

Beloved Dog 251

Chapter 251

Mr. Ekenhart Looked Exhausted

The only one who I might hire in the near future was Milina... As she was interested in learning about medicine, she could help me in various ways.

That being said, would I really be hiring anyone in the future...?

If I was just going to stay here making herbs, and have the duke's men sell them, then there would be no need.

"...Mr. Takumi. There you are."

"...Ms. Gelda. Is something the matter?"

"Preparations for lunch are complete."

"I see. I will go there right away."

As various thoughts went through my mind, Ms. Gelda appeared and told me that lunch was ready. And so I headed to the dining hall with Ms. Lyra.

...Now that I thought about it, what had happened to Mr. Ekenhart?

As she was playing with Tilura and Sherry as well, I was sure that Leo wasn't doing anything reckless.

I just hoped that he could get used to Leo even a little.

"Excuse me. I brought Mr. Takumi."

“...Mmm.”

“Wuff? Wuff-wuff!”

“Oh, Leo. So you were already here?”

“Wuff!”

When I entered the dining hall, Mr. Ekenhart, Ms. Claire, Tilura, and Sherry were already there.

As Sebastian was there as well, he must have finished his business in the kitchen.

I suppose I had been talking with Ms. Lyra and Nick longer than I realized.

Leo rushed towards me as soon as I entered the room. Since she was wagging her tail enthusiastically, I petted her thoroughly.

It was nice that she was happy, but her tail was causing a great wind that threatened to push up Ms. Lyra’s skirt. Be careful, okay?

“Well, let us eat then... Phew.”

“Yes.”

“Wuff-wuff!”

“Kyau!”

I made Leo calm down as we went to the table together. And then on Mr. Ekenhart’s signal, we began to eat.

...Still, Mr. Ekenhart really did look tired.

Also, Ms. Anne wasn't here. Was she still sulking in her room then?

"Father. You look very tired?"

"Mmm... Yes."

"What happened? ...I don't think anything happened that would make you so tired..."

"Well, that is true. With the whole matter with the store settled, there is nothing to trouble me... But Leo..."

"Leo?"

"Wuff?"

Ms. Claire had seen that her father was not eating at his usual speed, and she looked concerned.

Mr. Ekenhart glanced over to Leo as he replied.

It seemed like he had expended a lot of energy in playing with Leo and Tilura.

Leo heard her name, and she looked up and tilted her head, while a sausage was still in her mouth.

It's really nothing Leo. Keep eating...

"Mr. Takumi made me..."

"Made you? You make it sound very bad..."

"Mr. Takumi?"

"I was going to play with Tilura and Leo..."

“So that’s why you are tired... Well, you rarely play with Tilura. So isn’t it a good thing?”

“Well...yes. It is, but... Yes, I do feel less afraid now...”

“Did you have a good time, Tilura?”

“Yes! It was fun being with father!”

Tilura answered her sister in a cheerful voice.

Upon seeing this, Mr. Ekenhart was not able to say anything.

A father couldn’t complain about being tired when his daughter said she had so much fun.

Ms. Claire had clearly asked her that question deliberately.

That being said, Mr. Ekenhart had lost his fear. So it was all good in the end, I suppose.

“By the way, I see that Ms. Anne hasn’t come down... Is she alright?”

Now that the conversation had ended, I decided to ask about Ms. Anne out of curiosity.

“Lady Anneliese is staying in her room. She said that she does not want to eat. That’s how effective your rejection was, Mr. Takumi.”

“She overestimated her power as a noble and was shocked as a result. Really, the very idea of using power to get a husband...”

“Hahaha... Indeed...”

Like Sebastian had explained, Ms. Anne would not come out of her room.

It was clear that Ms. Claire resented her, and she was muttering angrily to herself...

But I didn't want to get involved, so I focused on my food.

"Ah, Ms. Lyra. Do you know where Ms. Anne's room is?"

"Lady Anneliese's room? Uh..."

After lunch, I decided to check up on Ms. Anne. And so I asked Ms. Lyra where her room was.

Perhaps it would be odd for me to see her after rejecting her... But I couldn't help but worry about her...

"I see. Thank you."

"Not at all. I could take you there?"

"No, that will be fine. I doubt I will get lost."

I asked Ms. Lyra for directions and then thanked her.

She must have recalled how I had asked her to guide me when I first came to this mansion, and offered to take me there, but I refused.

It wasn't too far from my own room, so I shouldn't have trouble getting there.

Besides, I wasn't going to visit her right away.

I needed to talk to Ms. Helena first...

"Sebastian. Do you have a minute?"

“Yes. What is it?”

Mr. Ekenhart and the others were now gone from the dining hall.

Each had things to do, like work or studying, and so they had all left right after taking their tea.

Ms. Claire and Mr. Ekenhart seemed like they had much to discuss about the property.

Tilura took Sherry with her to study.

...I doubted she could concentrate with Sherry around, but... Well, I'm sure it would be fine.

Now that I knew where Ms. Anne's room was, I called to Sebastian as he was clearing the dishes.

Chapter 252

I Gave Ms. Helena The New Herbs

“Uhh, I'm going to go and see Ms. Helena now...”

“To talk about the new herbs? Very well. Lyra, Gelda. I will leave the rest to you.”

“Certainly.”

“Thank you.”

I felt bad that they had more work to do now...but I had promised Sebastian that I would call him when I went to talk to Ms. Helena, so it could not be helped.

If we took too long to go and see her, she would then become busy preparing for dinner. And so I wanted to go as soon as possible.

...Besides, there were probably dishes to be washed as well.

“So, where are the new herbs?”

“...Uh, here they are.”

“Hmm...”

“One is for restoration, and the others are more of a supplement.”

“Restoration... What effect is that exactly?”

“Hahaha. I will explain it to when we see Ms. Helena.”

As Sebastian was very interested, I showed him the herbs with a brief explanation.

He seemed like he had a lot of questions, but I didn't want to have to explain about the herbs twice.

It was better to talk to them both at the same time.

“Excuse me. Is Helena here?”

“Mr. Sebastian. You want to see Ms. Helena? Please wait one moment.”

We entered the kitchen and addressed the nearest cook and had them call Ms. Helena.

As they had finished making lunch, they were all relaxing now and seemed to have plenty of time.

“Mr. Sebastian. Was there a problem with the food? I did make adjustments to the seasoning, just as you requested...”

“No, that is not why I am here. I wanted to see what Mr. Takumi has made for the wine...”

“Mr. Takumi?”

“Yes. Uh, these are the herbs...”

I took out the herbs and showed them to Ms. Helena.

Apparently, the reason that Mr. Sebastian had come down earlier had to do with seasoning.

As the food was as delicious as always, I hadn’t noticed. But I suppose Ms. Helena confided in Sebastian when it came to the menu.

Or maybe it was because Mr. Ekenhart was here... He was the master, after all.

“A restorative...? In what way?”

“Uh... There are certain nutrients that are necessary for the human body. And sometimes, even when taking those nutrients, your body might not absorb them, depending on the state it is in.”

“Nutrients... It is something I think about when cooking, yes.”

“What isn’t absorbed comes out of the body as waste. But this will change it so that it is absorbed. It will also strengthen parts that are weakened, making it harder for you to get sick.”

“Oh. That sounds quite amazing...”

“How interesting... I suppose such thinking is common in your world, Mr. Takumi.”

Sebastian and Ms. Helena looked impressed as they listened to my explanation.

I didn’t actually know the details of how it all worked. It was just based on the little knowledge I remembered.

And I was pretty sure that I wasn’t wrong... Well, basically, it worked to make your body stronger.

There was no doubt about that.

As I talked to them like this, the other cooks in the kitchen started to gather around us as well.

They were also listening with interest. I suppose it was because they were cooks.

It was nice to see how passionate they were.

“By mixing this into the wine, it will help the drinker stay healthy. I think. ...As for the taste, we’ll have to try it to find out.”

“This is that medicinal wine you were talking about before?”

“Yes.”

“Hmm... And what does this herb taste like?”

“Well, I only just made it a short while ago. I haven’t tasted it yet.”

I had just wanted to talk to Ms. Helena about it first, and hadn’t been thinking about a taste test.

“In that case...may I try it?”

“Yes. It can be made very quickly. I will try it too then...”

“So will I.”

“Then I’ll split it...”

I split up the yellow plant and gave some to Sebastian and Ms. Helena.

As I had brought several of them, I shared it with the other cooks as well.

They all seemed very curious about this new herb.

Since this was just to test the taste and not the effect, it only needed to be a little.

“Hmmm... This is...”

“Mmm...I see...”

“....Hmm!”

“....Mmm!”

The moment that I put it in my mouth a very distinct odor spread through my mouth... It was like kerosene?

Aside from the horrible smell, there was a strong bitterness as well.

When I bit into it, there was also a mild sweetness there. But it was quickly erased by the stench and bitterness. I would hardly consider this to be edible...

Still, it would be a waste to spit it out, and so I clamped my mouth shut and swallowed it.

When I looked at the others, they were doing the same.

Only Ms. Helena seemed to chew slowly as if to taste it carefully. She was nodding to herself. ... Did she not think it was horrible?

“This...is rather too strong...”

“Indeed... I’m sorry. Can I have some water...”

“...Here.”

“Thank you. Glug...glug...”

I got some water from one of the cooks and rinsed the lingering stench out of my mouth with it.

Aside from Ms. Helena, everyone else was also drinking water.

...I would have to do something about the smell if I wanted to use it in the wine...

“Hmm... This is a herb known as Artaba. This yellow fluid around the leaves... It is the cause of the smell and bitterness.”

“Artaba... So it’s a common plant here?”

“Yes. Well, it does not grow in the duke’s lands... But I’ve eaten it before as part of my training as a cook.”

So the herb that looked like ashitaba was called Artaba in this world.

As it had been enveloped in that yellow liquid when I made it with Weed Cultivation, I assumed it was important...

If what Ms. Helena said was true, then it meant Weed Cultivation was an ability that created plants in their most effective state...but not the most edible state.

In fact, all of the plants I had made up until now had tasted...rather bad. So it was no surprise.

Chapter 253

Artaba Was Affected By Magic Energy

“Indeed, Artaba is good for you... At least, that’s what they say. And so it should be effective if you put it in wine.”

“However...this taste...it will ruin the wine.”

“Indeed... We will have to do something about the smell and the bitterness first.”

The smell and bitterness that spread through the mouth the instant after biting it... It was so strong that there was no way that it wouldn't ruin the taste of the wine.

“But as you said, Mr. Takumi, it should be quite potent as a restorative.”

“Yes. Maybe not as much as the recovery herbs, but it will definitely work. After all, we only took a little bit, and I can already feel it... This is quite wonderful.”

Ms. Helena, Sebastian and even the other cooks all felt the effects of the herb.

Though, I was pretty sure that something like a restorative should not be felt so strongly this soon... However, even as I was thinking this, I thought that I felt something as well.

Was it the placebo effect...? But then again, everything in this world seemed to be more effective than similar herbs from my world.

As Sebastian said, it wasn't as sudden and strong as the recovery herb, but it was still a good result.

“Mr. Takumi. Do you have any more of it?”

“After sharing it with everyone...there is just one left. As this was just for a test, I didn't make that much...”

“I see... Can I have that one then? I want to try and remove the taste and smell.”

“Very well.”

“So you are testing...to see if it will still have an effect after being processed?”

“Yes.”

I handed over the remaining Artaba to Ms. Helena.

She had talked about the yellow juices before. And she wanted to see if the restorative effect would still be there after it was removed.

If it was the yellow liquid that was potent, then removing it would make the leaves worthless.

And so Sebastian and I silently watched Ms. Helena work.

“...There we go.”

“Yes, the yellowness is gone. It is just a leaf now.”

“It all depends on this next part...”

After washing the leaf with water, she had soaked it in hot water and then pared it down with a knife until it was quite a bit smaller.

The yellowness was gone completely, and what remained looks like a brown, dead leaf.

It did not look like it would be effective to me...

“As there is only one, it cannot be shared with everyone.”

“Yes. So I will eat it with Mr. Takumi and you, Sebastian.”

“No, I do not need any more. You and Sebastian should do it... That way, you will be able to eat more and it will be easier to see if it has an effect.”

“Very well. Here you go, Sebastian.”

“Yes, thank you.”

Besides, I wasn’t confident in my ability to analyze or even feel the effect.

In that case, it would be better to let Ms. Helena and Sebastian do it, as they were far more knowledgeable.

And so they split the leaf and hesitantly put it in their mouths.

...It was probably because they were dreading that horrible taste.

And this portion was larger than the first...

“Hmm... It is...”

“How is it?”

“The smell and bitterness is gone. Yes, the yellow part was the cause after all.”

“No, there is some bitterness left... But it is probably from the leaf itself.”

“But it is mild. Unless you are incredibly sensitive to it, it should be fine to mix in the wine.”

Apparently, she had succeeded in removing the smell and bitterness from the wine.

So that was one problem solved.

But now...there was the effect.

“Can you feel anything?”

“It is weaker than before, but I do feel a change.”

“It must be the magic energy. The magic energy that courses through your whole body is reacting to the restorative effect.”

“Magic energy...”

“Magic energy is something that all humans require. In other words, it is like a nutrient.”

Now that I thought of it, when I had eaten the herb, I did feel as if my magic energy was reacting to it.

If magic energy and nutrients were similar, then perhaps it was going to places in the body where it was deficient, and energizing it...

“Hmm...”

“What is it?”

Sebastian closed his eyes as if troubled over something.

Well, he was probably just concentrating. But why?

“...Yes, the magic energy seems to be more active than usual. An increase...no, maybe not that far...”

“It is?”

“Yes. It is moving as if to give energy to the body. ...I tried checking the magic energy throughout my body, and can see that it is having an effect.”

“Magic energy... When eating and absorbing nutrients, magic energy often becomes active. I see, this is a good herb.”

After eating the herb in both states, he was able to clearly feel the effect and how it worked.

In other words, even after the smell and bitterness was removed, the herb was just as potent.

“So, if you put it in the wine...you will be able to make something quite healthy.”

“Yes. The yellow part merely enhanced the effects, but the actual restorative effect is in the leaf. Now, we just need to test to see if it will remain potent when added to wine...”

“Indeed. We will have to test it with a few batches.”

“Very well. I will make more of them today.”

Now that there was no problem with the taste or effect, we just needed to test it.

See if it still worked with wine. And if it did, we would then have a restorative wine.

And so I decided to make more when I had some free time.

Chapter 254

I Thought About How To Handle The Herbs

“A restorative...that is quite interesting.”

“Yes. If you think of it as something that activates magic energy... It could have a lot of different uses.”

“But it wasn’t originally for magic energy...”

I hadn’t even been thinking about magic energy when making it.

I was only thinking about having the necessary nutrients distributed through the whole body.

Well, as long as it was good for you, then it was fine.

“So, now that we tested the restorative herb, what about the others?”

“Yes. This one has the nutrients that your body needs... Or at least, that’s why I made it. After all, the restorative herb will not be effective if there are no nutrients to begin with.”

“I see... So you can take in the nutrients with this herb, and the other herbs ensure it is properly distributed...?”

“Yes.”

And so I showed the other herbs to Sebastian and Ms. Helena.

Both of them inspected the herbs with great interest.

“Still, multiple herbs... Will these be put in a separate wine?”

“No, I was hoping to put all of the herbs in the same wine. One wine with nutrients and a restorative effect to make your body healthy.”

“All at once... It would be a wonderful wine indeed. However...”

“To add these on top of the other one...”

“Surely they will bring even more problems with taste and effect...”

I showed them three other new herbs.

If Weed Cultivation is to be believed, one was for protein, another for vitamins, and the last for iron.

But there was no way to analyze such things in this world, so I could not confirm if this was true.

And it would be difficult to actually feel the effects, unlike the restorative.

However, that wasn't Ms. Helena and Sebastian's main concern right now.

They were thinking about the effect on the wine's taste and smell after mixing it with so many herbs...

The vitamin plant had a sour citrus smell. It seemed like it would definitely alter the taste of the wine.

And one of the best things about the wine was its sweetness... Though, perhaps some people would prefer a more sour taste.

"Mr. Takumi. Could you not combine all of these into one?"

"What do you mean?"

"Mix them so that it is a single medicine."

Now that I thought about it, the book that I had borrowed from Sebastian had contained something about that.

By mixing them, you could enhance the potency or create a medicine with multiple effects.

But it also said that you had to be careful when preparing it, or you might make something that was useless if not poisonous...

When turning it into liquid and mixing them, you could even cause an explosion, as they contained magic energy.

Well, since we would just be combining herbs with each other, it would probably be fine.

"However...I do not know how..."

"Is it not written in the book you borrowed?"

“It is. But I doubt I will be able to do it...”

“As it will be your first time, it does not need to be perfect. You just need to practice.”

“...Yes, that’s true.”

“Mr. Takumi. While I make all kinds of dishes and serve them to everyone... It took me a lot of practice to get to this point, you know?”

“That’s true...”

While I was nervous about it, Sebastian was right. I realized that I just need to practice until I can do it well.

Ms. Helena always cooked delicious meals, but it was easy to imagine that this was the result of a lot of work and effort.

Thankfully, the herbs I had prepared this time were nutritious, but not particularly special. And so I doubted there would be much risk in combining them.

Well...it would also still be difficult to determine whether I had succeeded or failed.

“Now, why don’t you try doing it with Ms. Milina?”

“With Milina?”

“Yes. Since she is currently studying medicine with you. Surely she can be of assistance?”

“I suppose so. Yes. I will ask her then. If she agrees, we can start testing it.”

“Good. Thank you, Mr. Takumi.”

“But... how will I know if it worked?”

“I think that we should buy a magic device from Isabelle’s store.”

As Ms. Isabelle sold magic tools, perhaps she had something that could determine if it was mixed correctly?

“That restorative... Through it, we learned that nutrients are related to magic energy. And there are many different kinds of magic tools, so there may be one that allows you to detect the nutrients which are affected by magic energy...”

“I see... Yes, it is possible.”

“I will ask Isabelle. And if she has such a thing, we can buy it. Otherwise, we’ll have to think of something else. But first, you must prepare it.”

“Yes, I understand.”

If it is affected by magic energy, then it may be possible to detect it with magic tools. That was what Sebastian believed.

Even if they didn’t know much about nutrients, this world had plenty of things related to magic energy.

But as Sebastian said, I had to combine them first.

“Mr. Takumi. I think we better taste them before you do anything...”

“Ah, that’s right. The taste is important.”

“Hohoho. Indeed. After all, the taste might change after combining them.”

Ms. Helena’s words reminded me of how important that was.

In terms of nutrition, I doubted it would be much use like this...but Sebastian and Ms. Helena didn't know that.

Besides, I was also curious about how it tasted.

...Though, I was pretty sure that it wouldn't taste good.

Chapter 255

We Tasted The Herbs

"Well, let's try it then."

"As they are divided this time as well, the effect will not be strong..."

"Yes, I didn't make many of them."

And so we separated the three types of herbs and the people in the kitchen tasted them.

It wasn't just Ms. Helena and Sebastian, but the other cooks as well, as they were listening with great interest.

The effect wasn't that important right now anyway, and it was only important to see if it tasted fine.

"Well, let's eat it then."

Said Sebastian, and everyone put the herbs in their mouths.

First, it was the protein herb... What was this... There was a slight bitterness there, but also a sweetness... It was a combination of different flavors, with nothing being stronger than the other.

A strange taste, that was neither bad nor good.

Next was the iron herb.

Unlike the first one, this one had a clear taste.

The taste of blood.

But that made sense, since it contained iron

Last was the vitamin herb.

It had a citrus-like smell, so I put it in my mouth without hesitation.

“This-this is very...sour...”

“Indeed... Like a fruit? No, something else...”

“I can’t stop salivating...”

To put it simply, it was like a combination of a lemon and a pickled plum...

There was no sweetness there at all. It was just sour.

Ms. Helena seemed to detect something else in it, but I could not. Perhaps it had a lot of citric acid.

I had once heard that citric acid was unrelated to vitamins... But since I made it with Weed Cultivation, it should be rich in all kinds of vitamins...right?

I had expected it to be sour due to the smell, but... I did not think it would also have the sourness of a pickled plum as well...

But both lemons and plums were fruits... Though, it was when you pickled plums in salt and let them out to dry that they became so sour. Well, that didn’t matter right now.

“This is very strong. It’s as if various types of sourness are clashing inside of my mouth.”

“Indeed. It is not even one kind of sourness... How very interesting.”

Sebastian frowned and drank some water in order to wash away the taste.

But Ms. Helena and the cooks were all tasting it slowly and with deep interest.

They really were studious.

Perhaps it was because they didn't have pickled plums here, and they didn't recognize the sourness.

“Mr. Takumi. Thank you for letting me taste something so unusual.”

“Uh, yes.”

While it was just a sour leaf to me, it was interesting and educational for Ms. Helena and the other cooks.

I didn't like food that was only sour, but if they could use it to make something delicious, then that would be very welcome.

...But what kind of dish would that be?

I couldn't think of anything right now.

“However, putting this in wine...”

“Indeed. The sourness is so strong that it will ruin the taste of the wine.”

“Yes. Mr. Takumi. You must make adjustments then when combining them...”

“Haha. I will do my best.”

After all, I had never done it before.

I didn't know what it would taste like, but as Ms. Helena said, I would have to think about how I can make the sourness more mild.

Otherwise, it would ruin the taste of the wine.

They didn't seem to have medicinal wine in this world. And so it wouldn't sell...even if people believed that the best medicine was bitter.

"Well, I will be going now. I will talk to Milina and study about how to mix the herbs. ...And I will bring you more of the restorative herbs tonight."

"Thank you. You can leave the processing of them to us. Ah, that's right. About the wine that will use Ramogi. I mean to start soaking them soon. So you will be able to check it tomorrow."

"I see. Then I will bring Leo so she can check it."

"I have to discuss matters concerning dinner with Ms. Helena, and I will stay here."

"Well, excuse me then."

And so I separated from Sebastian and left the kitchen alone.

I now had more work to do, as I had to study with Milina and learn how to combine the medicine, but it was for the wine, so I would do my best.

"Ah, now that I think about it, I was going to go and visit Ms. Anne."

I remembered this just as I was walking through the mansion after leaving the kitchen.

If she was still locked up in her room, then I had to go and check up on her... Though, I doubted she would stay there forever...

“Ah, excuse me.”

“Yes, what is it?”

As I was walking through the hallway, a maid was coming from the other direction, and so I called to her.

It wasn't Ms. Gelda or Ms. Lyra.

There were over ten maids, and so I couldn't remember all of their names... Perhaps I should ask someone later, and confirm them?

“Uh, is Ms. Anne still in her room?”

“Yes. I checked just now. Lady Anneliese seemed like she did not want to come out...”

“I see... Thank you.”

So Ms. Anne was still in her room.

I thanked the maid and moved away.

Then I recalled the location of the room that Ms. Lyra had told me, and I headed in that direction.

“Uh, it's close to my own room... Here.”

As the mansion was very large, and it was far from the kitchens, it took me a while to reach. But I was now in front of Ms. Anne's room.

I stood in front of the door and raised my hand to knock. But then I hesitated.

Now that I thought about it, this was the first time I had visited a woman's room... I felt a little nervous.

I wondered if I wouldn't look rude or strange... But I had already come this far, and it would be a waste to turn back now.

"Fine..."

I made up my mind and knocked on the door.

Knock. Knock.

The sound echoed down the hall and in the room.

"Yes, who is it?"

"...Takumi. Are you alright, Ms. Anne?"

"Mr. Takumi!?"

I was relieved to hear her sounding reasonably cheerful.

That being said, she also seemed very surprised, and the sounds from inside suggested she was scampering around frantically.

...Perhaps I should not have come after all?

Chapter 256

Visiting Ms. Anne

"...Co-come in."

"Excuse me."

As I thought of such things, Ms. Anne seemed to have finished preparing to greet me.

And so I opened the door and stepped into the room.

...I nearly tripped over myself due to being nervous, but I took a deep breath and pretended to be calm.

“Are you alright, Ms. Anne?”

“I did not expect to hear such words coming from the person who rejected me.”

“Hahaha. That’s true.”

While the positioning of the furniture was a little different, Anne’s room was similar to my own room in size.

And since they were in the same part of the mansion, they were probably rooms that were prepared for guests.

Perhaps the guards that Mr. Ekenhart brought were also staying in similar rooms.

But that wasn’t important right now.

Ms. Anne was sitting on her bed and looking at me with a suspicious expression.

“You seem quite well now? I was a little worried when I heard you had shut yourself up here.”

“There is nothing wrong with my body, I can assure you. I was just contemplating on what transpired.”

“All this time, for a rejection?”

“Of course. Everyone I know would have jumped at the opportunity... And I understood the way that they thought. But I have never met someone like you.”

“Well, I am not really like most people.”

It was no surprise, since I had been born and raised in a different world.

This whole system with nobles... It was a mystery to me in many ways.

In any case, while Ms. Anne might have been troubled over it, there was clearly no need to worry about her...

That being said, she hadn't put much thought into her appearances, and her hair rolls drooping sadly and nearly touched the floor.

...I suppose it was because her hair was originally straight?

“And now you are seeing me like this... Nothing good has happened to me since coming to this mansion...”

“Hahaha! That's because you didn't prepare yourself and come out of the room.”

“You are one to talk. Since you are the reason I couldn't come out...”

“Me? Hahaha! I thought it was because you were too scared of Leo.”

“That's not it! Even though it may be a Silver Fenrir... It is ridiculous to assume that I would cower in fear of a monster!”

“Is that so... Well, perhaps I should call Leo right now? I think she would love to have someone to play with.”

“Th-that won't be necessary!”

Ms. Anne said frantically.

I had already known that I was the reason. That being said, it wasn't something I should apologize for...

That being said, if Ms. Anne was going to insist that she wasn't afraid of Leo, then calling her might be a good idea... It would be best for her to get used to being around Leo.

Mr. Ekenhart had been afraid at first... It made me all the more impressed that Ms. Claire and Ms. Lyra had been fine from the beginning... Of course, Ms. Claire had been attacked by orcs when we helped her.

"Well, you can play with Leo later... But I don't think that staying in your room all day will solve anything."

"...And why is that? It has always been my way to be alone and think. Everything I suggested to my father came from me thinking alone."

"Hmm... So that's why you thought of such things... It makes sense."

"What? What do you mean?"

"Nothing... Even if you are smart...it's probably because you were alone and shut up that you thought of such things..."

Using magic tools to infect wine and spread diseases.

At the same time, buy all of the herbs in advance so you have a monopoly on the market. Raise profits by diluting the product... If she thought of all of this by herself, then she probably wasn't stupid.

But being alone all of the time meant you weren't connected to other people.

You would stop thinking about how people will be affected, and only care about profit.

Besides, in this world, they did not have tools to talk with people who were outside, or ways to gather information like you could with the internet.

Even if she had servants to take care of her, she was still ultimately alone.

Obviously, it wouldn't be the case with everyone, but that is what I felt when I looked at Ms. Anne.

"You are saying it is wrong to stay in your room? But don't you know that it is a good way to avoid taking in unnecessary information and helps you focus?"

"That's true, but... I think you should interact with more people as well. Or you will just come up with terrible ideas again. Only this time, it will be you that Mr. Ekenharts crushes, not your father."

"...Interact with people... That does not seem very important to me."

"Yes, I suppose it wouldn't..."

While I sounded self-righteous now, it also sounded a little familiar to me.

I never made suggestions like Ms. Anne did, but there had been a time when I only thought about work and had few connections with other people. That's how I feel now, after coming to this world and interacting with Ms. Claire and the others.

Through having connections with friends, lovers, parents, siblings, you are able to care about other people... That's what I thought.

But if you are always alone and never involved with others, and just think about yourself, then instead of caring about others, you might come up with ideas to hurt people.

When I thought back on what Ms. Anne had said before, while she did have contact with her father, she tended to talk about him as if they weren't related...

I don't know if I would go as far as to say she didn't consider him to be her father, but she clearly looked down on him.

“As long as you are reliable and have authority, people will obey you.”

“Hmm. Perhaps that is one way to look at it, but if you stay like that... I guess you’ll just have to get used to being rejected then?”

Chapter 257

I Said Something Rather Arrogant

“...But why... Why don’t you grovel at the feet of nobles!? It’s because you’re under the protection of a superior duke, isn’t it!”

“...No. It doesn’t matter that you’re father is a count or below Mr. Ekenhart... I would have refused even if your positions were reversed.”

“...Why... But why...!?”

Depending on how you looked at it, Ms. Anne’s way of thinking was probably not wrong.

If those in authority knew how to lead and were reliable, then people would follow the nobles.

But as for me...I didn’t want to go in that direction.

Perhaps it was wishful thinking.

But then again, I had been watching people like Ms. Claire and Mr. Ekenhart, who did things differently.

But Ms. Anne still did not understand.

As she had shaken her head so much, her rolls were in disarray.

...Her hair was rather amusing to look at, so I wished that she would maintain them... But nevermind that.

“It’s important to ask people about things that you don’t understand, you know?”

There was a saying about how asking makes one appear foolish, but not asking actually makes you foolish.

I didn’t know if there was a similar saying in this world, but Anne was a proud noble who was used to thinking by herself, so she didn’t seem to understand.

“Ask people... But I asked you, and you gave me nothing.”

“Not just me. All kinds of other people. And you’re not guaranteed to get a real answer... But it may give you some kind of hint.”

Especially people like Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian. They were likely to do that.

And Ms. Claire should be able to give advice, as a noblewoman.

“A noble, going around and talking to people...”

“Is that so hard? You know, when Ms. Claire doesn’t know something, she asks Sebastian as well as others.”

“Ms. Claire is eccentric. Even when in a place where other nobles are gathered, she alone is...”

“Really?”

Eccentric... I had not thought of her that way before.

Well, she had gone to the forest without any guards that one time... That was definitely odd for a noblewoman.

“Yes. ...But regardless, we nobles are born with power. What is the point if we do not use it?”

“Just because you’re a noble, it doesn’t mean that you need to exert your power... I would recommend that instead of thinking by yourself, you talk to other people and listen to their opinions.”

“And I will get my answer?”

“Perhaps.”

“...You are so very irresponsible. It was you who brought it up.”

In the end, it was Ms. Anne who had to find the answer.

How should I know what she would learn by talking to others?

“Well, if there is one thing that I can say...”

“Yes?”

“People will follow you, even if you don’t exert your power. And you would know that if you watched Ms. Claire. If you continue to rely on your authority, then I will hardly be the last person who would refuse you.”

“...Ms. Claire...”

“Or anyone in this mansion. Talk and make connections that are unrelated to your position... And think of ways to make people follow you.”

With that said, I started to head for the door.

I probably sounded rather arrogant, that was all that I could think of after talking to Mr. Ekenhart and Ms. Anne.

I could not lead her to a perfect answer, but I hoped that she was able to find it herself.

Also, I hoped she would stop thinking of ways to hurt people for profit.

...In fact, if she did do such a thing, Mr. Ekenhart and the country would crush her entire house until there was nothing left... It was inevitable.

...But as someone who had now become involved with her in a way, I hoped that she would change for the best.

I had only come to check up on her, but it ended up being more like a lecture...

“Very well. ...I shall consider your words carefully and act as I see fit.”

“Good. I may have sounded arrogant, and I can’t say that I’ve been good at doing it myself. But I wish you the best.”

“What is this now...”

“Hahaha. And I’m glad to see that you’re better.”

I said jokingly at the end.

As Ms. Anne had been smiling the moment before I left the room, I believed that she would think about it.

It would be nice to see her again, with her hair carefully rolled like drills that went down to her waist... Such were my thoughts as I left Ms. Anne’s room.

“Uhh, next is Milina...”

It was almost time for my training with Mr. Ekenhart, but I had to talk to Milina first.

I needed to tell her about the medicine.

“Oh, there you are.”

Milina was in the drawing room and being instructed by Ms. Lyra.

I had even searched the dining hall, but they were here...

“Milina?”

“Are you listening, Milina? When someone is leaving or coming to the mansion, you have to greet them so that your voice is synced with everyone else.”

“Yes.”

She was so focused on this lesson that she didn't notice me.

And since she had her back to the door, she didn't see me come into the room...

“Now, we'll start with what to do when Lady Claire is leaving.”

“Yes.”

“Umm?”

“...Mr. Takumi?”

“Master?”

They were in the middle of practicing their greetings.

So the servants really did have to practice in order to say it together...

After calling to them from behind, the two finally noticed me.

...Maybe I shouldn't have disturbed them?

"Uhh, do you have a minute...?"

"Yes, of course. What is it?"

"What is it, master?"

"Well, there is just something that I need to tell Milina."

"Me?"

Milina looked puzzled at this.

I now felt a little bad about adding more work to her schedule when she was busy with her servant duties...

Chapter 258

I Asked Milina To Help With The Medicine

"I made some new herbs."

"New herbs!? That's amazing, master!"

"Well, it's not me, but the Gift that is impressive. Anyway...I have to concoct a herbal medicine."

"Concoct? But I heard that it was dangerous for amateurs to do it..."

Milina's eyes sparkled when she heard about the new herbs, but her face darkened when she heard about what would be done next.

While she seemed interested, the books had said that it was not something that you should do light-heartedly, when you did not have enough knowledge.

And she was recalling that.

In any case, Ms. Lyra's eyes were shining as she stood next to Milina.

Was it really that impressive to make new herbs?

"I don't think it will be dangerous. What we are going to concoct won't even turn into poison if we fail."

"Is that so?"

"Well, perhaps it could be dangerous if you overdosed... But these aren't the kind of herbs that will do your body harm just because you mixed them wrong."

These were just herbs that contained nutrients.

As we would be careful to not take too much, or make large quantities, it should be fine.

That is, if Weed Cultivation worked in the way that I assumed it did.

"I see. In that case, you can finally concoct something!"

"Yes, that's right. And so I want you to help me."

"Are you...sure?"

"Because you're very passionate about your studies. In fact, there are probably things that you can teach me..."

"Surely not..."

As she did not expect me to ask her, Milina hesitated a little.

However, I knew that even while I was in Range village, she had been studying with the book that we borrowed from Sebastian.

And now she had passed the part that I had been going over with her, so she knew things that I didn't.

...It made me a bit of a failure as a teacher, but I would do my best.

After all, I didn't have much time with everything that had been happening... I guess that is just an excuse.

"It's fine. This shouldn't be anything complicated, so you can do it too."

"...Very well. If you want me to do it, then I will do my best!"

"Hahaha. You can relax. We will just follow the book, and it won't matter if we fail."

"Yes... So, when will we begin?"

"Uhhh... Tomorrow, or the day after that? Well, I'll tell you when I decide."

"I understand! I will read the book and study in the meantime."**freewebnovel.com**

"Yes, thank you."

Now that Milina was feeling positive about it, she was enthusiastic to study.

I suppose I would have to study again as well, so I don't fall further behind.

I didn't want to have to rely on her for everything.

"Well, you can go back to your servant training now."

“Yes.”

“I will instruct her very thoroughly.”

Now that I had done what I came to do, I left the drawing room.

As I was leaving, I heard Milina’s loud voice saying, ‘Have a good day!’ so she was probably practicing again.

...Now that I thought about it, I had wanted to join them before.

I could not do it today, as I had training with Mr. Ekenhart...but next time I had some free time, I would try to participate.

There was no actual need for me to do it, but I was just a little curious.

The job of servants is no game to amuse yourself with... I would have to be careful so that no one said that to me...

“Ah, there you are, Mr. Takumi.”

“You’re late, Mr. Takumi.”

“Wuff-wuff.”

“Kyau!”

“I’m sorry. I was talking with Ms. Helena...”

When I went out to the back garden, Mr. Ekenhart, Tilura, Leo and Sherry were all waiting.

As Mr. Ekenhart did not seem scared anymore, playing with Leo and Tilura in the morning seemed to have worked.

Though, Mr. Ekenhart did look a little tired...

“Helena? What happened?”

“It was about the wine...”

“Hmm... I suppose it’s a long story.”

“Yes, it is.”

“Then I’ll ask Sebastian about it later. But right now, let’s train.”

“Yes.”

While Mr. Ekenhart seemed to be interested when he heard about the wine, he decided that he would ask Sebastian about it some other time.

Because it was time for training.

“Hmmm. I see that your movements are changing again.”

“Really?”

“Not a very big change. So perhaps you do not notice it yourself.”

“What about me, father?”

“Tilura...your sword is as honest as ever... Too honest... But you have plenty of time. Right now, you should focus on raising your skill.”

“I understand!”

After the basic training, I fought lightly with Mr. Ekenhart.

And then he made observations about my movement.

I really didn’t feel like I had changed at all.

It was obvious from Tilura’s personality that she was honest.

For better or worse, that showed in her sword... But I wasn’t really at a place to be commenting on others.

Now that I think about it, we had started learning at the same time, so it was kind of strange that I was the one that was changing...

...I wouldn’t think too much about that.

“It must be due to the experience of fighting in that store. You avoid large movements and are more aware of your surroundings.”

“Ah... That might be true.”

“Between narrow indoor areas and being in an open garden like this place, it’s only natural that you will fight differently.”

I was within a store when the men attacked me, and so my movements were severely limited.

There were too many shelves and objects in the way... Though, that also helped me.

And Mr. Ekenhart thought that it had affected my fighting style.

The way to fight in open spaces and the way to fight in narrow spaces, huh...

“Since we are in an open space, you could say that you picked up a bad habit.”

“Yes.”

“I won’t say that it’s good to move your body so boldly, but if you can’t focus too much on small movements either. In the end, even when you have the freedom to swing your sword, your actions will be limited.”

If you care about your surroundings too much, you will not be able to attack your opponent from different angles, and your attacks will be predictable... That’s probably what he means.

And if you just repeat the same attacks, then the other person will be able to read you and deal with them.

I’m sure that once you’re a master like Mr. Ekenhart, you would still be able to attack in a way that would overwhelm your opponent, but I couldn’t do that yet.

But leaving that side, he had taught me that being able to use diverse attacks so that the enemy could not predict your moves was the most basic thing...

Chapter 259

I Trained To Fix My Bad Habits

“While the experience of real fighting is not a waste, it’s not good that you’ve developed this habit...”

“Wuff!”

“No, good Leo... I could not have predicted that this would happen!”

“Wuff?”

“Leo, Mr. Ekenhart didn’t expect this to happen. Well, I think it’s just that I’m overthinking it.”

“Wuff.”

Leo barked as if to say that it was Mr. Ekenhart’s fault, because he was the one who made me fight.

Mr. Ekenhart was weak when it came to being blamed, and he cowered a little towards Leo.

While Mr. Ekenhart was the one who set it up, there was no way he could have known that it would result in this.

You never knew how a person would grow.

After explaining this, Leo finally nodded with satisfaction.

...It was all in the past now, and so we shouldn’t put any more blame on him, Leo.

“...There is still some time before dinner. So I’m going to go extra hard so we can beat that habit out of you.”

“Please do!”

“Me too!”

“...But you don’t have any bad habits, Tilura.”

After that, I went through Mr. Ekenhart’s grueling training until it was dinner time.

Until I could barely stand... No, I wouldn’t go that far, but it was still pretty close to it.

How many times did Mr. Ekenhard whack me with his wooden sword...

Tilura and I took some recovery herbs so that we could walk properly after we finished.

“The habit hasn’t left you completely... There is still room for improvement.”

“It’s thanks to you, Mr. Ekenhart. I am grateful.”

“Bah. I just don’t want you to be too restrained.”

While it was little by little, I was improving somewhat. So I suppose I will get a passing grade for now?

Had the bad habits been any worse, then it might have taken even more severe training to correct it. So it was a good thing that it was pointed out early.

Even though the training had been harsh.

It was quite impressive that Tilura had been able to keep up with it.

She really was motivated.

Was it her youth... Well, I was still young too...

“Ah, I see that Anneliese has finally left her room.”

“I could not stay there forever.”

After our training was finished, we all went to the dining hall for dinner. Ms. Anneliese and Ms. Claire were already sitting at the table.

Apparently, she finally felt like coming out of her room.

I was glad...because I didn’t want to have been the cause of a lady locking herself up in her room...

“Father. It seems that she was persuaded by Mr. Takumi.”

“Mr. Takumi? You talked to Anne?”

“Uh, yes. Before I started training...”

“He visited me in my room.”

So, Ms. Anne had wasted no time in telling Ms. Claire that I had visited her room.

Ms. Claire’s seemed to be glaring...or maybe it was just me.

“Mr. Takumi. What did you say? I did not expect Anneliese to leave her room so willingly... Or did you threaten her with Leo?”

“...I wouldn’t do such a thing. I just advised her to talk to others, instead of thinking about everything by herself.”

“I see, I see. Indeed, that is actually something that I should be doing... But it looks like you beat me to it, Mr. Takumi.”

“Mr. Takumi is too kind. He will even try to comfort people that he has rejected... That is all there is to it. Indeed, indeed...”

“What is it, Claire? You seem a little angry?”

“Wuff?”

“Kyu?”

“...It’s nothing.”

Mr. Ekenhart was quite happy that I had talked to Anneliese and made her come out of her room.

But since he was the one who had been put in charge of her re-education, perhaps I didn't need to do anything in the first place...

In any case, Ms. Claire was not too pleased by the fact that I had paid Ms. Anne a private visit...

She had been muttering quietly to herself, and Mr. Ekenhart, Leo and Sherry looked puzzled. But Ms. Claire just shook her head and said that it was nothing.

Well, if that's what she says, then it must be the case...

Hmm... It was hard to understand women...

"That's right, Mr. Takumi. You said something about discussing wine with Helena?"

"Yes. There was much to discuss. Sebastian was with us as well."

"Hmm... Would you like to explain it to me, Sebastian?"

"Certainly..."

As we ate dinner, Sebastian explained to him what we had discussed with Ms. Helena.

Mr. Ekenhart clearly understood how much Sebastian enjoyed explaining things to people.

And so everyone listened to Sebastian's enthusiastic ramblings.

"Hmm... So the wine and Ramogi will be combined tomorrow..."

"Yes. First, Leo will inspect it, and if it is fine, then we will be able to taste it."

"I see... As that grape juice was rather good, I look forward to drinking it as a wine."

“Ah, that’s right. Leo?”

“Wuff?”

“Sorry, but could you sniff the wine that Ms. Helena makes tomorrow? We want to know if it is still infected or not.”

“Wuff!”

“What, Mr. Takumi. You didn’t tell Leo about it yet?”

“Hahaha... I was a little preoccupied, I suppose...”

Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian’s conversation reminded me of it, and so I asked Leo on the spot.

Mr. Ekenhart seemed to find it amusing that I hadn’t asked her earlier, but I had been busy talking with Ms. Anne, and then Milina after that.

But Leo answered with a nod, so there was nothing to worry about.

“Still... She can tell what has been affected by that sphere... I thought it would be impossible without the right tools...”

“Yes. Leo’s nose is special.”

“Wuff-wuff.”

“Silver Fenrirs...are impressive...”

“Wuff? Wuff!”

“Eee!”

“Anne, are you still scared of good Leo? Don’t worry, she won’t attack anyone without reason.”

“Still, I cannot help it!”

Chapter 260

Ms. Anne Was Not In Favor of Drastic Treatment

“Hahaha! Perhaps Anneliese should undergo the same drastic treatment in order to become familiar with Leo?”

“Drastic treatment?”

Ms. Anne had been looking at Leo, and was deeply impressed by her ability to sniff out the wine.

Leo nodded proudly at this, and then she tilted her head at Ms. Anne and barked once.

Upon hearing this, Mr. Anne raised her voice in alarm. She even tried to move her chair away from Leo.

But like Ms. Claire said, Leo would never hurt anyone. But she was still afraid... Couldn’t she see how cute Leo was...

Mr. Ekenhart then recommended she undergo the same treatment that he had. And Ms. Anne seemed interested in knowing what it was.

However...I wasn’t sure about that... It had worked with Ms. Gelda, but Ms. Anne seemed even more frightened of Leo...

“Yes, this drastic treatment. You will ride on Leo as she runs. This way, you will see just how safe Leo really is.”

“Ride...on Leo?”

“Yes, Anne. By doing this, you will be able to see for yourself that Leo would not harm any humans.”

“Wuff.”

Ms. Claire added to Mr. Ekenhart’s explanation.

But Ms. Anne seemed a little put off now... It was no wonder.

Leo was the object of her fear. The idea of riding on Leo as she ran would only increase that fear.

Still, it was through this treatment that Mr. Ekenhart and Ms. Gelda had quickly gotten used to her...

And Leo really enjoyed carrying people. Even now, she was nodding and wagging her tail.

“Well, perhaps it is not necessary. Surely interactions with Leo will be enough...eventually?”

“That is true, but... Don’t you feel bad for her, Mr. Takumi? To have someone be so afraid of her...”

“That is true... But it’s up to Ms. Anne...”

“I-I-I-I...that’s... I think I will pass on this one...”

“Really? But it is the fastest way to do it...”

“Yes, you seemed to really enjoy yourself, father. I can still hear your screams.”

“You are talking about the return trip from Ractos. That was different...”

“Wuff?”

Indeed, I agreed with Ms. Claire that it would not be nice to have Leo be feared like this... She wouldn’t like it.

I wanted everyone to know that Leo was adorable, and not some terrible monster... However, Ms. Anne had no intention of undergoing the drastic treatment.

“It is not good to force things. Yes, Leo will be extra careful from now on so that she doesn’t scare Ms. Anne. Won’t you, Leo?”

“Wuff-wuff.”

“I see... If you insist, Mr. Takumi...”

“How unfortunate.”

“...I don’t know if it will be successful... But I will do my best so I don’t have to resort to such treatments...”

“Hahaha! Well, just take your time with Leo. It should not be difficult on your part. And you will soon understand that Leo is really cute.”

“Cute... This wolf... A Silver Fenrir...? You really are a strange man, Mr. Takumi...”

I didn’t think it was a good idea to force things.

With Ms. Gelda, while she was scared, she was still interested in Leo. And it hadn’t been complete fear like it was with Ms. Anne.

And so I decided against using the drastic treatment this time.

Though, Ms. Claire and Mr. Ekenhart looked rather disappointed...

“It’s odd then that you are fine with Sherry.”

“Perhaps it’s because Sherry is still small?”

“...What is this adorable creature? When did you decide to keep it?”

“Kyau!”

Ms. Claire picked up the puzzled Sherry and brought her closer to Ms. Anne.

It seemed that Ms. Anne did not know about Sherry, and so she patted her on the head adoringly.

“This one...Sherry. She is my familiar and a fenrir.”

“A fen...rir... Are you cer...tain?”

“Kyau!”

“Wuff!”

“Mmm.”

And so Ms. Claire told her that Sherry was a fenrir.

Upon hearing this, Ms. Anne froze and looked at Sherry in disbelief.

Sweat was dripping from her temples. Was she alright?

After Ms. Anne managed to stutter the words, Sherry, Leo and Mr. Ekenhart nodded as if to answer her.

“But fenrirs are ferocious monsters! Perhaps they are not as bad as Silver Fenrirs, but they are still feared! Why would you have that as a familiar...!”

“It’s thanks to good Leo. She is the one who found Sherry when she was wounded in the forest. And she seemed to take to me on the way back to the mansion...and then became my familiar.”

“It should not be that easy to make a fenrir your familiar... I do not believe it...”

“Kyou?”

Saving Sherry was probably a big part of it, but it was also because Leo was there.

If something happened, there was someone much more powerful nearby... Perhaps she had no choice but to submit.

Well, as for Sherry, now that Ms. Anne had screamed and moved away, she was looking at her hand as if to say, ‘You’re not going to pet me anymore?’ She really did act like a dog.

In the end, it probably had less to do with being a fenrir or Leo, and more to do with Sherry being a pup.

“Not only a Silver Fenrir, but a fenrir as well... How foolish father was to go against this house...”

“But you were the one who suggested it...!”

Ms. Anne had been muttering to herself during tea, and Ms. Claire had to interject.

I watched them with amusement for some time as I relaxed. And then we all dispersed.

As Ms. Claire would keep an eye on Ms. Anne now, she should be fine.

Sherry was also with them, and seemed to have taken a liking to Ms. Anne after being petted.

“What are you going to do now, Mr. Takumi?”

“I’m going to make the herbs to give to Ms. Helena, and then practice my swings.”

“I’ll swing too!”

“I see. It’s important to be consistent. I know, I’ll join you two. I don’t want to get rusty.”

“Wuff.”

“Yes.”

Mr. Ekenhart saw me stand up, and so he asked me what I was going to do.

My plans were to do my daily swings and make some restorative herbs.

Tilura would practice her swings too.

And apparently, Mr. Ekenhart and Leo wanted to join us.