must have heard the noise, as they flew out of the shop.

Mr. Kalis came over as well.

The clerks carried away the broken table and picked up the herbs from the ground.

“Mr. Takumi, you are too reckless. You should leave such things to the guards.”

“Exactly, Mr. Takumi. You are too important to lose over something like this.”

They were so worried about me, that they almost sounded angry. But even I couldn’t explain why I had stepped forward...

I had done it with a calm mind... Well, it might have been because I saw the herbs on the ground.

Perhaps it was his disregard for them that I found unforgivable.

I might have been more angry than I realized...that wasn’t good.

“I’m sorry... It seems I was angry because he ruined the herbs...”

“It seems?”

“Well, I suppose I can understand your anger towards his actions, but...”

Ms. Claire looked a little puzzled by my words.

The thing was, I didn't even realize that I was angry. And even now, I wasn't sure that I was.

"But more importantly, what should we do with him?"

Ms. Claire asked as she looked towards the man who Leo was holding down.

We could just call the guards and have him arrested again. But it could be very troublesome if he escapes again...

"Tsk."

While the man seemed to be in pain under all that weight, he still glared and clicked his tongue at us.

He clearly wasn't sorry... Also, Leo? Are you putting less pressure on him than it looks?

If Leo put all of her weight down, she could easily crush a human to death.

There were children here, and I did not want them to see a man get squished, while blood and other things flew in the air... So perhaps Leo was being extra careful.

"Indeed..."

"What should we do, Sebastian?"

Sebastian thought for a moment and then walked towards the man without answering Ms. Claire's question. Then he said to the man,

"Did you know that this store belongs to the duke?"

“Ah? I don’t know nothing.”

“So why did you choose this place?”

An interrogation?

And so we all watched as Sebastian questioned the man.

Though, Leo couldn’t see too well, as he was under her foot.

Mr. Kalis was looking at the fallen man with an expression of pity... Why?

“I wanted money... Damn it. I should have gone somewhere else!”

“I see... You did all of this just for some money.”

Sebastian then mused over those words for a moment.

“You have defied the duke on his lands. Of course...he has the right to judge you.”

“And so what! Why are you telling me this!”

The man did not understand why Sebastian was saying this, and he shouted angrily.

Think hard... Defy the duke on his lands... I didn’t know much about the laws of this country, but it seemed obvious to me.

“It was an attack on his house...threats and violence against his store... Even the death penalty might not be enough for you...”

“What!?”

The man went pale and then became speechless when he heard Sebastian's words.

After hearing all of this, he finally understood the situation that he was in.

However, Sebastian looked like he was enjoying this...his voice was extra low and threatening. And yet he also sounded calm, which made it all the more frightening.

Perhaps Mr. Kalis knew what was going to happen, and that was why he pitied the man?

"...Now do you understand the position you're in? Ah, there is no use trying to run away. You are being held down by the great Leo. A Silver Fenrir... She will not allow you to leave."

"...So it's a Silver Fenrir..."

"Grrrrr..."

Chapter 123

The Man Finally Understood His Situation

After listening for a full minute, the man understood that Leo was a Silver Fenrir, and what it is that he had done.

Leo seemed to have joined Sebastian, and was now growling in a low and threatening way... Leo really did like to join in on the fun.

Now that I think about it, he had just called Leo a wolf last time, and this time he seemed to think she was a fenrir.

I suppose it was because he didn't know about Ms. Claire or the duke's family.

Now that he knew who it was he had antagonized, and what could happen to him now, the blood seemed to drain from his face as he grew pale.

I didn't know that humans could even look that pale.

“He-help me! I was acting out of impulse!”

“Do you really think that’s going to get you out of this...?”

“I-I’m sorry! I repent! But just spare my life!”

The man began to plead desperately with Sebastian.

“Sebastian...don’t you think you’re going a little too far...?”

“Hmm. But it’s important to put the fear into them. Or they might do the same thing again...”

Ms. Claire muttered with uncertainty as she watched Sebastian threaten the man.

Someone who would do the same thing after being caught once needed to learn to be afraid, or they would just repeat the same thing again.

Well, I did think he had accomplished that now...

Besides, there was something very cowardly about the man.

“What should we do...?”

“I beg you! Spare me!”

Sebastian continued to threaten the man, as if he was still undecided.

This was getting very drawn out?

“I think he gets the point, Mr. Sebastian.”

“Mr. Takumi... He attacked you as well, didn’t he? You wish to forgive him?”

Uh, why did it seem like he was threatening me now?

When Sebastian turned to face me, his eyes were still narrowed and his voice low.

It was honestly a little unnerving... You could tell that this was a man who had experienced a lot...

And though I was a little overwhelmed, I continued.

“Well, he wasn’t even good enough to put up a fight at all. As long as he knows that there will be no next time.”

“I see... If that’s how you feel, Mr. Takumi.”

So saying, Sebastian stood up straight again and let out a sigh.

Perhaps Sebastian had continued for so long because he was waiting for Ms. Claire or me to intervene.

If that was the case, then he was quite the actor...

“Leo. You can get off of him now. Ah, Johanna. Can you tie his hands up?”

“Wuff.”

“Very well.”

Leo nodded and then lifted her paw.

Johanna had been standing next to Ms. Claire, and just like the last time, she produced a rope from somewhere and used it to tie the man’s hands and feet.

...I only needed his hands to be tied...

As the man had no will to resist now, he just lay there quietly.

“Now, you finally understand what you have done. Are you remorseful?”

I asked. The man nodded repeatedly, like some kind of broken doll.

“O-of course. I am so sorry... While I didn’t know, I caused a lot of trouble...”

The man said as he nodded at me.

So he was capable of speaking politely after all... Though, the mohawk moving up and down ruined the effect a little...

Now, what should we do from here...

After Johanna finished tying the man up, he sat upright. I watched him and pondered the question.

As the binding around his hands and feet were also connected, the only thing he could move freely was his head.

“Ms. Claire and Sebastian. I suppose it would usually be up to the duke to decide the man’s fate. But would you mind if I handled it?”

“...Indeed... The table was broken, and there was other damage to the store... But it was you who he threatened with the knife. So I do think that you have that right, Mr. Takumi.”

“Well, you were also the one to restrain him. While this is not the passing of authority, I suppose we can turn a blind eye this time... Don’t you agree, Mr. Kalis?”

“Yes... I will leave it to Mr. Takumi. We made more than enough profit off the new products in order to cover the cost of the table.”

Ms. Claire, Sebastian, and Mr. Kalis all agreed.

Even Johanna and Nicholas nodded.

Well, perhaps there was a lot of trouble that would come if the duke dealt with it, but Sebastian and the others said they would let it pass this time.

I was grateful for how accommodating they all were.

“But, what about everyone else who is gathered here?”

“Of course, it is something that everyone should know. Do you all understand? The duke’s family is not involved in this matter.”

The spectators who had been watching all nodded at Sebastian’s words.

As they all seemed to trust the duke, perhaps it wasn’t necessary to speak so threateningly, Sebastian?

In any case, I was glad to see that everyone was satisfied here.

Now, I had to think about what I would do with the man.

“Leo could eat...”

“Ahh!”

“Wuff...”

I had only muttered it as a joke, but the man shuddered, and Leo shook her head with disgust.

Don’t worry, even I wouldn’t make Leo eat a human.

“Well, I was just joking... But still...”



I could just hand him over to the guards, but then he might run away again... Though it seemed quite unlikely with how scared he was now.

And if I handed him over, there would be no point in having gotten everyone's permission.

"Mr. Kalis."

"Yes?"

As I had one idea, I called out to Mr. Kalis, who was standing nearby.

At this point, the clerks had picked up the fallen herbs, and were lining them up on a new table that had been brought out.

This table was smaller, but it was fine, as there were now fewer herbs to sell.

I watched them and gathered my thoughts together before explaining my idea to Mr. Kalis.

Chapter 124

I Thought Of What I Should Do With The Man

"Mr. Kalis. Do you have enough people working here?"

"Indeed... If we are going to start selling herbs like this, then perhaps we could use more help. Though, it depends on how they sell from here on... But, why do you ask, Mr. Takumi?"

"Well, I was wondering if this man could work here. He seems to be in desperate need of money."

"That..."

If they were going to sell my herbs, then they might need some help.

However, Mr. Kalis did not seem like he wanted to hire someone who had caused such a scene right in front of his eyes.

After all...he had broken the table and made threats.

Well, what about this, then?

“What if he was hired by me? His job would be exclusively related to herbs.”

“You, Mr. Takumi?”

“What are you thinking, Mr. Takumi?”

“I don’t understand the meaning of doing things like that...?”

Not only Mr. Kalis, but Ms. Claire and Sebastian were also surprised by my words.

Well, this guy...had attacked me with a knife. Wanting to hire such a person was surely not normal.

“Sebastian, Mr. Kalis. When I make herbs, they will have to be delivered to this store, yes? And regularly.”

“Indeed.”

“Yes. They nearly sold out today, so we would need to restock regularly in order to avoid running out.”

Sebastian and Mr. Kalis nodded.

I could just make a lot of herbs at once and deliver them, but Ms. Claire and the others would be so worried, and probably won’t let me do it.

There was the chance that I could faint again... Besides, I also wanted to make herbs for my training, so it was best not to push myself too far.

In that case, it was necessary to make smaller and regular deliveries.

“Obviously, it would be quite a hassle to deliver them here regularly.”

I doubted that I, Ms. Claire or Sebastian could deliver them each time.

I had my training, and Ms. Claire and Sebastian were busy with other duties.

We only came today, because it was the first day that they were being sold.

“In that case, I thought I could hire this man to pick up the herbs from the mansion and deliver them here. And I suppose he could do some chores around the store when not making deliveries...”

“I see... So you want to make this man deliver them... But do you really think that he will deliver them as you say?”

Mr. Kalis understood my intention, but still didn't look convinced.

Indeed, while fear might insure that he didn't go against us again, he still might try and run away.

I wasn't exactly sure what to do about that... I had just said what was on my mind, and perhaps needed to think about it more.

“Hmm... Mr. Takumi. What will you do if this man escapes?”

“Well...I'm not quite sure...”

I admitted to Sebastian that I had not given it enough thought.

And he was only right to question me.

“I see... Well, perhaps I can make a suggestion?”

“What is it?”

“I am not completely against your plan, Mr. Takumi. After all, you will be able to keep a direct eye on him if he is working for you. However, he might still run away... And so you could use magic.”

“Magic?”

What was he going to do with magic?

Surely it wasn't an attack... Though, I wasn't really sure what you could do with magic in this world...

What kind of magic was Sebastian going to use?

“There is a spell that allows you to track people. If you use it, he will not be able to run away. It's usually used on criminals.”

“It prevents them from running?”

“It doesn't prevent them, but allows you to capture them easily if they do... I think this man was able to escape before the guards cast the spell on him.”

I see. So if we used this spell, even if he ran away with the herbs, it would be easy to find him again...

Though, that in itself was rather troublesome...

“Wuff. Wuff.”

“Hmm? What is it, Leo?”

As I thought about the magic that Sebastian told me about, Leo put her face close to mine.

“Wuff. Wuff. Grr!”

“I see. That just might work.”

“What did Leo say?”

“She said that we should cast the spell on the man, and leave the chasing to her.”

As Leo was faster than any horse, it would be easy for her to catch him as soon as he tried to run away.

“I see... In that case, I will make it so that Leo will be informed if he runs.”

“You can do that?”

“Yes. With this magic, you can make multiple people aware of the target’s whereabouts.”

In that case, Leo would be able to detect it immediately and catch him.

“...And what do you think about that?”

After I finished talking to Sebastian, I turned to the man who was sitting on the ground.

He would have been listening to the conversation. With this requirement of having the spell cast on him, I would be able to hire him.

If he accepted it...that is.

But if he wouldn’t repent and agree to it, then I would have no choice but to leave him to the guards or Sebastian.

“...Uh, what do you mean?”

“It means that I’m going to hire you. Don’t worry, while I did say that I’d put you to work, I do intend to pay you.”

“You’re going to hire someone like me?”

The man could not hide his surprise at this.

Indeed, it was quite abnormal to hire someone who had attacked you with a knife.

However, in spite of the fact that he had done something bad, I didn’t know if I’d be able to sleep well at night if he was executed immediately.

In this country, such insolence against the duke might be worthy of a harsh punishment, but I was born and raised in Japan.

I wanted him to have a chance of reform before something irreversible happened.

...That being said...I would have to ask if he had any other criminal record as well.

“It really depends on whether you want to reform and live a proper life. Also, we will cast the tracking spell on you. And should you try to run...”

“Wuff!”

“I-I won’t run! I promise!”

Chapter 125

I Decided To Hire The Man

As if to continue from where I left off, Leo showed her fangs and growled. With a pale face, the man promised that he would not run away.

As for whether or not he was to be believed, it all came down to how he worked from here on out. But now that he knew that Leo was a Silver Fenrir, he should understand that he could not escape. And so I doubted he would try anything foolish.

“So, will you work for me?”

“If you will have me...yes! I will do my best!”

The man seemed very moved by my words as he nodded and accepted.

“Well, Sebastian. Please do it.”

“You will be hiring a criminal. Are you sure about this?”

“Yes. I believe if set on the right path, he will be reformed. Of course, should he try and escape, I’ll send Leo after him.”

“You are too soft, Mr. Takumi. From my point of view... Well, I respect your way of thinking. Very well. I will cast the spell.”

Sebastian was probably right, and I was being too soft.

It was clear that he was a criminal, and there was the possibility that he would repeat the same offense again.

However, for some reason, I could not ignore him so he would be sent off to be punished.

“Now then... Black Element Mark Pursuit.”

Sebastian had nodded at me once before turning to the man.

Then he held his hand over him and chanted the spell and unleashed the magic.

Black strands extended from his hand. They wrapped around the man and then disappeared after a few seconds.

Now we would be able to track him... It was definitely a strange sight.

“With this, you will always be able to know this man’s current location. Can you see it, Good Leo?”

“Wuff.”

Leo nodded at Sebastian.

Apparently, Leo was also able to tell, due to the magic.

...Magic really was convenient.

“Now, I will remove the ropes. I’m sure that I don’t have to tell you, but...”

“Ye-yes! I will stay calm!”

I approached the man in order to unbind him.

He looked at Leo and nodded readily.

Leo was behind me and growling with bared teeth... I doubted anyone would even think of doing anything violent in such a situation...

“All right, you’re untied now.”

“Thank you, brother!”

“Brother?”



“Since you saved me, allow me to call you brother from now on!”

“Well, I suppose... But you better work seriously, all right?”

“Yes!”

The man smiled and nodded.

However...it definitely felt strange, being called ‘brother’ by someone who looked like they stepped out of a post-apocalyptic setting...

“Ah, Mr. Kalis. Do you have a minute?”

“Yes. What is it, Mr. Takumi?”

While I was dealing with the man, Mr. Kalis started selling the herbs again as if nothing had happened.

That was quick... He was certainly a tough salesman...

But I called him over so that I could explain what would happen now.

“Mr. Kalis. From now on, this man will be delivering the herbs for me. And when he’s not doing that, you can make him do odd jobs around the store.”

“Umm...while we could use the help, are you sure about this?”

“It should be fine. Sebastian had cast a magic spell on him, and he understands what will happen if he disobeys. ...You will work hard, won’t you?”

“Yes! I won’t do anything that would disgrace you, brother!”

“I can hardly believe this is the same man who caused such a scene... Very well. I, Kalis, will watch over him as he works here.”

Now, that was settled.

Of course, I would have to be the one who pays him.

That being said, since I was being paid for the herbs, I could just pay him from that... I will have to discuss the matter with Sebastian and decide on a rate...

“Well, let’s begin then...uh...what is your name?”

“It is Nick!”

“Nick... Please follow me.”

“Yes! Goodbye, brother!”

“Aye. Work hard.”

So the man’s name was Nick... Now that I thought about it, I had forgotten to ask him his name.

And so I left Nick with Mr. Kalis, and patted Leo on the head for doing so well. And I went over to Ms. Claire, who had been watching the whole scene.

“Mr. Takumi. Was that really wise? He attacked you with a knife...”

“Yes. Not all criminals should be punished. It’s better if they can be reformed. ...Though, Sebastian doesn’t seem to agree...”

I said with an awkward smile to Ms. Claire’s question.

“There is no doubt that you’re too soft, Mr. Takumi. However, I still commend the way you took care of the situation. Otherwise, it would have ended with a very harsh punishment.”

“Yes. It would be different if we were seen as being too lenient. It could cause confusion in the lands that we govern.”

“So leaving it to you was likely the right thing to do, Mr. Takumi. ...That man...Nick. It’s all up to him now.”

“I’m sure that it will be fine. And if not, Leo will deal with him.”

“Wuff. Wuff.”

According to Ms. Claire and Sebastian, as the part of the duke’s family, they could not have handled the situation in the same way.

Those who stood on top had to be fair, or it would be difficult to govern.

And in any case, there was no way that he could escape from Leo... And now that I’ve been training, even I could restrain him with ease.

“Welcome back! What happened outside?”

“We’re back, Tilura.”

“Tilura, Takumi was doing something very interesting.”

After Ms. Claire had led us back into the store, we were greeted by Tilura, who had been waiting patiently inside.

Leo was still playing with the children, and I was sure that she’d be able to handle them on her own now.

Besides, Mr. Kalis and the other clerks were also used to being around her.

Ms. Claire then happily told Tilura about what had happened.

Sebastian also filled in some details as they talked, and we enjoyed our time and relaxed qwhile sipping some tea. And then a moment later, Nick walked in the door.

“Hey, brother! I came to call you because they finished selling all of the herbs.”

“I see.”

Mr. Kalis must have sent him in to call us.

Since the herbs were all sold, we all stood up from the table and went outside.

Chapter 126

I Heard Some Rumors

“Mr. Takumi, we finished selling all of the herbs that you provided.”

Said Mr. Kalis when we stepped outside.

Now that the herbs were sold out, there were no more customers around the table, and only a few children and their parents were left playing with Leo.

At least Leo seemed to be enjoying it...

On the other hand, the herbs had sold out, and it was still a little before midday...

I should be happy that things were going well, but was there really such a high demand for them?

“Mr. Kalis, is the number of people who need herbs growing?”

“Indeed. Apparently, some dishonest physicians have infiltrated the town and started doing business lately...”

Sebastian asked Mr. Kalis this question.

It did seem like there had been a lot of people coming to buy them.

Well, many of them had likely come to see Leo, just like Mr. Kalis had predicted, but the fact that they had sold out so quickly suggested there was still a high demand for them.

...However, what was this about dishonest physicians now?

“People are selling herbs of bad quality, or weakening the effects by adding other things to the powdered herbs, and yet still sell them at normal prices.”

“Oh... So there are people who do such things...”

Physicians that sell inferior medicinal herbs, huh?

There were people like that in my old world too. So I suppose it was the same wherever you went.

But Sebastian’s eyes were shining with a suspicious light... It was a little scary...

“It is quite bold of them to do such a thing on the duke’s lands... This might become very interesting.”

“Sebastian enjoys crushing those who use cowardly methods. ...Perhaps it is like a hobby for him.”

“Lady Claire, that is not true at all. It’s only that I cannot forgive dishonesty. ...Hehe. I will make a report to His Grace as soon as we return...”

While Ms. Claire explained this to me, Sebastian denied the accusation.

However, his words and overall air after that seemed to suggest that she was actually correct.

“In any case, Mr. Takumi. About the future of the herbs...”

“Yes.”

Mr. Kalis ignored Sebastian and turned to me.

The future... If we could sell this much, perhaps I should start growing more of them?

“In terms of amount, it can either be the same or just a little more. Aside from that, I would like to increase the amount of Ramogi as well.”

“Ramogi? Is there so little of it then?”

I had made Ramogi many times, so it would not be difficult to do.

Well, I still had to be careful about fainting, so I couldn't just grow a lot of it without thinking.

“Yes. Recently, there has been plague that is spreading in a nearby village and this town. And while it can be treated with Ramogi, as there are so many people who have fallen ill, there is currently not enough Ramogi to go around. Besides, with dishonest physicians selling their herbs as well, it doesn't always reach those who need it the most.”

“I see...the plague...”

“Thankfully, our shop is owned by the duke. And I've seen the quality of your herbs, Mr. Takumi. And so if we focus on selling Ramogi here and help quell the plague, it would really help with our reputation.”

Unlike those other diluted ones, my herbs would be very effective.

And with Weed Cultivation, I can make herbs that are in the best state for maximum effectiveness.

If we sold these good herbs, then it would help the duke's business and keep sales stable.

...If things go well, word might have spread quite far by the time Mr. Ekenhart reaches his house.

“As for the herbs that Mr. Takumi will make, I will handle the arrangements.”

“Sebastian...thank you.”

Just a moment ago, Sebastian had been gleefully thinking about what he would do to the immoral physicians, but he now returned to himself and started to talk with Mr. Kalis.

Well, I’m sure that it will be fine if I leave it all to Sebastian.

He just needed to tell me how many herbs I had to make later on.

“Leo. You seem to be enjoying yourself.”

“Wuff.”

“Hehehe. Good Leo has become quite popular with the children of this town.”

“Of course, she is! Because she is so cute and gentle!”

I moved away from Mr. Kalis and Sebastian as they talked, and stopped in front of Leo, who was playing with the three remaining children.

Leo was wagging her tail happily as she played with them.

Ms. Claire also watched with a smile.

Tilura seemed very proud for some reason... I suppose she was happy that someone she was close with was now popular with others.

I petted Leo as the children wrapped themselves in her fur or rode on top of her back.

She had done so well today... With the handling of Nick, attracting customers, playing with the children. It was all because of Leo that we got through it.

“Brother... Sorry to disturb you, but there’s something I want to ask...”

“What is it, Nick?”

As I was petting Leo, Nick came out of the store and approached me.

However...being called ‘brother’ from someone who was older than me was...awkward, but I decided to not think about it too much.

And so I moved away from Leo so that I could listen to what Nick had to say.

“Brother. Just earlier, you were talking about that guy who sells inferior goods, yes?”

“Yes, we were.”

“This guy... He came in from a different town. But I heard him say that he was connected to a certain nobleman.”

“A nobleman...? And you really met this person?”

I suppose he was talking about a noble who wasn’t the duke.

Because I couldn’t believe that Sebastian or Ms. Claire would be involved in such a thing.

“Well, just once, when I went to shake down the store...”

“Nick...”

He only seemed slightly embarrassed by this. I would have hoped he would be more apologetic.



Perhaps I will have to keep an eye on him from now on...

## Chapter 127

### Nick Told Me About What Was Happening

“Of course, I regret all of that now. But never mind that. It was when I was at that store...”

“Hah... You better not do something like that ever again... And then?”

“Yes, I know! ...And then these armored soldiers came out from the back of the store in order to suppress us. ...Just like that one...”

Nick said as he pointed at Nicholas.

He was wearing iron armor, had a sword on his belt, and also wore a helmet. It was very obvious that he was a soldier.

If these men looked the same, then they were likely soldiers as well.

“And then what did you do?”

“Me and the others tried to fight them, but then this man, who I assumed was the owner, came out as well... And then he said this. ‘We’re here doing business with the approval of a noble house. What you are doing is a bold attack on their house.’”

“Hmm... In other words, he was threatening you, saying that there would be retribution from the nobles?”

“Yes. We didn’t want to get caught when we heard that, so we ran from the place.”

I see. That was quite similar to what just happened here...

However, was it really true that they were backed by a noble house...?

I didn't know if noble houses would involve themselves in such lowly business practices, so I could not say.

I would have to talk about it with Sebastian later.

"Thank you for telling me. And you must never do that again."

"Of course, I won't do it. I'm going to do my best to be useful to you!"

Nick was already acting like he was my sworn younger brother, but to me he was just a subordinate.

It would be best if he was monitored continually.

Though, I did hope that he would work hard.

"Mr. Takumi. What were you talking about?"

"Ah, Ms. Claire. The thing is, Nick..."

"What did he say?"

I had gone back over to Leo after I finished talking with Nick, and Ms. Claire wanted to know what we had been talking about. But just as I was answering, Sebastian ended his conversation with Mr. Kalis and started walking this way.

That was good. I wanted him to hear this as well.

"Hmm...nobles involved with the sales of inferior herbs..."

"Mmm...this might get very complicated..."

Upon hearing what I had said, Sebastian and Ms. Claire groaned and were deep in thought.

If this involved other nobles, then merely punishing the sellers would not be enough to put the matter to rest.

I didn't know much about the world of aristocrats, but when it came to the relationships of powerful people, they would usually develop into complex problems.

"In any case, I will have to report this to His Grace."

"Yes... Sebastian. Father wouldn't have arrived at the house yet, would he?"

"Indeed. From the mansion to the main house...he has probably not even reached the halfway point yet."

"Would it be possible to catch him if you sent a messenger?"

Ms. Claire wanted to send a messenger to Mr. Ekenhart right away.

"...While it won't be easy...it must be done. His Grace will be able to plan our course of action after hearing the news."

"Yes. And then he'll be able to act as soon as he reaches the house. Unless, of course, he decides to return here instead."

"Indeed... In any case, it would be best to get this news to him as quickly as possible. Nicholas?"

"Yes!"

Once they had come to this conclusion, Sebastian shouted Nicholas's name.

"Go and investigate the facts of the matter at once. And when that is done, make preparation and pursue His Grace. And, of course, do not forget to send someone to contact the mansion as well."

"Understood."

After hearing this order, Nicholas immediately made to leave.

So it was Nicholas who was going to have to go after Mr. Ekenhart...as he was chasing someone on horseback, he would have to ride hard with very little rest... I know...

“Nicholas. Wait a minute.”

“What is it, Mr. Takumi?”

I stopped Nicholas and then searched inside of my bag.

Oh, there. This is it.

“Take this with you. It’s a herb to heal any muscle fatigue. And this one will get rid of tiredness.”

“I can have these?”

“Yes. I’m afraid it will be a very taxing journey.”

I said as I handed the two types of herbs to him.

I had made them for my training, but I was sure they would be useful here...

It was just too bad that I didn’t have more.

“I accept them...gratefully.”

“Yes. Please stay safe.”

Nicholas accepted the herbs carefully and then nodded once towards Sebastian before running off into the town.

It will be tough, but good luck.

“Lady Claire, Mr. Takumi. Lunch is ready, so please come this way.”

“Thank you, Mr. Kalis.”

After seeing Nicholas off, we all ate lunch, which Mr. Kalis provided for us.

And since Leo could not enter the store, we decided to eat outside at Tilura’s suggestion.

Sebastian, Johana, and Mr. Kalis joined us.

And while Mr. Kalis’s food was no match Ms. Helena’s cooking, it was adequately delicious.

Apparently, it had been bought on the streets by the other store clerks.

If we ever had time, it might be nice to go sightseeing and buy food there.

“Mr. Takumi. About your schedule after this...”

We were almost finished eating when Ms. Claire brought up my plans for the rest of the day.

“If you don’t mind, I was hoping you would accompany me for a while?”

“I don’t mind. Where are you going?”

“There is an orphanage in this town. You see, this talk of plagues and bad quality herbs has made me anxious...”

An orphanage, huh...? They had such facilities in Japan. Fortunately, I had never been in one.

I didn't know what they were like in this world, but Ms. Claire seemed to be worried about the children there.

And since I had no plans in particular, it might be a good idea to go and see it.

If it turned out that they were also affected by these bad herbs, then I might have to use Weed Cultivation. Thinking this, I answered Ms. Claire.

## Chapter 128

### We Went To The Ractos Orphanage

"Very well. Then we'll go to the orphanage after lunch."

"Thank you. Tilura. You'll be able to see the others again."

"Really!? It's been so long!"

Once it was decided that we would go to the orphanage, Ms. Claire thanked me and then addressed her sister, who was stuffing her face with skewered meat.

Judging by Tilura's reaction, she had been to the orphanage before.

"Well, Mr. Kalis. I look forward to working with you in the selling of the herbs. ...And Nick, you better work hard."

"Yes, of course."

"I know, brother!"

After lunch, we said goodbye to Mr. Kalis and Nick then left the store.

...I was a little worried about Nick, but Sebastian said he would have someone keep an eye on him, so it was probably fine.

Besides, there was the magic spell.

“Still, an orphanage, huh...? Do you go there often, Ms. Claire?”

“Yes... I try to visit it at least once a month.”

On our way there, I asked Ms. Claire about the orphanage.

Apparently, managing the orphanage was one of the duties of nobles. And nobles who governed towns would always establish one.

They were run with the taxes they collected. And though they differed greatly in wealth depending on location, as this one was owned by the duke, it was modest but comfortable.

“Of course, it is still not much compared to the average household...”

While they were run on taxes, as the duke’s business was succeeding, he taxed the people very little.

Which meant less funds for the orphanage. Though, these funds were also supplemented from the duke’s own pockets.

On top of that, people who were raised at the orphanage would often be hired as servants or soldiers. And they would in turn, help support the facility as a way of giving back... Such was the environment.

By the way, Ms. Lyra, as well as Ms. Gelda and Johanna, Nicholas and Phillip, were all from the orphanage.

...About sixty to seventy percent of the servants in the mansion were.

Sebastian said that it was better to hire people who were guaranteed to be loyal.

“This is the orphanage, Mr. Takumi.”

“So this is it.”

Near the edge of the town, on the east side, that was the opposite of where we came, stood the orphanage.

The building was nice, and well tended to.

In fact, it looked like a church?

There was a bell tower with a cross on top... The large doors in the front looked like they were about to burst open as newly weds ran out.

Though, there were no stained glass windows. But the stone building otherwise looked a lot like a church.

“Is the headmistress here?”

“...Lady...Claire? ...Ah, I didn’t realize you were here. I will call the headmistress right away!”

As I was admiring the building from outside, Ms. Claire approached a woman who was sweeping the front with a broom.

It must be someone who works here.

“...There is a serious atmosphere here.”

“Really?”

Ms. Claire looked a little worried as she watched the woman rush into the building in order to call the headmistress.

As this was my first time here, I had nothing to compare it to.



However, the woman had been looking at the ground as if she was deep in thought.

And that's why she hadn't even noticed it when Ms. Claire approached her.

"Lady Claire, Lady Tilura! Welcome!"

"Anne, it's been a while."

"It's good to see you!"

A thin, middle-aged woman appeared, along with the woman who had been sweeping.

So this was the headmistress... And just like the first woman, she was also dressed similar to a nun.

It was black cloth that covered her from head to toe... It must be quite hot during days with strong sunlight.

"While we are always pleased to welcome you two here...Right now..."

"Did something happen?"

Head Mistress Anne looked at them apologetically.

The other woman was also looking at the ground. Has something happened?

"No...it's just...most of the people here have become ill from the plague. And so I cannot allow you two to come in. If you should also become ill..."

"I see... So that's the reason. And what medicine?"

Apparently, the plague had spread through the orphanage.

I didn't know what kind of illness it was, but regardless, I understood why they didn't want to let the duke's daughter in.

"Medicine...we gave them some that we acquired cheaply...but it did not have much effect."

"No effect... Sebastian?"

"Yes. Ms. Anne, this store you bought it from. Did they say anything about being connected to a noble house?"

Ms. Claire and Sebastian suspected that the medicine was connected to some malicious traders.

If they were mixing the medicine with something else, it would weaken the effects, so it was no wonder they would not get healed.

"Huh? Yes. They did say that the store was managed by a noble. And so we thought they would be reliable..."

"I knew it..."

"So it wasn't about your house, Lady Claire?"

Apparently, she had assumed that it was run by the duke's family.

Perhaps it was only normal for the common citizen to assume that it was lord of the town when they heard 'noble.'

"No, we are not involved in that store at all. Besides, I've heard that they sell goods of low quality. ...Sebastian, this..."

"It will be necessary to act at once. If left alone, it will have great consequences for the house's reputation. ...It was a good thing I had sent Nicholas on ahead."

“...So you aren’t related to them, Lady Claire... I did not know...”

“Anne. So everyone here is still troubled by the plague?”

“Yes... No one has recovered, so they are still bed-ridden. And we don’t have enough money to buy more medicine... I’m very sorry, Lady Claire.”

“There is no need for you to apologize. It is the fault of the store who sold it to you.”

So the people of the orphanage were still suffering due to the cheap medicine they had bought...

## Chapter 129

### The Sickness Had Spread Through The Orphanage

“As for how we will deal with this store, that can wait one moment. We must first tend to the people of the orphanage.”

“Indeed. ...Mr. Takumi, can you give them some herbs?”

“Very well.”

“...Who is your companion? And...that wolf...?”

Mr. Claire made the request. So it was my turn to act then.

After all, I had Weed Cultivation, and could make something proper and of good quality.

As for Ms. Anna, she looked at Leo and me with a puzzled expression. Now that I thought about it, we hadn’t introduced ourselves yet.

“Mr. Takumi is a brilliant pharmacist. And this is Leo, a Silver Fenrir. ...Don’t be afraid. Leo would never harm a human.”

“...Is-is that so...? ...Umm. Mr. Takumi. I am Anna, the headmistress of this orphanage.”

“It’s nice to meet you.”

We bowed after Ms. Claire’s introduction.

The woman who stood next to Ms. Anne looked very surprised by Leo, but she seemed to believe Ms. Claire’s words, and was not afraid.

However, Ms. Claire...I’m not really a pharmacist...

“Mr. Takumi, it is to hide your ability. That way, it would not be strange for you to be carrying herbs.”

“...I see.”

Sebastian whispered this to me, as if he had been reading my mind.

Apparently, they wanted to conceal the fact that I could use the Weed Cultivation Gift.

By minimizing the number of people who knew, I might be able to avoid being targeted by strange people.

“Mr. Takumi, if you don’t mind...”

“Ah, but first, could I see how the patients are doing? Or I won’t know what herbs will be effective.”

“Indeed. And I have some knowledge of herbs, and should be able to advise you.”

“...However...if Lady Claire were to get infected...”

Because I had to know the state of the illness when choosing the most effective herbs.

If Sebastian were to be there and share his knowledge about them, then I would be able to grow them immediately.

However, Ms. Anne was still worried about Ms. Claire and Tilura.

“This is awful...”

“...Indeed.”

But in spite of her worries, we entered the orphanage anyway.

Ms. Anne finally agreed to it, though she was frowning.

Leo, Tilura, Sherry, and Johanna all waited outside.

As a child, Tilura was at greater risk, and Leo could not even fit inside of the building.

Johanna stayed with them as their guard, and Sherry would keep Tilura company.

“These symptoms...”

“What do they tell you, Mr. Takumi?”

We were led to a children’s room.

It was likely a room shared by two or three people. And on the beds were children who had expressions of agony.

I didn’t have a lot of knowledge about illnesses...but I felt as if I had seen sights like this before.

Their faces were red as if suffering from a fever...and they were coughing painfully...

...Maybe it was a cold...?

“What do you think, Sebastian?”

It was dangerous for an amateur to make assumptions, and so I asked Sebastian for his opinion.

I didn’t know if they had colds in this world, but that’s what it looked like to me.

Sebastian scanned the room and then approached one of the children.

“Excuse me.”

He then inspected their mouths and felt their temperature by putting his hand on their foreheads.

“Yes... I believe that this is the same illness that Lady Tilura had.”

“Tilura...”

Ms. Claire muttered. She seemed to be terribly affected at the sight of the children, and wore a pained expression.

Tilura had also been ill when I had first met Ms. Claire.

I had heard that the fever wouldn’t subside, so something similar was happening here...

A cold could have different symptoms, but this time they were the same, according to Sebastian.

“So it’s a cold...It’s the same in this world then.”

“A cold? You know about this illness, Mr. Takumi?”

“It was very common in the world that I come from.”

It was something that everyone experiences.

And while it was not to be treated too lightly, you could acquire medicine very easily, and some people would get better after sleeping a little.

It was a common illness.

“Mr. Takumi, since it is the same illness as Lady Tilura...”

“Ramogi.”

“Yes.”

While Sebastian was not a doctor, he had been watching Tilura closely while she was ill, and recognized the symptoms.

And since Tilura had recovered immediately after drinking the Ramogi, he was sure that it would do the same here.

And I had made Ramogi many times.

Yes...it was like we were linked.

“Anna. We’ll be out in the gardens. You stay here and look after these people.”

“Very well.”

Ms. Claire had been listening to us, and so told Anna to wait as the three of us went out into the orphanage garden.

The reason that we didn't bring Anne or anyone else, was so that they wouldn't see Weed Cultivation.

"Thank you, Mr. Takumi. While this isn't related to selling the herbs..."

"I am with you in wanting to help the children. It's fine."

"You will be paid once we return to the mansion, Mr. Takumi..."

As the children of the orphanage were in pain, I wanted to help them if I could.

However, Sebastian insisted that I would be rewarded.

I really didn't need it, as I thought of it as volunteer work...

"Ah, but before I use Weed Cultivation, Sebastian. How many people are there in the orphanage in all?"

"I believe there are thirty-one, if you count all the adults and children."

Thirty-one... And add everyone who came here today...and some extras. Forty should be enough.

"All right, here goes."

"Thank you, Mr. Takumi."

I said, and then I crouched and put my hands on the ground.

And then I thought about the familiar Ramogi. The shape and effect, and then used Weed Cultivation.

Chapter 130

I Learned About What Happened At The Orphanage



“Thank you.”

“Thank you!”

After I had finished growing the Ramogi, I passed it around to everyone in the orphanage.

Of course, I had been sure to dry all of it so that it could be used immediately.

Ms. Anna and the others accepted it and had the sick children drink it.

Half an hour later, most of them seemed to have recovered.

However, a few remained weak.

“No, I’m just glad that I was able to help you.”

Ms. Anna and the children who had recovered all came out in order to thank me.

No longer were their faces contorted in agony, and they were all cheerful smiles.

The sight of children suffering was not something I wished to see.

“Still, it was amazing that you were able to secure enough medicine in such a short amount of time.”

“Mr. Takumi is a brilliant physician.”

While Ms. Anna was astonished at my ability to provide so much of the Ramogi at once, Ms. Claire explained that it was because I was a good physician.

...Was that even an explanation?

“Also, anyone who didn’t get sick should drink these.”

“That is the same thing that the others drank... But why?”

“Prevention and precaution. Perhaps some are ill, and just don’t know it yet as there are no symptoms.”

I didn’t know if it was even a concept in this world...they did not seem to know much about medicine at all.

Besides, there was also the latent period.

But I didn’t want to explain this, and just said it was a precaution.

“You too, Ms. Claire and Sebastian. Also, Tilura and Johanna should take it as well.”

“Very well.”

“I will deliver it to them right away.”

And so I handed them the Ramogi.

Sebastian immediately went to deliver it to Tilura and Johanna, along with some water.

Tilura had been sick only a short while ago, so she was probably fine, but there was no harm in being safe.

That’s why I had made extra herbs.

Besides, if it was spreading through the orphanage, then it was probably spreading throughout the area. It would be best to make some for the servants once we return to the mansion as well.

“Still, it’s a good thing we were able to tell what illness it was.”

“Indeed. However, Ramogi is supposed to be quite affordable in this town... Anne. What is happening?”

“Well...once it started to spread, people started buying all of the Ramogi from the stores. Though, I did hear that there are people who are testing with different herbs in order to find a cure.”

I suppose those with money were doing what they could to help heal people by conducting tests with herbs and medicine.

However, that had resulted in there not being enough for the orphanage.

“I went around the town and asked at different stores, but it seems that starting around two weeks ago, all the herbs would be bought as soon as there was new stock. And it was as I was wondering what to do that I heard of a new store that sold Ramogi for cheap...”

“I see. And this is the store that claimed to be connected to a noble house.”

“I’m back.”

As I was talking to Ms. Anna, Sebastian returned.

And so Ms. Claire told him what we had just heard.

“So that’s the reason... It would explain why we couldn’t get Ramogi for Tilura.”

They had not been able to acquire Ramogi quickly when it was Tilura who was ill.

And now it seemed like it was because there was none being sold in town.

That’s why Ms. Claire had left the mansion.

“There is something suspicious about this store and the blight...”

“Indeed... It will require a thorough investigation.”

Ms. Claire and Sebastian were muttering to each other. But could there really be more to it?

“What is it?”

“Mr. Takumi. It so happens that the store in question appeared at the same time that the illness started to spread.”

“From what we heard, the store appeared over two weeks ago. And the sickness started to spread around two weeks ago as well. And it was during this time that the stores started to run out of their stock of herbs...”

“So you think that it was all planned by this one store?”

“No. I wouldn’t go that far... Well, I do think it was them who bought all of the herbs to create a shortage.”

Hmm... In other words, once they detected the spread of the disease, they opened the store.

And then they bought the stock from the other stores so that customers would come to them...

“...Perhaps they were reselling those herbs after mixing them with something else.”

“That is definitely possible. ...Lady Claire, I must leave you for now.”

“Yes. I’m counting on you.”

And then Sebastian left the room.

“Where did he go?”

“To investigate the matter. It’s no longer something that Nicholas can handle alone. People must be called from the mansion, and word must be sent to my father.”

“I see.”

So Sebastian had acted because he realized that this would require a thorough investigation and report.

Still, what were we supposed to do after being left here?

“Could we stay here until he returns, Anna?”

“Of course, stay for as long as you like. The children will be happy.”

So it was decided that we would wait here.

With Ms. Anna’s permission, we had the children all gather in the garden.

Of course, it was only the children who were well. The others continued to rest in their beds.

“All right, Leo. You can play with everyone now!”

“Wuff.”

I brought Leo into the orphanage garden so that she could play with Tilura and the other children.

While it was not as large as the garden at the mansion, it was still large enough for Leo to enter.

At the very least, she could do some light running.

“She’s so big!”

“Wow! So fluffy!”

“How cool!”

“Kyau-kyu!”

“I haven’t been able to play with you all for a while!”

“Kyau!”

The children were excited and filled with curiosity when Leo appeared.

Tilura had visited this place before, and she was happy to be able to play with other children her own age.

Even Sherry seemed to be having fun as she barked from on top of Leo’s back.

“It’s nice to see that they are all better.”

“Yes. Thanks to you, Mr. Takumi. I am glad to see them having so much fun like this.”

“Lady Claire, Mr. Takumi. Thank you so much.”

A table was set out in the garden, and Ms. Claire, Anna and I sat there and watched Leo play with the children.

Ms. Anna thanked us again, but being able to see them all like this was more than enough.

And so for some time after that, we smiled and watched the children play in the garden.