

## **Beloved Dog 191**

### Chapter 191

#### I Used Loe to Treat My Injury

“It is a terrible injury. I don’t know how you are still conscious...”

“That bad...ouch... Ah, now the pain is fading away.”

Apparently, the injury was a lot worse than I had realized.

After being bludgeoned by the broken spear, the skin had torn away... Once I was aware of how bad it was, the pain seemed to get worse. But then Johanna applied the Loe and it immediately started to subside.

At least...my skull hadn’t cracked open... Then I would have definitely been dead... The thought filled my mind for a few seconds.

“It’s done. You are now healed, and without a scar. How do you feel?”

“Not bad. The pain is all gone. ...Loe really is effective... Thank you.”

“Oh, I didn’t do anything.”

Johanna stepped away then.

Thanks to the Loe, there was no more pain. And I didn’t feel any other side effects.

No effects from blood loss either... I was stunned by how quick the Loe was...

Though, it did explain to me why it was so expensive.

Well, I had made a similar herb to help Sherry before, but that was probably special.

“Mr. Takumi. In the future, you must be more careful.”

“Exactly. ...There was no reason for you to come out here with such an injury...”

“Hahaha... Well, I wasn’t really aware of it myself. It just seemed like a little pain...but nothing I couldn’t bear. Besides, you wouldn’t have been able to recognize them, right?”

“Perhaps, but...”

Well, they would have to be satisfied with that for now.

Though, there wouldn’t be many people traveling here at this hour. So they would have probably been able to catch them without me.

But I suppose I wanted to see the merchants captured with my own eyes. That was how angry I had been over what they did.

...Though, it also made me feel a little pathetic for not being able to catch them with my own power...

“Well, that’s fine. We should return to Range village. There is a lot that must be done, isn’t there?”

“...Very well. But please don’t do something like this again.”

“All right.”

While Sebastian nodded, it was clear that he would not stop warning me about it.

I did feel bad about causing them to worry... And I was glad that there were people who felt such concern over me.

Johanna was nodding as well. I felt a little happy.

“Wuff...kuuuun...kuun.”

“Haha. And I’m sorry for making you worry as well, Leo. There, there...”

Now that the horses were calm, Leo saw that my wound had been treated, and she rubbed her nose against me.

She had been so worried, and so I petted her and thanked her for the help.

“Now, let’s take these men back.”

“To Range village first?”

“Yes. It will be too difficult to go to Ractos at this hour. It would be better to keep them in the village for now.”

“Very well... Ah, I will follow after you later, so please go on ahead. Leo and I will catch up in no time.”

“...What are you going to do?”

Sebastian and Johanna tied the merchants together and placed them on one of the horses.

I saw them whisper threats into their ears, so that they wouldn’t move, and then they would glance at Leo.

They were strapped to the horses so that they wouldn’t fall off, and then the other horse was attached as well.

As I watched them, I told Sebastian that they should go ahead of me.

And then Sebastian looked at me suspiciously.

Well, perhaps I had not shown myself to have the best judgment recently, and he thought I was going to do something reckless again... Of course, I had no intention of doing any such thing.

“Some of the villagers were wounded as well. And so I’m going to make some Loe here before returning. ...After all, I don’t want them to know about Weed Cultivation.”

“I see. Very well. Just be carefull...”

“We’ll go on ahead then, Mr. Takumi.”

“Yes, see you later.”

“Wuff.”

And so they took the merchants and left.

As the horses were connected, they moved much slower than usual.

And so I would have no trouble catching up with them after making the Loe.

I would have to be very secretive if I used Weed Cultivation in the village, so it was easier to do it here, where I didn’t have to worry about being watched.

I suppose I could have gone to Mr. Hannes’s house, but that was in the far corner of the village, and it would be best if I could treat the wounded as soon as I arrived.

“...All right... I think this should be enough?”

“Wuff-wuff.”

I counted the Loe that I had made.

Leo was nodding... Perhaps she had counted the number of people who were wounded and would require the Loe.

“Well, let’s catch up with Sebastian and Johanna. Thank you, Leo.”

“Wuff!”

After putting the Loe in my breast pocket, I climbed onto leo.

It had not taken much time, so they would not have gone too far yet.

...Though, the thorns of the Loe leaves were...prickly... But it could not be helped, as they were fresh.

“We’ve returned. How is the situation, Phillip?”

We reunited with Sebastian and the others and returned to Range village.

There were still some orc corpses around the entrance, but it seemed that things were going smoothly. The smell of blood was a lot more mild than before.

We dismounted and then Sebastian started to talk to Phillip, who was giving orders to the villagers near the entrance.

Chapter 192

Some People Were Badly Wounded

“Ah, Mr. Sebastian and Mr. Takumi. Welcome back. ...As for the situation in the village...it is not very good...”

“What’s the problem?”

Phillip noticed us, but when asked about the village, his expression turned dark.

Indeed, I had seen that there were some who were wounded...but was it really that bad?

Perhaps I had been too relieved after hearing that there were no deaths.

“Well, it’s almost miraculous that no one died, in spite of it being a monster attack on this scale... But a few of the wounded are...”

“Yes, we were quite lucky there. ...It is all because of Mr. Takumi’s efforts and good Leo’s aid.”

“Yes. That’s true. However, some of the men are badly wounded. Though, they will likely live...”

It wasn’t so much due to my own efforts, but the efforts of the villagers who worked together.

I didn’t know much about monsters, but even I could see that we had been very fortunate to come out of this without any deaths.

In the end, it was mostly because of Leo... Had she arrived any later, I and some others might not have made it.

In any case, according to Phillip, there were problems with some of the wounded...

“Some cannot move their arms after being cut... While others...”

So according to Phillip, some of them had been wounded to a point where they could no longer move their limbs.

That could have grave consequences. It was no wonder they didn’t feel like celebrating.

After all, some of these men may no longer be able to work.

“I see. But you need not worry about them.”

“There is something that you can do then?”

“Mr. Takumi has prepared some herbs.”

“I see. Then you can help them...!”

Sebastian brought up the herbs, and Phillip sighed with relief.

He had become quite friendly with the villagers after drinking with them, and so he seemed to be especially concerned about their state.

Obviously, I had also been treated very well here, and could not abandon them.

“Please gather all of the wounded into one place. That way, I will be able to treat their wounds quickly.”

“I understand. Right away!”

Ah, please call Mr. Hannes as well. We need to think of a place to hold these two.”

“Yes!”

Phillip replied as he ran off.

The two merchants had given up some time ago, and just sat still and quite limp.

Or perhaps it was just that they were tied up so tightly now that they couldn't move an inch.

...It hadn't been like this when they were first put on the horses... I glanced over to Johanna, who had a satisfied expression. I suppose she had made adjustments to the ropes after that...

“Sorry to keep you waiting. The wounded are now being gathered at the center of the village.”

“Thank you. Chief...Mr. Hannes. As for these two, we mean to escort them to Ractos tomorrow, but do you have a place where we can keep them tonight?”

“...Indeed... There is a building on the outskirts of the village that is not being used. However, it cannot be locked, so they might escape...”

“You don’t need to worry about that. Johanna.”

“Yes! Phillip and I will keep watch. Besides, it would be very difficult for them to escape in their current state.”

“That is true... Very well then.”

Mr. Hannes had returned to the village entrance after being called by Phillip.

And then Sebastian asked him about a place to hold the prisoners.

And while it was not the most ideal place...it was decided that it would be fine as long as Johanna and Phillip kept watch.

Besides, they had been tied so tightly by Johanna that they resembled bagworms now.

...But how would they use the bathroom? ...Well, that was not my concern.

“Well then, Johanna. Take these two and follow Mr. Hannes. Mr. Takumi and I will go to where the wounded are kept.”

“Yes.”

“Yes.”

“Very well. Come this way. Ah, you’ll find the wounded in the same spot where we held the feast.”



And so Mr. Hannes and Johanna left while carrying the two merchants.

Mr. Hannes had more reason than most to hate them, but I felt that he was holding back. At least they had been caught. He would keep control of himself while these visitors from the duke were present.

...Though, I really wouldn't have minded if he cursed them aloud... Well, perhaps he was just not the type of person.

"Ah, let me know if they start to struggle. I'll send Leo to deal with it."

"Wuff!"

"I understand."

"Eeee!"

"Eeee!"

I said to Mr. Hannes as they were leaving.

Leo nodded, and Mr. Hannes nodded back.

And upon hearing Leo's voice, the merchants tensed up with a whimper.

...That should keep them from attempting to escape.

"Now, let's go and see the wounded."

"Yes."

After seeing Mr. Hannes and the others leave, Sebastian and I took Leo and went to the village square.

We had to help those who were in pain as soon as possible.

“Right here, Mr. Sebastian and Mr. Takumi.”

“Leo!”

“Wuff-wuff!”

We arrived at the village square and met up with Phillip.

Just then, Rosalie saw Leo and ran to her.

Obviously, she had not participated in the fight, but was now helping to treat the wounded... I could see that her hands were covered in blood.

“Leo...so many are...”

“Wuff-wuff.”

She was not her usual cheerful self.

Leo rubbed her face against Rosalie and tried to comfort her.

“Rosalie. It will be fine. I will heal them.”

“Wuff!”

“You will? Mr. Takumi. Leo.”

“I mean it. So cheer up, Rosalie.”

Chapter 193

I Treated the Villagers

I talked to the unhappy Rosalie as well.

It was hard to see a child so young be left like that.

But after hearing me and seeing Leo nod, Rosalie recovered a little.

Now, I had to treat the wounded so that the children wouldn't be so worried.

“Ah, pharmacist... Thanks to you, the village was saved. However...”

“It's fine. Leave this to me.”

The first one was the man who had fought near me and injured his arm so that he couldn't hold a sword.

His right arm was covered in bandages, but they were soaked red with blood.

“Here, with this...”

“The pain...it's fading away...”

After Sebastian unraveled the bandages, I pressed the Loe against the bleeding arm.

The effect was instantaneous, and the wound closed up completely.

And after a few seconds, there wasn't even a scar left. The only proof that there ever was a wound was the blood.

“I...can move my arm! Pharmacist...how can I repay you...”

“You don’t need to. Now, you will be able to continue to work in the village.”

“Yes!”

He had probably been in despair over the prospect of not being able to use that arm anymore.

His eyes filled with tears, and he nodded with gratitude... Yes, he would be fine now.

“Onto the next...”

“This way, Mr. Takumi.”

“Are you all right, Phillip?”

Phillip immediately brought the next wounded person.

He was carrying the man on his back... When I looked closely, both of the man’s legs were bandaged.

“Yes, I’m fine. Mr. Takumi, this man can’t move his legs. But while the injury is bad, he has no feeling in them...”

“I see. Sebastian, if you will.”

“Of course.”

Phillip laid the man down on the ground.

I felt bad about having him lie on the dirt, but I needed to get a good look at the injury.

Sebastian then unwrapped the bandages, and I pressed the Loe onto the wound.

...Perhaps the nerves in his legs were cut...

I had no medical knowledge but I had heard of such things happening.

It was so bad that he couldn't feel it...

"...Ah...I can feel pain...ah...but now it's gone..."

Blood was still flowing as I pressed the Loe into him. After a short while, he could feel his legs again, which meant feeling pain.

But after grimacing for a second, his expression turned to surprise.

"All right. That should do it."

"I can feel my legs again...is such a thing... Thank you so much, pharmacist! And you too, Phillip!"

"No, I'm just glad that you're better."

"What a relief!"

Now that he could feel his legs again, and there wasn't even a scar, the man jumped to his feet and cheered.

He seemed to be pretty close with Phillip. Perhaps he was one of the villagers Phillip had gotten drunk with after hitting it off.

Which meant he was one of the people who suggested Phillip drink that wine... Well, I suppose it was a good thing, as we discovered the glass sphere because of it.

"Next is..."

And so with Sebastian and Phillip, and the help of those who were healed, we went around and treated the wounded with Loe.

Upon seeing the villagers recover, Rosalie hugged Leo with tears of joy streaming down her face.

She must have been incredibly worried. What a gentle child.

Leo enveloped Rosalie in her fur, as if to soothe her.

“Phew... There was enough Loe after all.”

Loe could not be used more than once.

Sebastian did say that they were still somewhat potent, but they were covered in blood and grime...

And I didn't want to take any risks of spreading diseases now.

I thought it would be safer to just use one Loe per person.

We treated nine people in all.

There were others with mild injuries, and there was no need to use Loe on them.

Unless they were in danger of losing limbs or being paralyzed, they should be fine.

In the end, considering how many orcs we had been up against, the damage had not been great.

...Though, it didn't make me hate the merchants any less.

No part of me felt merciful, like I had once with Nick...

“Mr. Takumi, thank you so much.”

“I would like to thank you as well, as a representative of the duke.”

“No, but...”

“If you weren’t here, Mr. Takumi, this village would have been destroyed by the orcs. And there would not have been a single survivor.”

“On behalf of my master, Lord Ekenhart... Thank you for saving Range village, Mr. Takumi.”

After all the work was done, we had gathered in the living room of Mr. Hannes’s house.

Just as I was about to drink the tea that his wife poured for us, Mr. Hannes and Sebastian bowed their heads and thanked me.

...As for the tea, it was not quite as good as the tea Ms. Lyra made at the mansion.

Such rude thoughts flashed in my mind, but it was only to escape reality.

...Because it was a little awkward to be thanked by people like this...

“So, Sebastian. Why did you come back with Leo?”

Once all the uncomfortable business of gratitude was over, and things relaxed again, I asked Sebastian why he was here.

While both he and Leo had helped in arresting the merchants and dealing with matters in the village, I was still curious.

After all, he was supposed to be busy with matters related to the store. And so I couldn’t help but wonder.

Chapter 194

Sebastian Told Me Why He Had Come

“Last night, Leo and Phillip arrived at the mansion.”

In Mr. Hannes’s house, Sebastian began to explain the reason that he was here.

“At first, Lady Claire and I were surprised that Leo would return without you. But then Phillip told us what had happened.”

“And the glass sphere?”

“He passed it on to us. ...And I dropped it off with Isabelle on my way here...”

“Ms. Isabelle?”

She was an elderly woman in Ractos who had a store that sold magic tools.

That was where I had my magic energy and Gift looked into.

“Because we sensed magic energy in the glass sphere. I thought that it was necessary to study it after hearing your theories from Philip. ...And that is not something we can do at the mansion.”

“I see...”

As she had a store that sold magic goods, she would be very knowledgeable about them.

And I suppose it was comforting knowing that it was in the hands of an expert now.

“But are you sure she will be alright? I hope she won’t become ill...”

“I have thought of that as well. And so it was placed in a box that seals any magic effects that it might have.”

“I didn’t know that such things existed.”



“Yes. As long as it is inside, it should have no effect and be of no danger to anyone. Besides, even if she did take it out, she would do so with the proper safety measures.”

Sebastian clearly had a lot of trust in Ms. Isabelle.

When I had visited, the two had talked as if they were good friends. Perhaps they had known each other for a long time.

Regardless, it seemed that she would be capable of learning what the glass sphere was without spreading the disease everywhere.

“But we’re getting side-tracked... After hearing everything from Phillip, I accepted the sphere and listened to your theories.”

“Yes.”

“And I quite agreed with them... And since both Leo and Phillip were tired, I had them rest.”

Leo had done her best, running all of the way back to the mansion. And Phillip would have been tired from just riding on her.

It would be exhausting just trying to stay on while Leo was running that fast.

“The next day, we were to send Leo and Phillip back to this village, but...”

“What happened?”

Sebastian hesitated for a moment.

Did something happen before they left?

“Something seemed to come over Leo suddenly. She was restless in a way that I have never seen her before.”

“Leo?”

“Yes. She is usually so calm and quiet when around you, Mr. Takumi.”

“...So Leo was acting strangely...”

Yes, the Leo I knew had always been calm since coming to this world. She never seemed restless like that.

...Unless it was related to food...

“We were not sure what to do about it. We knew that she always listens to you, Mr. Takumi... but there was no guarantee that she would listen to anyone else...”

“I think she would have. She would listen to you and Ms. Claire, at least.”

Leo had seen a lot of this world too.

And when it came to those who were friendly towards us, like Ms. Claire and those in the mansion, she should be cooperative.

...Especially with Tilura, as they were always playing together.

“Yes, it turned out that way in the end. But surely you can understand how we might have felt anxious about having such an agitated Silver Fenrir in front of us.”

Silver Wolves weren’t supposed to obey anyone. And so it was no wonder they might worry.

And they knew a lot about Silver Fenrirs.

“But that is when Lady Tilura came.”

“She did?”

“Yes. And she was able to pet Leo and calm her down.”

“I see...”

I had just been thinking about it. Tilura was the closest to Leo in that mansion.

Even if Ms. Claire, Ms. Lyra or Ms. Gelda had ridden on Leo, they didn’t hug or play with her all the time.

“It was also Lady Tilura who asked Leo what was wrong. As we could only get a vague impression of what Leo was trying to tell us.”

“I suppose Tilura has spent enough time with Leo that she can now understand her a little.”

I could understand Leo quite clearly.

However, it wasn’t the same for the other residents in the mansion.

That’s why I couldn’t just send Leo alone, and she had to go with Phillip.

Though, if Tilura could understand her, then maybe I could have sent Leo by herself after all... Well, I could only say that in hindsight.

“Thanks to Lady Tilura, we were able to hear what Leo was trying to say. And that’s when we learned that this village was in danger.”

“Leo detected that this village was in danger?”

“That is the case. How... I do not know... Is it because she is a Silver Fenrir...? Or because you two share a strong bond...”

According to Sebastian, Leo somehow knew that something bad was going to happen here.

As this was before they left the mansion, it would have been around midday...which was before the merchants arrived in the village. Before even Mr. Hannes and I knew that there was an approaching danger.

Sebastian could not explain it, and neither could I. But I couldn't help but hope that it was because of our strong bond.

Though, it could just be an innate ability of Silver Fenrirs...

While far away, she might have sensed the approach of many monsters... That seemed the most likely explanation.

Chapter 195

It Was Ms. Claire Who Sent Sebastian

"Apparently, Leo had detected the presence of monsters. First, we decided to send Johanna back as well. Because it would be best to have someone who could fight."

"That's true."

"We wanted to send Nicholas as well, but... Lady Claire was against it."

"She was?"

Johanna and Nicholas were guards at the mansion, just like Phillip.

Of course, if they were going to fight monsters, it seemed like the right choice... So why did Ms. Claire stop it...?

"According to Lady Claire, he wouldn't be assisting much, if Leo was already there. And it would be better for me to go in order to help settle things and gain information..."

"...Hmm... It's true that once Leo is fighting without holding back, the orcs won't stand a chance."

In fact, once Leo arrived, she had dealt with everything on her own.

She wasn't there to cooperate with us. She did as she pleased and defeated them all.

Considering this, I could understand why Sebastian had been sent instead.

He had more authority and could give directions.

"Besides, it would be best if I could talk to you directly."

"Yes, but aren't you also busy with other matters? What about that store..."

"Lady Claire is more than capable of handling them for now. After all, she was the one who was adamant about me coming here."

Sebastian said with a smile.

Perhaps he wanted Ms. Claire to do some of his work as part of her education.

As the daughter of a duke, there was much that she needed to learn... Of course, she was already a very capable person.

"And that explains my presence here."

"I see. ...Ah, but how come I only saw Leo at first? The rest of you didn't seem to arrive till later...?"

It was when I was about to be killed. Leo jumped in and defeated the orc for me.

While I hadn't gotten a good look, I very much doubted that Sebastian was on her back at the time. He would not have been able to hold on.

“Yes, we got off of Leo before entering the village.”

“But...why? Wouldn't it have been faster to go together?”

“Because...Leo started to act even more restless than before.”

“Hmm...”

“It seemed likely that something had happened in the village, and so we got off so that Leo could go on ahead. That way, she would reach you faster.”

Leo didn't run her fastest when carrying people.

Otherwise, people might get flung off.

And so they had gotten off so that Leo would be able to run her fastest.

“And judging by what happened here, that was the right decision. I think Leo sensed that you were in immediate danger.”

“...I see. Yes, it's because of that that I was only injured. ...Had she been any later... I don't really want to think about it...”

If Leo hadn't arrived right when she did, the orc's attack would have hit me right in the head. There was no doubt about that.

And what then... A chill went down my spine.

Thanks to Sebastian's decision, and Leo's senses, she had been able to reach me in time.

“After that, we followed Leo to the village, as you know. ...Lady Claire was also right, and Leo had no trouble dealing with the orcs on her own...”

“I see. That explains everything.”

“Leo really is amazing... She knew you were in danger and was able to help... If only I could be so useful as a butler...”

And this wasn't the first time that Leo had surprised me with her ability to sense danger...

In fact, she was always helping me.

Not just her, but Mr. Ekenhart, Ms. Claire, Tilura and Sebastian helped me as well.

“I think you are doing enough to fulfill your role as a butler, Sebastian. ...If anything, you are doing more than that for everyone, including me.”

Sebastian had also helped me a lot.

That was why Mr. Ekenhart and everyone at the mansion put so much trust in him.

“I do hope that you are right.”

“You really have no need to worry about that.”

I wasn't sure why I was now in the position of encouraging him... Ah, we were talking about how wonderful Leo was for following and saving her master... Except Leo wasn't a servant, but a friend. So she wasn't even comparable to someone like Sebastian.

Not that I wasn't grateful for everything.

In any case, I should change the subject... Was there something that I needed to ask him?

...Ah, that's right.

“There is something else I want to ask you, Sebastian.”

“So you forcefully changed the subject. Does that mean you think that I am not worthy of being a butler...?”

“No, but let’s drop that for now.”

As it was obvious that I wanted to discuss something else, Sebastian made a show of looking disappointed.

But when he looked away, I could see the corner of his mouth curl into a grin.

“...I suppose I have no choice then. What is it, Mr. Takumi?”

“No choice... Well, nevermind. It’s about the Gift...”

“Hmm... Is it really so urgent...?”

And then Sebastian glanced over to Mr. Hannes.

“Ah...that’s right...”

Mr. Hannes just thought that I was an ordinary pharmacist.

As I had not told him about the Gift, I couldn’t talk about it here...

Chapter 196

I Asked About Weed Cultivation

“...We can discuss it in detail later.”

“Yes, thank you.”

And so it was decided that we should discuss Weed Cultivation at another time.



After that, we stopped Mr. Hannes, who seemed to want to hold a feast, and then we had a late dinner and got ready to sleep

Leo had played with the children and eaten some sausages that were prepared, and so she went off to the horse stables with a satisfied expression.

Thanks for everything today, Leo.

You really saved us.

“Wuff.”

I had only thanked her in my heart, but Leo barked once in reply as she left.

It really did feel like we had a connection. That made me happy.

“Excuse me. Oh, are you going to bed already?”

“Sebastian?”

Just as I had returned to my room and lay on the bed, Sebastian entered.

As for Sebastian, he would stay in another empty room in Mr. Hannes’s house.

Since there was only one room left, Sebastian, Phillip, and Johanna would share it. Though, not all at once, as Phillip and Johanna took turns keeping watch on the merchants.

It seemed that they didn’t really mind having men and women in the same room.

“What do you want at this hour?”

“I just remembered what we were talking about earlier. About Weed Cultivation.”

“Ah, I see.”

Sebastian was here to talk about Weed Cultivation, as we were unable to discuss it in front of Mr. Hannes.

I could tell by his expression that he was clearly very interested. He could not wait to hear what I had to say.

Sebastian seemed to really enjoy the acquiring of new knowledge.

“So, what is it that you wanted to ask me? I do not know a lot about the Gift...but I will tell you what I do know.”

“Well, you know a lot more than anyone else... Uh, I have a question with regards to Weed Cultivation...”

“Yes, what is it?”

“As the name implies, it’s a Gift that makes weeds grow. You put your hand on the ground...and the plant will grow from that spot.”

“...Indeed.”

Up until now, I had always placed my hand on the ground in the back garden when using Weed Cultivation.

Weeds...well, plants. So I had thought that it made sense that they should grow from the ground.

And yet something very unexpected had happened while fighting the orcs.

I was so desperate, and so I didn’t remember everything clearly. But I did my best to explain what had happened to Sebastian.

“On the orc’s body...near the chest. I placed my hand on it, and then Weed Cultivation was activated.”

“The orc... And then what happened?”

“As always, the weed I was thinking about...the herb, it began to grow. And this is that herb.”

“It looks the same as the herbs you’ve made before.”

I showed Sebastian the herbs that I had grown on the orc.

As it looked the same as any other herb, I believe the effect would also be the same.

However...I wasn’t sure I would want to eat something that came out of an orc’s body.

“...And what happened to that orc?”

“After Weed Cultivation was activated, it seemed like he died just as the plant started to grow. Though, I’m not sure about the precise moment...”

“Well, you were in the middle of a battle, so it cannot be helped. However...yes...”

“Can you tell me anything?”

Sebastian started to think about what he had heard.

Perhaps he had an idea?

“I am not sure, but... Weeds and plants absorb nutrients from the ground.”

“...Yes.”

To be precise, it was dirt, light, water and carbon dioxide, etcetera. But there was no point in saying that now.

Besides, he was right that it was from the dirt.

“Perhaps by using Weed Cultivation towards the orc, it...absorbed the nutrients...or energy...”

“From the orc... However, what about the garden that I always use Weed Cultivation in...?”

Up until now, I’ve made many herbs in the back garden with Weed Cultivation.

If it was necessary to absorb nutrients, and the equivalent energy was enough to kill an orc in an instant, then surely the soil in the garden would be barren by now.

However, there had been no signs of that. Besides, other plants and flowers that I hadn’t made were still growing there.

“I do not know how to explain that... Is it different with soil...or...hmm...maybe...”

“What is it?”

“When you used Weed Cultivation on the orc, the sun had already set?”

“Yes.”

“Perhaps that was the reason then.”

“It was because it was night?”

But I had used Weed Cultivation in the garden after the sun went down before.

So I doubted there was a connection there...

“Because we know from research that plants require sunlight.”

“...Hmm.”

That’s what I was thinking about earlier.

It didn’t have to be sunlight though. It could be a fluorescent light and that would be enough for photosynthesis.

In any case, that was necessary for plants to grow.

“Perhaps the orc hadn’t been under the light for long enough. While the soil in the garden is under the light all day.”

“The light...”

“Orcs generally live in the forest...and so they do not get much sun. And considering that they were brought here by carriage, they would not have had much opportunity to be bathed in sunlight.”

“...I see.”

But could something like exposure to sunlight really be related to it?

If the sunlight isn’t directly hitting the plants, then surely it has nothing to do with photosynthesis.

“The soil always absorbs light and stores its power. On the other hand, orcs do not get enough sun, and store little power. And so once the plant sucked in the nutrients after the sun had set, it lost all of its power... That is my guess.”

“I see...”

My own knowledge of plants made me disagree with Sebastian. However, this was a world of magic, and it likely had its own rules.

So perhaps in this world, plants didn't get light directly from the sun, but sucked in the sun's power that was stored in the ground, and that was how they grew...

## Chapter 197

### We Discussed the Transportation of the Wine

"Well, it is mostly speculation. It could be different. We can find out more after returning to the mansion and studying the soil."

"Indeed. I wouldn't want to be ruining the soil without knowing it. And so I will be careful."

"I'm sure it will be fine. We haven't noticed any change yet, and the soil gets plenty of sun."

"I see. Well, I will still be careful."

We just needed to see if there is any change to it or not.

And if there is any change to the surrounding soil or plants...I would just have to work someplace else.

"I guess, I just want to know why it was activated on an orc..."

"Indeed. Up until now, it was thought that it would only work on the ground."

The problem wasn't so much that the orc had died, but why Weed Activation could be activated with an orc's body in the first place.

As I was making plants, I thought that it was only obvious that it would require soil.

...But it activated with living creatures and took their life... That made the ability a lot more powerful.

However, if I didn't fully understand what had happened, I wouldn't be able to touch other people without worrying about it...

“Why it activated...I really do not know...”

“Even you, Sebastian?”

“It is not as if I have a lot of knowledge about the Gift. ...Yes...perhaps we should ask Isabelle in Ractos.”

“Ms. Isabelle?”

Ms. Isabelle sold magic tools. But did she also know a lot about the Gift?

“Well, she has a wide breadth of knowledge. And she is the one who first looked into your Gift, so she might be able to tell you something. Besides, we have to see her about the glass sphere anyway.”

“Yes...the glass sphere.”

We could just ask about Weed Cultivation while we are there.

As we will pass Ractos on the way back to the mansion, we will be able to stop by.

And so I agreed to Sebastian’s suggestion and the conversation ended.

“Well, good night then.”

“Yes, good night.”

Sebastian left the room, and I lay down in order to go to sleep.

Today...had been very eventful.

But there were promising developments with matters concerning the illness and Weed Cultivation, and so I was glad that I had come here.

And even if it weren't the case, I had helped save the people from the orcs. That was the biggest thing.

...Of course, I wouldn't have been able to do much on my own. And while I felt a little regret about that, I felt thankful towards Leo and Sebastian as I drifted off to sleep.

---

The next day, I spoke with Sebastian while eating breakfast.

I had forgotten about it yesterday, due to the matter of the orcs and merchants, but there was also the transportation of the wine.

"I didn't expect you to do such a thing, Mr. Takumi..."

"I just thought it would be a waste...it was an impulse buy, I suppose. I thought that I might be able to use it."

Sebastian was at a loss for words after I explained to him that I had purchased the barrels of wine.

Well, I suppose it was a pretty bold move...but I just wanted to help them.

By the way, I had asked Mr. Hannes to prepare some sausages for Leo's breakfast.

While it was her favorite, it wouldn't do for her to eat only that all of the time, and so there was also a vegetable soup.

"I see... Transporting the wine barrels...that will be a little difficult..."

"Too difficult?"

"No...you could always send people and wagons. However...it will have to be after we go to Ractos."



According to Sebastian, it was not likely that I'd be able to move the wine barrels anytime soon.

It was no wonder...they were too heavy for people to carry, and it wouldn't be realistic to roll them all of the way back.

"I suppose it will take time to prepare the wagons and personnel?"

"Yes...several days at the least..."

"It might go bad..."

"Indeed."

The wine I had bought was currently kept in a place separate from the storage house.

It was a wooden building that no one lived in, which meant they were out of the sun. However, it wasn't nearly as cool as a cellar, which was not good for long-term storage.

Perhaps if they were in sealed glass bottles...but they were in barrels.

And there was too much to change containers... What should we do...

"Even if you could remove the cause of the sickness from it...the taste will likely suffer..."

"And transporting it will also take several days..."

Ractos was about three days from here on horseback... And so a wagon would probably be four or five days.

Furthermore, given how heavy the wine barrels were, it would probably take over five days to reach the mansion.

So that was nine to ten days at best.

“Well, there is no guarantee that it will be drinkable again in the first place. So I suppose it’s too early to be worrying about the taste.”

“But it’s wine.”

“Yes, but my main purpose was to prevent Range village from suffering a great financial loss. And I was able to do that.”

“I see. Well, there is no problem then. Let’s hire a wagon to go to Ractos.”

Sebastian said with a grin, and then he left the house.

I suppose he had an idea. But why did he look so entertained just now...?

“...Phillip?”

“Mr. Takumi... Please help...”

“What happened?”

After finishing breakfast, I thanked Mr. Hannes’s wife and went outside to chase after Sebastian. That’s when I saw a tied up Phillip lying next to Leo.

Chapter 198

Phillip Was Punished

“I thought that we should send Phillip to the town of Ractos.”

“That seems like a good idea. But why is he tied up?”

“So that Leo can carry him. You were attacked by monsters, Mr. Takumi, while Leo was away... Well, the village was attacked...”

“Yes...”

But how was that related to tying up Phillip?

“After such an event, it will be difficult to convince Leo to part with you again.”

“Wuff.”

Leo nodded at this explanation from Sebastian.

I was grateful that Leo felt that way.

“And so this is a way of shortening the time that Leo is away from you as much as possible. This way, Leo can run to Ractos quickly, and return the same day.”

“...I...see...”

Or did I...?

It was true that if Leo didn't have to worry about the rider, she could probably run to Ractos and back in half a day.

Now, if Phillip was tied up like this...did that mean...?

“...You tied him so that he won't fall off of Leo?”

“Exactly. If Phillip is tied onto Leo, then he will not fall off no matter how fast she runs.”

“Well, that's true...but...”

“Mr. Takumi...”

Phillip was looking at me with a pleading expression... But I didn't think I would be able to stop Sebastian, who seemed to find this amusing...

"Phillip, accept your fate. After all...I heard about how you've been behaving since coming to this village."

"...What! Was it you, Mr. Takumi!?"

"No, I heard from Mr. Hannes and the other villagers."

Apparently, Sebastian had heard from the others about how Phillip wasted no time in getting drunk off of the wine.

As I did not want Phillip to get into any trouble, I had kept my mouth shut about that.

"As the guard of His Grace's house, you came to this village and drank wine... This is your punishment. But at least you won't die."

"Wuff."

"...Tsk!"

So this task was also a punishment for Phillip.

As Sebastian announced the sentence cheerfully, Leo also nodded.

Well, he wouldn't die as long as he stayed on Leo.

And Leo understood that as well.

"Wuff-wuff."

“Leo...you too...”

Perhaps Leo wanted him to repent as well... She was now on Sebastian’s side...

Sorry, Phillip.

My hands are tied on this one.

“Now, Johanna.”

“Yes. Sorry, Phillip.”

“Please don’t!”

As Phillip struggled, Johanna, who had left the merchants to be guarded by the villagers, came and put Phillip onto Leo’s back.

Though he was struggling, he was helpless while she expertly tied him to Leo.

“Oh, I can’t forget this...”

“Wuff.”

Sebastian took out a small barrel and strapped it to Leo, as well.

“What is that?”

“It contains the wine. I want Isabelle to look into it while she studies the glass sphere.”

“Ah, I see.”

As Ms. Isabelle was studying the glass sphere now, it would make sense to have her study the actual wine that was infected as well.

Perhaps she would be able to find a way to reverse the effect.

“Now, Phillip. Your job is to hire some wagons and deliver that to Isabelle.”

“...I understand...”

“Also, Good Leo. Please return as soon as you put Phillip down.”

“Wuff!”

Knowing that there was no way out of it, Phillip agreed with a somber expression.

Leo just nodded cheerfully.

...Also, it seemed like Sebastian was able to communicate with Leo just fine...?

“Now, are you fine with everything, Mr. Takumi?”

“...Uh, yes. Sorry, Leo.”

“Thank you, Leo.”

“Wuff!”

“Ahhhhhh...”

Sebastian confirmed it with me one last time.

But it was too late to stop things now... And Leo was ready to go.

When Sebastian gave the signal, Leo barked once and then ran off like the wind.

Phillip's voice faded away as Leo disappeared into the distance.

That speed was a little... He would definitely fall off if he was just holding on... So it was a good thing that he was tied.

“Ah.”

“What is it, Mr. Takumi?”

I realized it after I could no longer see Leo.

“Who is going to untie Phillip once they reach Ractos?”

“Ah...”

“Ah...”

When I asked the question, both Sebastian and Johanna murmured at the same time.

So neither of them had been thinking about it.

“I'm sure that your Leo will think of something?”

“...But it might be difficult...?”

While she was a Silver Fenrir, surely she could not untie someone from her own back.

It wasn't like her paws would be able to reach him...

“Hmm... I suppose we’ll just have to hope that someone over there will realize and do it.”

“Indeed?”

“Well, the guards are acquainted with Leo and Phillip. It will be fine.”

While Sebastian thought that being able to punish Phillip and send him to Ractos was killing two birds with one stone, he had not considered the need to untie the ropes.

It was unusual for Sebastian to be so forgetful, but things had moved at such a quick pace, so perhaps he didn’t have time to consider everything.

And I was in no place to judge, since I was the one who bought wine without thinking of a way to transport it.

“And next...we must escort the merchants.”

“Yes.”

“When will we leave?”

“...Indeed...We need to take them to the town as soon as possible for questioning... After breakfast, then. Johanna...have the horses ready by then.”

“Certainly!”

“After breakfast, got it. Will it be fine without Leo?”

“They have been threatened so much that they have lost all will to resist. Besides, I will cast pursuing magic on them, so even if they were able to escape, we can just chase after them.”

Chapter 199

The Merchants Were Escorted Away



It was decided that they'd take the merchants to Ractos after lunch.

Leo would return during the evening or night at the latest. If that's the case, then I would be fine even on my own... I doubted we'd be attacked by monsters again.

Sebastian intended to cast the same tracking magic on the merchants that he cast on Nick.

And so we would be able to capture them easily even if they managed to escape.

Also, since I still had some time, I would make some herbs with Weed Cultivation.

"All right. I'm going to the back of Mr. Hannes's house so I can make some herbs."

"Is there something you need?"

"Well, I've been away from the mansion for quite a long time. And so I thought I'd make some herbs for Ractos."

"...Indeed. Phillip brought some with him, along with the glass sphere...but if you stay in this village for a few more days, then they will likely run out."

"Yes. And so I'll make as much as I can."

"Very well. But don't tire yourself."

After telling Sebastian what I would do, we parted ways.

And so I headed to the house that was quite familiar to me now, so I could focus on growing herbs.

"Sebastian, here are the herbs. Please send my regards to Mr. Kalis."

"Yes, of course. ...This seems like a lot... How do you feel?"

“I’m fine. But I’ll avoid using Weed Cultivation for the rest of the day.”

I had worked for a few hours, and had made so much that I wondered if I had gone a little too far.

After eating lunch, I watched as Sebastian and Johanna took the merchants and set off for Ractos.

Sebastian had been surprised when I handed him the herbs at the village entrance, but I promised him that I wouldn’t make anymore that day.

The last thing I wanted to do was faint while I was staying in this village... Of course, I didn’t want to faint anywhere.

“Well, just be careful.”

“Yes.”

“And... Ah, that’s right. When we arrive in Ractos, the merchants will be questioned...and so I’ll have to stay there for a while.”

“I see... Well, I’ll leave for Ractos as soon as Phillip arrives with the wagons.”

“Yes. We will meet in Ractos.”

If everything went smoothly, Phillip would return in four to five days.

And since Sebastian would be carrying the merchants, the horses would not be able to run very fast.

And so once Phillip returns and I ride on Leo after loading all of the barrels onto the wagons, then I should arrive in Ractos just as all the questioning was finished.

Close enough, anyway.

And once I met up with Sebastian, we could go and see Isabelle.

“See you soon, Mr. Takumi.”

“Yes, please be careful.”

“Goodbye.”

“You too, Johanna.”

Unlike when we brought the merchants to the village, they had put the merchants into the back of a wagon with Johanna to monitor them, while Sebastian was in the driver’s seat.

It was one of the wagons that the merchants had brought, and the only one that hadn’t been damaged.

The others were either destroyed by the orcs or trampled over by the horses.

But I suppose it was lucky that even one of them was usable, considering their cargo.

Once the wagon was out of sight, I went back into the village.

“Mr. Takumi, when is Leo coming back?”

“Rosalie. Hmm. I think it will be a little longer.”

When I was back near Mr. Hannes’s house, Rosalie approached me.

It seemed like she was waiting for Leo’s return.

They had become good friends, and I was happy to see it.

“I want to play with Leo again!”

“Leo is so amazing!”

A few other children had gathered around Rosalie. I suppose they were all waiting for Leo.

They were the same children that Leo had played with.

“Leo is running her fastest right now. She’ll be back soon. I hope you will all play with her when she arrives?”

“Of course! Won’t we?”

“Yes!”

I said to the children, and Rosalie replied cheerfully.

The other children were also looking forward to it, and they smiled and nodded.

“It’s good to see the children so energetic. ...It’s been a while since they were like this. I am so grateful towards Leo.”

“Mr. Hannes.”

As I watched the children, Mr. Hannes appeared to my side.

He smiled at the sight of his granddaughter.

“Well, there was the disease that had spread... But the atmosphere is so much brighter now.”

“Yes.”

“But even before the disease, we were all so busy with making the wine. And the children had little to do.”

“You couldn’t play with them?”

“I am not proud of it... But everyone who could work had to cut down trees and make barrels. And the wine... The village was very different once we started making the wine.”

I understood why the village would seem like a dark place when everyone was sick.

I had seen it in person.

But what about before that?

According to Mr. Hannes, the adults were so busy with work, and the children were often neglected.

Right now, perhaps due to there being less wine, and having to rest after the battle with the orcs, there were adults resting all over the village. And they watched the running children with gentle expressions.

Some of them were even playing with them.

It didn’t look like a village where the adults were too busy to spend time with the children.

“Even if the village was doing well...I feel it wasn’t the happiest place for our young. The only sounds you heard were of people working, not the laughter of children.”

“...I see.”

I thought back to the company I used to work at. If asked whether or not it was successful, I would say that it was.

However, all one would hear was the angry shouts of my boss, and people shifting blame to the new people.

We didn’t even have time to have friendly chats with coworkers.

And while things were likely not that bad here, they still had to put their work before anything else.

...It was in order to live, and so I couldn't blame them.

Chapter 200

I Spent My Time Relaxing in Range Village

“A place where the children are happy... That is probably really important. No matter how much work there is, the village will not survive if the next generation doesn't bear the load.”

“Indeed. Even if things are good now, it will mean nothing if the children all leave.”

They may make more money, but the time will come when they will have to let the next generation take over.

And if the children are gone, then it will all be over.

And so it was important to ensure that the children did not leave.

Of course, they couldn't spend all their time with the children as well, so the balance was difficult to achieve.

“After this incident with the illness, I am unsure of our future when it comes to making wine. However, thanks to you, Mr. Takumi, the village is not in as much of a desperate situation as we would have been. Perhaps this will be a good opportunity to reconsider things.”

We knew for a fact that the wine had spread the illness.

Even if this knowledge wasn't made public, rumors would spread eventually.

And so no matter how delicious the wine was, fewer people would want to buy from this village.

And so their income would be reduced greatly.

“Will you be fine?”

“Well, we did not even buy any grapes this time. So we have some money left from that. In the meantime, we’ll have to think about what must be done for this village.”

They could use the money for the grapes and find a different way of supporting themselves.

I didn’t know if they would stop making wine completely, but as long as their income was guaranteed to decrease, it would make little sense to have everyone in the village focus on that.

As the orcs had been brought in by the merchants, there would be a lot of anxiety about where they would get grapes from now. Could they even buy them from another territory?

In fact, now that the connection between that store and the merchants was revealed, and the Count’s misdeeds uncovered, it would greatly affect his relationship with the duke...

“Thankfully, our wood can still be sold in the town. If we aren’t using the barrels for wine, we can sell them to other towns and villages.”

They could probably make a decent amount by just selling the wood materials.

That would help them survive until they found a long-term solution.

“Before the wine stops selling?”

“Yes. I need to think of the village and move quickly... Well, think quickly. It is important.”

“That is true...”

As Mr. Hannes was the chief of the village, he needed to be ahead of the others when thinking about things.

However, I couldn’t help but feel a little sad about that delicious wine being gone forever.

Even though it had spread the disease, the real reason was the glass sphere that the merchant had brought.

But people didn't care about such details when spreading rumors... Once rumors about the wine being the cause started to spread, it would just be a matter of time before its reputation was ruined.

"Well, perhaps these are just the ramblings of an old man."

Still, I was worried.

Was it my personality or... I suppose it was due to my past experiences.

I knew what it was like to be so consumed by work, and I felt like the situation in the village was similar to the situation that I was in.

Things were different now, and while I didn't have all the answers, I couldn't help but think about it.

...The wine was good... That was another reason.

"Wuff-wuff!"

"Ah, it's Leo!"

As I was talking with Mr. Hannes, and thinking about the future of the village, more time had passed than I thought.

I heard Leo's voice from far away, and the children began to shout excitedly.

"Wuff... Wuff."

"Welcome back, Leo. That's a good girl."



“Wuff.”

She had run past me at an incredible speed, but then realized it and came back frantically.

Then she dug her claws into the ground noisily in order to stop right in front of me, and I proceeded to pet her.

“Leo!”

“Wuff?”

After seeing that Leo was back, the children all gathered around her.

No matter where Leo went, she was always popular with the children.

To them, Leo wasn’t a frightening monster. It was like they could tell that she was gentle...

Or maybe they just saw her as a playmate.

“I’m sorry, Mr. Hannes. I think Leo is really thirsty. Do you have any water or milk?”

“Of course. I’ll prepare some milk right away.”

“Wuff-wuff.”

“Leo! Let’s play!”

She had run nonstop to the town of Ractos and back. Assuming that she was thirsty, I asked Mr. Hannes to bring her something to drink.

Leo wagged her tail happily when she heard that it would be milk.

She had worked so hard, and deserved a treat at the very least.

The kids played with her tail as one after another, they gathered around her.

“Here you go, good Leo.”

“Wuff! Wuff-wuff. Glug-glug...”

“She drinks so fast...”

She must have been very thirsty. Leo practically dunked her face into the bucket of milk and drank.

After drinking it all, I wiped the milk on her face with a towel.

I thought she should be clean if she was going to play with the children.

“As I was saying before, it really is nice to see the children playing.”

“Yes. And Leo really enjoys it.”

“Wuff-wuff.”

“Ahahahah!”

We sat at a table in the village square and watched Leo as she played with them.

Tea was brought out, and I was able to relax as the time passed leisurely.

Like this, I spent the next few days in the village quietly.

There was nothing really to do. I did feel a little bad, but Mr. Hannes insisted that I could stay for as long as I'd like, since I had saved them.

Still, I had no intention of accepting their hospitality for too long.

And while I did spend time lazily watching Leo play, I also didn't forget to run and train, so that my body wouldn't grow weak.

Also, I made some herbs behind Mr. Hannes's house, so I could give them to Mr. Kalis later.

I had given some to Sebastian, but he would need more soon.

However, even as I relaxed during the days, there was always something on my mind.

It was about the village's wine.

I didn't know what Mr. Hannes and the others would do, but it would be a waste to abandon the wine business entirely. Also, what work could the adults do...that would still afford them enough time to spend with the children...?

While it seemed like there was nothing I could do, it still bothered me.