

Beloved Dog 161

Chapter 161

We Departed From Ractos

“As for any obstruction, I’ll have some of the mansion guards posted here. That should be enough to deal with them.”

“Indeed. It would be a great relief to have people who are as finely trained as them. Besides, they are Duke Ekenhart’s own men, so my trust in them is immense.”

Mr. Ekenhart was a master swordsman, so anyone he trained should be able to beat any ruffians with ease.

I had only spent time with a few of them, like Phillip, Nicholas, and Johanna, but they all seemed terribly reliable... Though, I hadn’t actually seen them fight. It was just the way they carried themselves.

“As for how to prevent them from buying... What can be done?”

That was unusual. Sebastian asked Mr. Kalis for a suggestion.

While Sebastian was reliable for his great wealth of knowledge, it seemed that he didn’t know that much when it came to trade.

“...Indeed... What about setting a limit to how much you can buy? From what I understand, you do not need much to treat the illness. In that case, we can explain this to customers and limit everyone to only buying one.”

“I see...that would prevent them from buying in bulk. However, what about people who are buying for their whole family?”

“In such cases, they will have to explain and offer some evidence that they speak the truth.”

Suggested Mr. Kalis, and they quickly decided on various countermeasures.

One person could buy up to two, and if they needed more than that for their family, one of the clerks would confirm that they were telling the truth.

It was also brought up that the malicious store could send several people to this store, but this in itself would offer information about them.

Besides, we didn't want to add too much to Mr. Kalis's workload.

And if they happened to use more violent and threatening methods...the mansion guards would handle it.

"Well, here are the herbs for you to sell while I am away."

"Yes, thank you. I'll have Nick focus on working here in the meantime."

"Thank you. I'll let you know as soon as I return."

"Certainly."

Now that they had decided on everything, I took out the herbs from my bag and handed them to Mr. Kalis.

Now Nick would not have to come to the mansion for a few days.

I hoped he would work hard in Mr. Kalis's store and learn how to treat customers properly.

Now that our business there was over, Sebastian and I left the store.

As I had to leave through the east of the town in order to go to Range village, I headed towards the east gate.

“Mr. Takumi, here is a map that will help you.”

“...Thank you.”

While Sebastian had given me directions on how to reach it, he also handed me a map, just in case.

Perhaps I was lucky. He had just happened to see one that was being sold in town, and had bought it for me.

“It really is close to a straight line, just as you said.”

“Yes. There is one place where the main road branches off, but it is not complex at all.”

I spread out the map in order to look at it. The map was filled with details on the area surrounding the town of Ractos.

Range village was basically a straight line from it to the east.

As Sebastian said, there was a branching path to the north. But as long as we didn't go there, it was unlikely that we could get lost.

“Now, please be careful, Mr. Takumi. And we will be waiting for your quick return.”

“You should be careful as well, while you continue the investigation.”

“Yes, I know.”

When we were near the east gate, Sebastian said that he was going to investigate the store, and so we would part ways there.

With a deep bow, he left. I hoped he would be as careful as possible.

There was still much that we didn't know about the store. And if they found out that someone from the duke's house was sniffing around, they might try and do something.

"Also, Mr. Takumi. Don't forget what I told you when teaching you to use magic. If anything were to happen to you, Lady Claire...and Lyra would mourn."

"Don't worry, I don't intend on allowing that to happen, but... Well, I'll think of every option and run when it's the right time."

Sebastian's last warning... If I encounter an enemy that I can't defeat, then I should run away.

Your life was the most important thing.

As for the thing he said after that, with a knowing grin, I would ignore it.

"All right, let's go, Leo!"

"Wuff!"

As soon as we were out of the gates, I climbed onto Leo's back and she started to run.

"As we were delayed a little, please run a little faster!"

"Wou! Wou!"

While we hadn't even lost a full hour, I still wanted to deliver the Ramogi to the village as soon as possible.

And so I asked Leo to run at a slightly faster speed than usual.

My baggage acted as a cushion, and I held on tight so that I wouldn't fall.

Leo replied enthusiastically, and then began to run at what felt like double speed.

...Uh, maybe it was too fast?

I was surprised that I was able to hang on... But perhaps it was because my training had toughened me up.

“...Leo. Run a little farther away from the main road!”

“Wuff?”

“You’re startling people we pass by!”

“Wuff. Wuff.”

As I held on tightly, I shouted for Leo to move away from the road.

As she was moving at such a great speed, I had to shout loudly in order to be heard. Well...Leo actually had good ears, so maybe I didn’t need to.

At first, Leo seemed like she was puzzled by the request, but she then understood and so moved away a little.

For nearly an hour after departing Ractos, Leo had surprised travelers moving in both directions by the incredible speed at which she ran.

But who wouldn’t be surprised by the sight of a giant Silver Fenrir running down the road?

I had even seen panicking horses, and people throwing away belongings and running. That was how scary Leo looked to them.

They did not know Leo, but only saw a Silver Fenrir, the embodiment of horror.

Well, some may not have even realized she was a Silver Fenrir. But they still saw a huge monster...

Chapter 162

We Encountered A Monster On The Way

“Thank you, Leo. Now we won’t scare as many people on the road!”

“Wuff.”

As Leo had a very friendly personality, scaring people would not have been her intention.

And while people were often scared of her, I doubted she enjoyed being seen as an object of fear, and I didn’t want that either.

...Besides, just look at how cute she is...

“Wuff. Wuff.”

“Hmm? What is it, Leo?”

“Wuff-wuff. Wouu!”

After that, we continued to run parallel, but at a short distance, with the road. But then Leo suddenly started to slow down and bark as if to tell me something.

“Hmm. I suppose it’s fine then.”

Away from the main road, where there were trees that Leo could hide behind, we stopped.

“So, what’s the matter?”

“Wuff. Wuff! Wuff.”

“I see... That time already... I wanted to go a little farther...but it cannot be helped.”

Behind the trees, I got off of Leo's back and listened to what she had to say.

Apparently, due to running so much, Leo was hungry.

I looked up and saw that the sun was high in the sky... As for my watch...it said that it was midday.

So it was no surprise that she was hungry then.

"All right. Let's eat here."

"Wuff! Wuff!"

After deciding this, Leo started to wag her tail happily.

She must have been very hungry then... From the mansion to Ractos. From Ractos to here. She had been running a lot.

I petted Leo appreciatively and then unstrapped the baggage from her back.

"Uhh...food..."

"Wuff?"

I untied the cloth and looked at the food supplies that Sebastian had prepared.

Leo peered from behind me as well.

She was curious and hopeful over what we would eat for lunch... But considering it was stuff like portable rations, she really shouldn't get her hopes up so high...

Those things usually don't taste very good.

“Oh, here it is. ...Hmm. I’ll have to thank Sebastian when we return.”

“Wuff. Wuff.”

I took out a few different bundles and unwrapped them.

There was bread, and quite a lot of sausages.

Also, leather flasks that contained water and soup...

With all of this, we could have something like a proper meal.

So it wasn’t portable rations... Well, there was some dried meat. So there might also be portable rations, in case the journey was longer than expected.

“Leo. Help me gather some wood.”

“Wuff.”

And so Leo and I gathered the fallen branches around the trees.

The bread was one thing, but we wanted to cook the sausages... But as we didn’t have a pot, we wouldn’t be able to heat up the soup...

“That should do. All right, Leo. If you would be so kind.”

“Wuff! ...Wooo.... Grau!”

After gathering enough branches, I stacked them together to make a bonfire.

As it was just to heat some food, we didn’t need that many branches.

I asked Leo to light the fire, and then I used some branches to skewer the sausages and place them nearby.

I watched Leo, who waited happily as she watched the sausages cook.

“All right, they look good now. Here, you can eat these.”

“Wuff!”

I gave her permission, and then Leo quickly picked up one of the sausages and ate it.

I also started to eat some bread.

There was meat and vegetables inside of the bread, and it was every bit as tasty as the food we ate in the mansion.

“Maybe Ms. Helena cooked this. I’ll have to thank her when we get back.”

“Wuff. Wuff.”

I muttered as I ate. Leo nodded in agreement as she devoured her sausages.

Her tail wagged busily, suggesting that they tasted very good.

About an hour passed, and when we were finished with our soup, bread and sausages, I packed our things so we could continue our journey.

...Though, Leo looked like she was still hungry... But since we were still traveling, I didn’t think it would be good for her to eat until she was full...

She will just have to wait until we returned to the mansion, and I could ask Ms. Helena to prepare something special for Leo. It was with such thoughts that I put out the fire.

Once I was certain that the fire was properly extinguished, I climbed back onto Leo and set out once again.

“Ah, turn left here...we need to move away from the main road.”

“Wuff.”

After going a little farther, we left the main road, like the map suggested, and headed towards the road to Range village.

Unlike in Japan, the main roads were not connected to small villages.

The roads weren't even paved in this world.

“It's quite close to the forest, huh...”

After going west from the main road for a while, we then headed towards the east.

Further on, there was a forest. And while it wasn't to the same degree as the fenrir forest, it looked very dense.

As the map showed detailed terrain, I knew that there was a forest nearby, but I didn't realize it was this close.

If Range village was this close, then perhaps they worked in forestry.

“Wuff!?”

“What is it, Leo?”

I was clutching onto Leo and just starting to get used to the speed enough so that I could take in my surroundings, when Leo suddenly slowed down again.

What happened?

“Woaaa...”

Leo stopped and began to growl.

This reaction... I had seen it in the fenrir forest... When we encountered the orc...

“Wooo...wou. Wou! Grau! Grau!”

“I see, I see.”

Leo was telling me that there was danger. Apparently, there were a few trolls up ahead.

“Wooo.”

Leo continued to growl guardedly as she slowly advanced in the direction that the trolls were.

“Leo, I know I’m always asking this, but can I leave this to you?”

“Wuff!”

I asked Leo to deal with the trolls, and Leo nodded assuringly.

She then continued a little farther until I was able to see the trolls as well.

“There they are...just like the ones we saw before.”

Giants that were over three meters tall and wielded clubs.

But as Leo had already defeated them by the time we arrived, this was the first time I was seeing them standing.

While they weren't the ones who had been tormenting Sherry, I still felt a sense of hostility towards them.

"Sorry to rely on you every time, Leo."

"Wuff!"

Leo barked as if to say that I shouldn't worry about it, and then she stopped so that I could get off of her back.

She wouldn't be able to fight at her best if I was still riding her.

I also unstrapped the baggage from her back. Then I waited.

While the trolls were up ahead, they had not noticed our presence yet.

Chapter 163

We Defeated the Monsters and Cleaned Up

"Thank you, Leo!"

"Wuff!"

Leo barked energetically, and then she immediately started running towards the trolls.

They still hadn't noticed us... From here, I could see that there were...seven.

And Leo charged right into their center. And with a speed that my eyes could barely follow, she slashed with her front paws, and tore through them with her sharp fangs. In the blink of an eye, four of them turned into clumps of flesh.

“Gyu-gyu?”

“Gyuowaaa!”

“Gyuuuu!”

“Grau!”

The remaining trolls finally understood what was happening, and they frantically began to swing their clubs. However, their movement was considerably slower than Leo.

Humans would have screamed in terror when facing the attacks of the trolls, but Leo just dodged them with ease.

“Gyuwaaa!”

“Gyu!”

“Gyuwa!”

She avoided their clubs and then lashed out with her claws once again.

The trolls were completely at her mercy, and could do nothing as she shredded through them.

...Leo seemed faster now than she was against the orc... Back then, I could at least follow her.

So this was what she was like when she went all out... This was why people feared Silver Fenrirs.

Well, Leo wouldn't attack people.

“Wuff.”

“Good work, Leo.”

“Wuff-wuff.”

I patted Leo on the head and thanked her after she returned.

Leo wagged her tail happily and looked quite smug... She was proud at having been able to defeat them so quickly.

It was barely even a minute.

“Still, you made quite a mess.”

“Wuff. Wuff-wuff.”

I muttered as I looked at the remains of the decapitated trolls.

Because we can't eat them... Leo seemed to say.

She had only split the orcs in two, because they were edible...

But she was much more thorough with the trolls, as they could not be eaten.

“...Defeating them is good, but...what now?”

“Wuff?”

I thought as I looked at the clumps of troll flesh.

Not only that, but there was blood all over the place.

I would have probably felt ill, if I had any less resistance to seeing such things.

While I didn't like horror movies, I was still fine...perhaps I had gotten used to it after seeing the orcs being defeated.

Well, it wasn't that it had no effect and that I was completely unmoved....

It was still quite disgusting...

"We can't just leave them here to rot...perhaps we should burn them?"

"Wuff?"

My turn again? Leo seemed to say as she opened her mouth.

The trolls were big. And so even if they were cut into smaller pieces...there was still a lot.

And since we were close to the forest, I was scared about the fire spreading.

"...No, that's too dangerous... An amateur shouldn't start burning corpses in a place like this."

"Wuff..."

Leo looked quite disappointed, as she had wanted to use magic.

Still, what should we do with the trolls then...

If I left them to rot here, it could result in further spreading of diseases.

And the troll meat might attract other monsters as well.

While we were a short distance from the road, it would not be good to attract monsters to this area.

“...I guess we could bury them?”

“...Wuff...”

Leo sighed as if she thought it was too much trouble. But I couldn't think of anything else.

And carrying it to some other place in order to dispose of it was not very realistic... And so burying it would be the simplest way.

Besides, maybe they would be a good fertilizer.

“Ah, but...I don't have a shovel...”

“Wuff! Wuff-wuff.”

As I poked the ground with my foot, I felt that it was rather hard.

I would not be able to dig through it without a shovel or any tools.

As I was wondering what to do, Leo started to bark as if she had an idea.

“What is it, Leo?”

“Wuff-wuff. Wou-wou.”

“Hmm. You can really do it?”

“Wuff.”

Leo moved her feet around busily and told me what she had thought of.

Uhh, dig a hole with magic?

I didn't know if it was possible, but Leo nodded confidently.

"In that case, I'll leave it to you. ...Sorry to make you do everything."

"Wuff!"

First she defeated the trolls, and now I was asking her to get rid of the bodies.

...If only there was something that I could do as well.

But Leo barked and told me to not worry about it. And then she walked over to the corpses.

"Wooo...grau!"

"Woah."

Once she was close to the trolls, Leo turned the other way and then seemed to charge up her energy before barking loudly.

In the next instant, a bang! And the ground in that direction fell away.

"Explosion...magic?"

"Wuff!"

I gazed dumbly as the dust from the explosion slowly settled. Leo then returned to me with the satisfied look of someone who had done their work well.

"I didn't know you could do such a thing... Amazing, Leo."

"Wuff. Wuff."

I marveled over Leo's magic as I petted her.

She wagged her tail happily.

After a moment, I went over to the hole and looked inside.

"That's quite big."

"Wuff."

I did my best! Leo seemed to say.

It was big enough for several people to fit inside, with plenty of room left.

That should be enough to bury the troll chunks.

...Thankfully, they were in a state that would make them easy to push inside.

"Phew. That was surprisingly hard... And now I'm quite filthy too."

After some time, I sighed after throwing all of the troll pieces into the hole.

As not a lot of time had passed since Leo shredded them, the pieces were still dripping with blood, which got all over my hands.

Besides, while they were cut up, they were from a giant body, so they were still quite heavy.

I had felt like this is one thing I should do myself instead of relying on Leo...but I probably should have asked for help.

"All right, I'm finally clean. Now...once again, Leo...can you do it?"

“Wuff! Wuff!”

I had used water from a flask to wash the blood off of my hands, and then I asked Leo to fill the hole up once again.

As it was big, it would take too long for me to do it myself.

Chapter 164

We Met Up With Mr. Hannes and the Others

“Grau! Grau! Wuff!”

Leo used smaller explosions this time to lift the dirt around the hole.

It seemed like she was going to do this several times to spread the dirt, so that it would fill the hole again.

That did not seem very efficient... Still, after doing this a few times, the hole was half filled.

“Well, that should be enough. Good job, Leo. Thank you.”

“Wuff.”

If she kept doing this, she would just create a lot of smaller holes all over the place.

And so I would just ignore the crater that was still very visible. As long as the troll pieces weren't visible, it was fine.

I petted Leo to show how thankful I was. And once she had settled down, I strapped the baggage onto her back again.

“That took a lot of time... Uh, could you run just a little faster, Leo?”

“Wou. Woou?”

After climbing onto Leo and looking at my watch, I asked if she could possibly run a little faster.

Leo nodded in agreement, but she looked worried about me falling off.

“Don’t worry. I’ll be holding on tight. I want to reach Range village today.”

“Wou!”

We had lost time doing various things, and at this rate, we might not reach Range village until tomorrow.

But I wanted to reach Range village today, and give them the Ramogi... Besides, we didn’t really pack well for camping outdoors... We would not be able to pitch tents like we did during the exploration of the fenrir forest. So I would not be able to sleep comfortably.

“Wuff-wuff... Wuff!”

“Woah!”

But just as Leo signaled with a bark, she began to dash, and I felt as if my body was floating upwards.

We were moving so fast that the scenery around me was a blur.

This was worse than I expected... However, I should be fine, as long as I hold on tight.

Though, I would have probably fallen off already if it weren’t for my sword training...

“Hmm?”

“Wuff?”

After running like this for some time, and when my arms were starting to hurt, I saw that two horses were trotting up ahead.

As we got closer, they noticed us as well, and so Leo slowed down.

“Is that...Mr. Hannes? There are two on one horse, and then an armored soldier on the other... Ah, it's Phillip.”

“Wuff-wuff?”

While we were still too far away to see them clearly, I could tell from the back that it was the trio who had left the mansion.

Rosalie could not ride, so she was with her grandfather.

Since Phillip, who was dressed in soldier's armor, was riding alone, there were two horses in all.

“Well...could you approach them slowly, so that you don't startle the horses?”

“Wuff!”

I said to Leo, who had been looking at me questioningly.

If Leo ran at her fastest, we would catch up with them in an instant, but might frighten the horses.

And so Leo barked in reply and slowed down a little.

Still, she was much faster than the horses, and so it didn't take long to catch up with Mr. Hannes.

“Mr. Hannes! Rosalie! Phillip!”

“Hmm... Mr. Takumi!”

When they were close enough, I shouted out to them.

While keeping his hands on the reins, Philip turned to look in our direction.

“Leo, can you walk right next to them?”

“Wuff.”

After noticing us, Phillip said something to Haines, and they all stopped.

Leo walked over slowly and then stopped next to them.

“Mr. Takumi. You really are fast. I thought we wouldn’t see you until we reached the village.”

“Leo ran really fast. So we were able to catch up much sooner.”

“Silver Fenrirs are such astonishing monsters... We left a few days earlier, and yet here you are...”

“Leo is amazing!”

“Wuff!”

And then Phillip got off of his horse and came towards me.

And so I too got down from Leo in order to talk to him.

Mr. Hannes and Rosalie also got off their horse. They still wore expressions of shock about my arrival.

As for Leo, she looked very smug after being praised by Rosalie.

“While we did take a detour...it is still a surprise.”

“You took a detour?”

While Sebastian was not here, Phillip was still standing straight and talking politely, as he did at the mansion.

I suppose it was because Mr. Hannes was here.

But more importantly, he said that they had not gone straight to the village.

So it was no wonder we caught up with them so soon.

“On the way, we saw several trolls coming out of the forest. It would be difficult for me to deal with them by myself, and so we had to avoid them by going around. Thankfully, the trolls did not notice us.”

“I see...so that’s what happened.”

Perhaps those were the same trolls that Leo had defeated.

While Phillip could fight, the same could not be said about Mr. Hannes and Rosalie.

Besides, if there were seven trolls, then it would have been very dangerous for Phillip to face them alone...so it made sense for them to go around.

“Did you see the trolls, Mr. Takumi?”

“Ah, we actually did see them, but...Leo took them down with ease.”

“After seeing her do it in the forest, I am no longer surprised at what Silver Fenrirs are capable of...”

“Wuff.”

“The strength of a Silver Fenrir has been known for a long time... It really is amazing.”

Yes, Leo had cut down the trolls so easily...

They were three meter giants that wielded great clubs. I would not have been able to defeat one of them if I was alone.

Leo barked as if to say it was nothing. But Mr. Hannes looked very impressed.

“...Well, we should not stay here and talk, as we have a village to go to. Let's go.”

“Indeed.”

“Thank you for helping our village.”

If we kept talking here, our arrival at the village would be delayed.

But as I climbed back onto Leo, and the others returned to their horses, I noticed that someone was looking at me...

Chapter 165

We Arrived at Range Village

“Hmm? What is it, Rosalie?”

“...I was wondering if I could ride on Leo...”

“Rosalie, This is no time to be asking such things.”

She had been staring at me as I sat on Leo's back, and so I asked her what was the matter. Apparently, she wanted to ride Leo as well.

While she had ridden Leo back at the mansion, I suppose she wanted to know what it was like to ride on Leo when she was running outside with great speed.

“Hahaha. It’s fine, Mr. Hannes. Don’t you agree, Leo?”

“Wuff-wuff.”

“Are you certain?”

“Leo likes to carry other people. So you really don’t have to worry about it. Isn’t that right?”

“Wuff!”

“If you say so. Thank you.”

As Mr. Hannes admonished Rosalie, I assured him that it was perfectly fine if she wanted to ride on Leo.

Leo wagged her tail happily and lay low so that it would be easier to climb onto her.

She was just as excited as Rosalie.

Mr. Hannes bowed his head gratefully.

“There, Rosalie. You can ride on Leo now.”

“Wow! Thank you!”

“Wuff! Wuff!”

I stretched out my hand to Rosalie and pulled her up onto Leo’s back.

She was so excited and had the biggest smile on her face.

It really was nice to see children laugh.

“Now, let’s go to the village. It is not too far now. We should be able to arrive before the sun sets completely. Good Leo, I will lead you there, so can you follow after me?”

“Wuff.”

Said Phillip, once he saw that Rosalie was sitting securely behind me.

Leo nodded, and then the horses dashed off towards the village.

I was glad that we would arrive at the village before it was completely dark.

If it became dark, we would not be able to see, and might end up getting lost... Unless, Leo could see well in the dark...?

Cats were able to see during the night, but dogs...well, she was more of a wolf...? I wasn’t quite sure, and would have to ask someone about that later.

“So this is Range village...”

“Yes. This is where I was born! It’s a place filled with friendly people!”

After traveling for another two hours to the east, just as the sun was starting to set, and the sky darkened, we arrived at the village.

Rosalie was clearly very fond of her birthplace, and was happy to be back.

“It is very quiet.”

“Indeed... As it’s not yet night, normally, there should be some people out and about...”

Mr. Hannes and Phillip dismounted and tied their horses before entering the village to see what was happening.

I helped Rosalie get down, and then unstrapped the baggage from Leo's back as I looked at the village.

There were rows of wooden houses. But I could hear no voices, and all was quiet. It almost felt like the place had been abandoned.

Well, I could see what looked like candle light through cracks in some of the windows, so there were clearly still people living there.

"...Ever since the illness started to spread, a once lively village has become quieter and quieter. It was like this right before I left, even during the day..."

"Everyone is ill. Even the children I used to play with..."

"The illness has really taken over, huh."

"There was nothing we could do. We did not know how to combat it. Many could not even move enough to leave their houses..."

Chief Hannes and Rosalie looked at their village with grim expressions.

Phillip was thinking about how the illness was affecting the village.

If this really was just like a cold, like in Japan, it would have healed naturally.

However, even though some of the symptoms were similar, it was likely different. An illness that did not heal just because you rested a little.

Of course, I had not seen enough of it in order to come to any conclusions, but I had yet to hear of anyone recovering from it naturally.

Though, Ramogi seemed to heal it very quickly...

“Ah, chief! The chief has returned!”

“Oh, it’s you, Rai.”

As we walked through the entrance to the village, someone noticed us.

The door of the nearest house opened, and a little boy poked out his head to look. He was about the same age as Rosalie.

The chief called him Rai, and approached the house.

“Rai. How are your parents?”

“...Nothing has changed since you left, chief. They just cough painfully...and their fever hasn’t gone down either...”

“I see...”

From what I could hear, this child’s parents were sick.

Even now, they were likely suffering from a fever and cough within the house.

The boy had a grieving expression and was clearly troubled over this.

“But...since you are back, chief, you must have bought the medicine? So my mother and father will get well again?”

The chief had left the village in order to buy medicine for the spreading illness.

As the boy knew this, he knew that the chief’s return meant that he should be carrying the medicine.

“Aye, that’s right. Rai, this Mr. Takumi, a pharmacist. He was sent here by the duke’s own daughter.”

“Nice to meet you, Rai.”

“Nice to meet you! Does that mean you can heal my mother and father?”

“Of course. I’m sure they’ll get well soon, so don’t worry.”

“Wuff.”

“Ahhh!”

After being introduced to me, the boy’s eyes lit up.

It was like he was seeing hope for his parents. Though, it did make me feel a little awkward.

But that was when Leo, who liked children, came over and barked.

Upon seeing Leo, Rai’s face contorted with fear and he let out a little scream.

...Leo was so big, that she would scare most people... Even Rosalie had been scared at first...

“Rai, this is Leo. Don’t worry, she won’t attack you.”

“Good Leo is a Silver Fenrir... A monster who has helped us a lot.”

“Leo is so cute! Don’t be scared, Rai!”

“...Are you...sure?”

I told Rai that he didn't need to be afraid, and then Mr. Hannes and Rosalie also joined in.

He didn't look like he fully believed us, but as he was a boy, he seemed to be interested in Leo, who looked like a great wolf.

Boys often liked wolves... Well, some of them, anyway.

Chapter 166

I Used the Ramogi on the Sick People

"Sorry, Leo. But I need you to stay here with Phillip. Is that all right, Phillip?"

"Yes, it's fine."

"Wuff..."

"Ah..."

We wouldn't make much progress here if Leo just scared everyone away.

And so I had her stay with Phillip for now.

But as he saw Leo moving away, Rai looked like he wanted to say something... Perhaps it really wouldn't take long for him to get over his fear of Leo.

"Mr. Hannes. I would like to start by giving some of the Ramogi to this boy's parents."

"Very well. May we come in, Rai? Your parents will have to drink the medicine."

"Yes, I understand. Thank you, Mr. Pharmacist!"

"Aye, they will be healed in no time."

I couldn't let any doubt show on my face in front of a hopeful child.

And so I answered with a firm nod as his eyes shone.

"Yes, this is indeed the same illness that I saw before. So the Ramogi should be very effective."

"I see...that is a relief."

"So my mother and father will get better?"

"Yes, right away."

After entering the house, we were led to a bedroom where a man and woman were sleeping.

Rai's parents showed the same symptoms as the children at the orphanage.

A fever and cough... Very much like a cold... And yet also different. That was what it seemed like to me.

I nodded in order to assure Rai, and then I took the Ramogi out of the bag that I was carrying.

"Now, make them drink this."

"Yes. Rai, do you have any water?"

"I'll go and get some!"

He soon returned with a wooden bowl of water, and so the parents were able to drink the Ramogi.

While it had been dried and powdered, the parents had been feverish for so long, and so they were barely conscious. And since they were also coughing, it was a little difficult to get them to drink it. Thankfully, I had watched the children at the orphanage drink it before.

And so we made them sit up in their beds and open their mouths as the water and Ramogi was poured down their throats.

They looked like they were going to start coughing again, but managed to hold it back and drink everything.

If they coughed, the powder would fly out of their mouths.

“Ahh...I feel better...”

“That’s amazing! It was so quick!”

Minutes after they had drunk the Ramogi, their fevers began to subside as we watched them.

It had been the same with the children. But I still couldn’t help but be a little awed at how quickly the medicine took effect.

In Japan, even if it was a common cold, you still needed to rest for a while after taking medicine.

But I suppose this Ramogi was just more effective... Just like how Loe could easily heal wounds in a way that would be impossible in Japan... The effects of medicine just seemed to be different here.

“Thank you. I don’t know how we can ever repay you.”

“Both me and my husband can hardly believe that we were in such pain a moment ago... Thank you so much, Mr. Takumi.”

“You don’t need to thank me. The person you really should be thanking is Mr. Hannes and Rosalie, who traveled so far in order to get help.”

“But I didn’t do...”

“Thank you, chief. And you, Rosalie.”

After the Ramogi took effect, and the two recovered, they were filled with gratitude towards me.

While it was true that I had been the one to prepare it, Mr. Hannes had done most of the work.

Had he not come to the mansion for help, neither I or Ms. Claire would have known that the people in this village were ill.

Though, Mr. Hannes was very modest, and Rosalie looked embarrassed.

“Now, Mr. Hannes, here is the Ramogi that I was able to prepare before coming here. Please distribute it to those in the village who are sick.”

“You acquired this much in such a short amount of time... I do think that this should be enough for everyone. Thank you. Thank you so much!”

I had taken the rest of the wrapped up Ramogi and handed it to Mr. Hannes.

As I hadn't actually planned to meet up with him on the way, I had given some to Mr. Hannes to take back with him.

I had pushed myself a little back at the mansion in order to do that.

Ms. Lyra and the others had become quite worried, but it was worth it if the people of this village could be saved.

“Please let me know if it isn't enough. And I can prepare some more right away.”

“You can prepare more... But how?”

“Well, uh, I have a way...”

We hadn't told Mr. Hannes about my Weed Cultivation Gift.

It was better if only a few people knew about it. That was the opinion of the Liebert family, and I agreed with them.

But now Mr. Hannes was questioning how I was able to prepare so much in such a short amount of time, and so I had to get him off the trail.

“More importantly, you should ensure that everyone in the village is healed. They are still suffering even now.”

“That’s true. Very well. I don’t know how we can thank you, Mr. Takumi... But for now, I will give the Ramogi to the people of the village.”

“I’ll help you!”

“Yes, we’ll help distribute them as well!”

“So will I!”

I forcefully changed the subject and reminded him that there were others who were still sick.

In fact, they may be weakening as we speak, and so it was best to do things quickly.

Once Mr. Hannes stood up to go, Rosalie, and Rai’s parents also offered to help.

Rai saw this and also wanted to help.

As people in their village were suffering, they wanted to do something about it as soon as possible.

“Wuff!”

“Sorry to make you wait, Leo. But you were scaring Rai.”

“Wuff, wuff.”

“Thank you for watching her, Phillip.”

“Not at all. Leo is always very quiet. We just waited leisurely.”

I left Mr. Hannes and the others, and left Rai’s house and returned to where Phillip and Leo were waiting.

It wasn’t just that Rai was scared, but Leo wouldn’t have fitted in their house, so it was good that she waited here.

I apologized to Leo as I petted her.

And while I thanked Philip, he insisted that Leo was well-behaved, and he didn’t have to do anything at all.

Chapter 167

The Ramogi was Distributed Throughout the Village

“So, what happened to the sick parents?”

“The Ramogi medicine took effect as soon as they drank it. They are now feeling better, and went with Mr. Hannes in order to help distribute the medicine throughout the village.”

“Your medicine really is impressive, Mr. Takumi. Bed-ridden one moment, and walking around the next.”

“Apparently, his parents hadn’t been sick for all that long. So I suppose they still had some energy left in them.”

When we had treated the children at the orphanage, there were some who could immediately go out and play with Leo and Tilura in the garden. But there were others who had to stay in bed and continue to sleep.

According to Ms. Anna, those were the children who had been sick for longer, while the children who went outside had only been sick for a short while.

Besides, they were children, and each was different... But the Ramogi wasn't going to recover any energy that was lost, even if you were no longer sick, and so you would need time to reset. Well, that was true of any illness, really.

"I hope that the village can return to its previous, lively state now."

"Indeed. I'm just happy that my medicine was able to help this village. There is something very sad about a village that is quiet, where no one walks outside."

"Wuff-wuff."

Mr. Hannes and the others were making the villagers drink the medicine now.

And I could hear voices coming from various houses as I talked with Phillip.

Leo nodded as if agreeing with us.

"Thank you so much. Our village is saved because of you, Mr. Takumi."

After we had waited by the entrance for some time, Mr. Hannes returned and invited us to his house.

Apparently, there had been enough Ramogi to go around.

...I had made a little extra in order to kill the time, but there was no need for it now.

Well, I could just take it back with me and give it to Mr. Kalis, so it wouldn't be wasted.

In any case, as Leo could not fit in Mr. Hannes' house, she waited outside and played with Rosalie.

While Rai had been scared at first, seeing how Rosalie and Leo played seemed to have helped him see that it was alright.

Right now, Leo was probably carrying some of the recovered children and playing.

I had asked Phillip to watch over them.

Mr. Hannes had explained to the villagers about Leo as he went around with the medicine, and so though they were a little scared, they all expected to see a great Silver Wolf when leaving their houses. And so most of them seemed to welcome Leo.

I was just glad that Leo wasn't feared.

"...While it is not much...here is the payment for the Ramogi."

As I sat at a table in his house, Mr. Hannes took out a leather bag and handed it to me.

It was payment for the Ramogi that was given to the villagers.

"As so many were sick for so long...we were not able to prepare as much..."

"I didn't bring the Ramogi so that I could get paid. Please use this money for the village."

In my previous world, I had worked for money alone. And I didn't want to do that here.

In fact, in the end, it felt like I was just working in order to work. A rather senseless situation...

I had a place to live, with the mansion, and was being paid more than I needed by Sebastian...or rather, the duke.

And so I did not mind if I wasn't paid for the Ramogi.

Besides, this was a village filled with people who had not been able to work. There were surely better ways to use the money for them.

“However... We owe a great debt to the duke... And you came all of the way here... We cannot let you leave empty-handed...”

Mr. Hannes seemed like he felt really bad about not being able to pay me.

I wished he wouldn't think about it so much.

“...I see... Well, I wouldn't refuse a delicious meal. Also, since it is quite late, I would also like a place to sleep. I'm not really fond of sleeping outside.”

“If that is what you want, we very much intended on providing it, in addition to the payment...”

“Hahaha. That is all I need. I don't want to be the person who just helps people for money. Also...as you might have guessed, Leo eats a lot. So preparing food for us may not be as simple as it sounds.”

“Well, it is clear that you are not a greedy person...that is quite wonderful. I am impressed. In that case, the village will work together in order to prepare a satisfying meal for you!”

The sun had already set, and it was completely dark outside.

As Leo had not eaten since lunch time, she would be quite hungry now.

And I was just glad that we didn't have to sleep outside tonight.

Seeing the cheerful faces of the villagers was enough of a reward for me... I thought this, but did not say it out loud.

...It sounded embarrassing, like I was showing off.

“Heeey! All of you! We must prepare a feast! Today, we will show our gratitude to Mr. Takumi and Leo!”

“Aye!”

With much emotion, Mr. Hannes had stood up from his seat and gone outside.

And then he shouted so that all of the villagers could hear him.

A feast... They really didn't have to do that much... I just wanted a hearty meal for the both of us... Ah, and Phillip, of course.

I could hear shouts of agreement throughout the village, and things became quite clamorous.

...It sounded like they were going to prepare for a festival.

"Mr. Takumi, please come this way. And you too...Leo."

"Thank you."

"Wuff."

Nearly an hour later, tables and chairs were set out in the center of the village, and I had been led to my seat.

Leo was next to me, and sat politely.

Mr. Hannes and the others then set down numerous plates onto our table.

In front of Leo was a great quantity of sausages and milk, which I had asked them to prepare.

... Leo was one thing, but I wasn't sure that I would be able to eat so much.

Chapter 168

I Drank Some Delicious Wine

"Please try this as well. We are very proud of the wine we make here."

“...Ah...I see... Is that red wine?”

Mr. Hannes had brought over a barrel of wine.

It was filled with a red liquid, and the scent of alcohol and grapes filled the air.

This was my first time seeing any alcoholic drink in this world. And apparently, wine was the most common kind here.

“This wine was made in this village. It is regarded as quite a speciality in the duke’s territory.”

“A speciality...”

Now that I thought about it, I had heard that their business involved the sales of all kinds of goods outside of herbs, but I didn’t know what exactly.

The barrel that Mr. Hannes brought was nearly as big as a person, and it was quite full.

While they probably had other produce, I suppose this wine helped support the village.

Perhaps that was also part of the reason that Sebastian and Ms. Claire wanted to help them. Ms. Claire had gone as far as consulting me on what could be done.

This place was actually quite important.

...Or maybe I was just overthinking it. And it was simply the duke’s way of doing things. Helping those in need.

“There is a forest near the village. We cut down the oaks there and make these barrels.”

“I see.”

When I was running through the forest with Leo, I had thought that Range village must work in forestry, and I guess I wasn't too far off...

As there was good quality wood nearby, they cut the trees down and made barrels. And with those barrels, they stored the wine that became a source of income.

"But what about the fruits you use to make the wine? I didn't see any vineyards on my way here..."

"Yes, the grapes. They come in from a different place that is a short distance away."

So this world had the same fruit with the same name.

I had said 'fruit' just in case they were called something else, but was glad that it was the same.

Well, I didn't know if it was exactly the same... After all, Loe and Ramogi looked similar to plants from my previous world, but had slightly different names. So perhaps this one had the same name but looked different.

"So they are not close by. In that case, it must have been difficult when everyone was sick, and could not go there?"

"Indeed... And since it costs money to acquire the grapes, we have to produce wine or the village will not be able to survive. However, grapes cannot grow on our soil... But thanks to you, Mr. Takumi, we'll be able to produce wine again."

Was it the weather or the soil? I didn't know what the answer was, but grapes could not be grown here... In that case, they would have no choice but to buy them from elsewhere.

It seemed like a rather costly thing to do, but if they had no other way to support themselves, then they would have to rely on that.

Besides, there was a vast forest nearby, so they wouldn't have to worry about running out of trees.

Perhaps it was because they lived close to the forest and were good with processing wood, that they started earning a living this way... But I didn't know anything about running a business on this scale, so I had no idea.

...They probably made barrels for other purposes as well...like for carrying things on carriages.

"Now, that is quite enough talk. Tonight, you must enjoy the feast, Mr. Takumi. Please drink up."

"You really didn't have to do this much... But I thank you."

As I was going to return to the mansion tomorrow, all I wanted was a meal and a place to sleep... but seeing how all the villagers around me now were healthy and celebrating, I could hardly refuse.

And so I gratefully accepted the food and wine.

Even though I wasn't much of a drinker...

"Mmm...glug... That's delicious! Is this really wine!?"

"So it was to your liking?"

"Yes. I haven't drunk much wine before... But it's certainly the best that I've ever had!"

As they did not have wine glasses, I was drinking out of a wooden cup. But as soon as it went in my mouth, the sweetness spread over my tongue.

It was quite the shock. But then again, I've only ever had the cheap wine they sold at convenience stores.

Though it was very sweet, there was a mild sourness as well. There was a beautiful scent, and the aftertaste was refreshing...

I didn't know how to describe the flavor of wine, but couldn't help but think of different random words in my head.

It was not only the best wine, but the best alcoholic drink I had ever had.

“I’m glad to hear that you like it. We have a lot more, so please drink to your heart’s content.”

“Thank you!”

I couldn’t help shouting with gratitude. That was how much of an impact the wine had on me.

And I had only drank it because he recommended it...

But this wine seemed to have low alcohol content, and so I didn’t get as drunk as I thought I would while I ate.

Next to me, Leo was eagerly eating her sausages.

“The food is really delicious... It goes well with the wine.”

“Well, since we are known for our wine, we try to make sure that it matches the food.”

I didn’t know if they made the wine to match the food, or the food to match the wine first, but it was the most satisfying combination.

“Pharmacist... Thank you so much for helping us.”

As I ate and enjoyed my wine, the villagers would take turns thanking me.

Leo had no interest in wine, and so after she had her fill of sausages, she drank her milk with a blissful expression.

Sipping delicious wine while looking at the smiles of the healed villagers... It was quite the luxury.

“Hey, Mr. Takumi! Are you enjoying yourself?”

“...Phillip?”

It was then that Phillip happily called out to me from another table, and then tottered towards me drunkenly.

Chapter 169

For some reason, I did not get drunk

“This wine iss soo goood...! I might have...drunk a little too much... Mr. Takumi, you should drink more!”

“It definitely looks like you’ve drunk too much. And I don’t think it was just a little...”

While he could still talk just fine, his movements were wobbly and unstable

Besides, he usually talked in a very formal manner, but that was no longer the case.

“Ahaha! I thought being a guard was such a boring job...never did I think that something like this would be part of it...! Ahh! I have not had wine like this in a looooong timee...”

“How much have you had...? Don’t you think you should rest a little?”

I was not good at dealing with drunkards.

I had actually drunk quite a lot of wine already. Either Phillip had drunk considerably more than me, or he was weaker to alcohol...

“I’m fiiine! This wine is known for being strong, so I have to drink it while I can... Besides, it’s too expensive for me to buy...”

“The wine is strong...?”

I was starting to feel a little worried about Phillip. Also, I was confused by what he said about the wine being strong.

That suggested it had high alcohol content... As for it being expensive, it made sense, given how delicious it was.

But if it is strong, you should get drunk from just drinking a little.

It didn't matter how resistant you were, it was easier to get drunk the higher the percentage was.

I didn't know if Phillip was strong to it or not, but it was strange that I didn't feel drunk in spite of drinking so much... After all, I usually felt tipsy after having a single beer..

“Ahahaha! Please enjoy yourself, Mr. Takumi...”

Phillip said with a laugh as he walked away on shaky feet. And then I looked at the other villagers who were gathered.

...At least there were other people here, so I didn't have to worry about Phillip... I just hoped he didn't do anything strange...

The villagers were all eating and drinking happily around the tables. And at least half of them looked quite red in the face.

Since they were healed, the redness could not be because they were sick.

Of course, Leo and the children were not drinking, but most of the adults were.

“...Those who aren't drunk haven't been drinking much in the first place...”

I could see that the people who weren't red had left their cups of wine on the table, and were focusing on eating their food.

“Mr. Takumi, what is the matter?”

“Uh, nothing...”

Mr. Hannes was wondering why I was looking at the villagers so intently.

“I was just thinking about this wine... Is it easy to get drunk with it?”

“Indeed... I have a rather high tolerance myself, so I cannot say... But the villagers here seem to think it is very strong. And since it is so delicious, it is easy to drink too much.”

As expected, the wine made in this village was strong.

I didn't know if that was necessarily considered a good thing...but considering its price, it was probably better if you didn't need to drink too much to feel the effects...?

“Oh, Mr. Takumi. You've emptied the barrel already? Should I bring another one?”

“...No, I'm fine. I would like some water, please.”

“Certainly.”

I was sure that when Mr. Hannes first brought the barrel to this table, that it had been filled.

Obviously, I had not drunk all of it by myself, but I had definitely gotten a little carried away because it was so good.

And yet, I felt perfectly fine.

...Why was that...?

“It's strange... I was never this strong with alcohol before...”

“Wuff?”

As I muttered to myself, Leo, who looked a little tired after eating so much, tilted her head with a puzzled expression.

Next to her, a few children had come to play, and they were currently petting her long, fluffy fur.

Leo wagged her tail to keep them amused... That was very clever of her...

“Leo. I don’t feel drunk for some reason... Do you know why?”

“Wuff...Wuff?”

I couldn’t help but ask her. Of course, she did not know the reason.

“Mr. Takumi, I’ve brought you some water.”

“Thank you.”

Leo only tilted her head, and so I turned away and drank the water that Mr. Hannes had brought.

...Perhaps my body had changed after coming to this world...? But aside from this one thing, I had not really felt any other differences... Except being able to use the Gift, that is...

Still, for me, being drunk had usually been an...unpleasant sensation, and so I didn’t actually mind it...

If I’m not going to get drunk, perhaps I can continue to drink more wine...? I thought of such things, but held back and just drank water as the feast continued until midnight.

...As Leo could not enter the house, she slept in the stables with the horses that Philip and Mr. Hannes rode on... I should hurry up and sleep as well... Even if I don’t have a hangover, I will still be tired from a lack of sleep...

“Now that I think about it, where did that drunkard, Phillip go off to?”

After the feast, I had gone to bedroom that Mr. Hannes had prepared for me in his house. And that was when I remembered Phillip.

He did not seem stable on his feet, and I was worried that he might get lost somewhere.

What if he woke up in someone else's house... I hoped that would not happen...

"What if he woke up with some woman he doesn't even know... The maids back at the mansion will hate him when they find out."

I thought to myself as I looked out the window. The sky was starting to turn a little pale as I lay down to sleep.

I would have to get up soon, but I would sleep while I could...

Chapter 170

I Almost Forgot Leo's Breakfast

"Good morning. Breakfast has been prepared."

"Good morning. Thank you."

The next day, after waking up a little late, I quickly washed up and left the room I had slept in.

As the chief, Mr. Hannes's house was a little larger than anyone else's, and so he had a spare room.

He did have a married son...Rosalie's parents, but they lived somewhere else, and so it was currently just Mr. Hannes and his wife who lived here.

Rosalie had left the village with Mr. Hannes because she wanted to help her sick parents.

"This is delicious."

“I am sure it is quite poor compared to what you eat at the duke’s mansion...”

“No, not at all. It is just as good as the food over there.”

I was in the dining room and eating the breakfast that his wife had prepared.

While the food didn’t look as fancy as what we were served at the mansion, the taste itself was excellent.

I especially enjoyed the hot vegetable soup. It was comforting to have after staying up so late the previous night.

“Good morning. You’re up early.”

“Mr. Hannes. Good morning. I actually just woke up, since I went to bed quite late...”

As I was eating my breakfast, Mr. Hannes came out from a different room.

The sky was starting to get bright when I went to bed, so I only slept for a few hours. That being said, it was already midday, so it was in no way an early rise.

...But then again, Mr. Hannes and the villagers stayed up just as late, so I suppose I was early compared to them.

“Thank you...the food was delicious.”

“Not at all. I just wish we could have served something better...”

After I finished eating, I thanked his wife once again.

While she was very modest, it really had been a good meal, and I was satisfied.

“Wou!”

“Hmm? Leo?”

I heard Leo barking outside, and so I went out of the house. Leo was sitting there and wagging her tail.

“Good morning, Leo. Did you sleep well?”

“Wuff. Wuff.”

I petted Leo as part of our morning greeting.

Leo nodded and continued to wag her tail... I guess she did sleep well with the horses.

“Wuff? Wuff! Wuff!”

“Hmm? What is it?”

As I petted her, Leo moved her nose close to me and sniffed.

And then she started to bark accusingly.

What was it now...?

“Wuff. Wuff-wuff. ...Kuuuun.”

“Ah...I see. You want breakfast... Sorry...”

Apparently, she had smelled the food, and was protesting the fact that I had eaten without her.

As Leo had slept in the stable, she would not have eaten breakfast yet.

It wasn't as if she could eat hay...

"Sorry, Mr. Hannes. Do you have anything that I could give to Leo for breakfast?"

"Oh, I didn't realize... I'm very sorry, good Leo. I will prepare something at once..."

"Wuff!"

From the door, I called to Mr. Hannes.

After hearing about the food, Mr. Hannes came out...and apologized to Leo with a bow.

Leo nodded as if to say...I'll leave it to you then.

"Hey, Leo. He's being very kind to provide food. So you shouldn't act too self-important. You need to say thank you."

"Wuff... Wuff. Wuff-wuff."

"Good Leo... You do not need to bow to me!"

After admonishing her for getting carried away, Leo looked apologetic and bowed to Mr. Hannes, and then barked to say 'thank you.'

Mr. Hannes was very alarmed by this reaction, but I didn't want Leo to make a habit out of not thanking people.

"I'm afraid that it's yesterday's leftovers...but here."

"Thank you. Now, Leo."

"Wuff. Wuff-wuff!"

“She really does listen to what you say, Mr. Takumi. I didn’t really believe my husband’s words until now...”

“Leo is very smart. She doesn’t attack people, and likes to play with children.”

Mr. Hannes’s wife had brought out some leftover sausages that she heated up.

As it wasn’t as much as yesterday, some bread had been added.

Leo barked gratefully and then began to eat ravenously. Mr. Hannes and his wife watched with interest.

She admitted that she did not believe her husband when he told her about an obedient Silver Fenrir, but she believed it now.

Hardly anyone was afraid when they saw Leo here. It really was a nice village.

“Chief! Please come over here!”

“Hmm? What is it?”

“Uh, it’s the person who accompanied the pharmacist yesterday...”

“...You mean Phillip?”

“Ah, pharmacist...perfect. Can you come with us?”

“Ha...”

As I was watching Leo eat her sausages, one of the men from the village came running while calling out to Mr. Hannes.

And it was while they talked that I realized he was talking about Phillip.

Apparently, something had happened to him.

“I’m sorry, but could you watch Leo? She can play with the children if they come by.”

“Yes, of course. I’m sure that Rosalie will wake up soon. And she will keep Leo company.”

“Thank you. Leo, wait here for a while.”

“Wuff. Guff.”

And so I left Leo at the house, and went with the villager to see Phillip.

Leo was still eating, and so merely nodded her head in acknowledgement.

That wasn’t very polite... But I suppose it was fine...

Still, what had happened to Phillip...?

...He seemed quite drunk yesterday. Had he caused some kind of trouble?