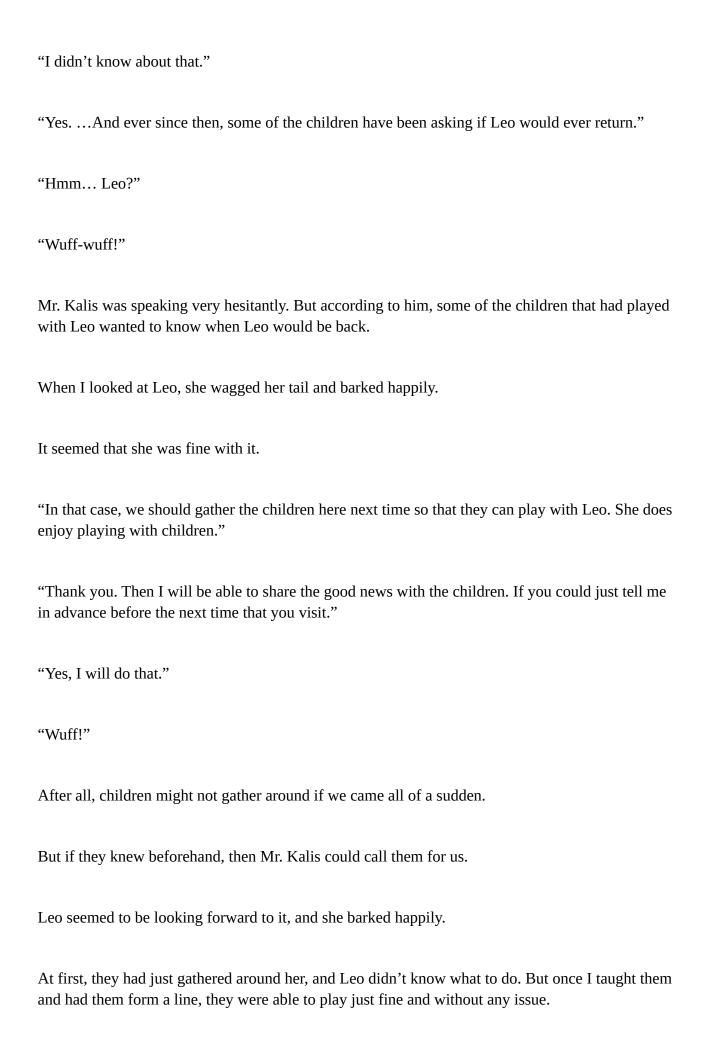
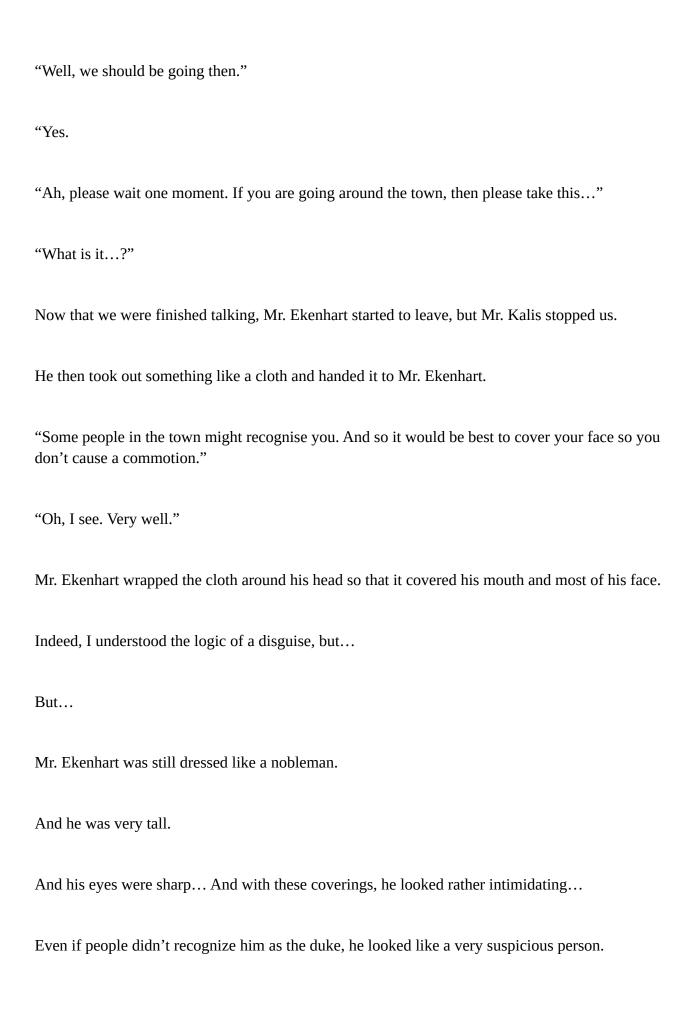
Beloved Dog 281



"I thought that I'd come and explore the town a little. And Mr. Ekenhart came with me." "Hahaha. You do not need to be so serious. So why did you come out, Nick?" "Ah, I was going to head to the mansion..." "Then we're just in time. Here are today's herbs." "Brother! Thank you!" So the timing was perfect, as Nick was about to head towards the mansion now. It was good that we didn't miss him. "Is Mr. Kalis here?" "Ye...yes! I will call him right now!" When Mr. Ekenhart asked about Mr. Kalis, Nick went back into the store to call him. "Your Grace! I'm terribly sorry to make you wait out here!" "Hmm. Well, think nothing of it." "I will rebuke Nick when I see him again." Mr. Kalis looked rather frantic as he burst from the door and apologized to Mr. Ekenhart. He felt that Nick making Mr. Ekenhart wait outside of the store was incredibly rude. But Mr. Ekenhart didn't seem to mind. Perhaps I should have said something? It was obvious that Nick wasn't used to this sort of thing.

"So, what has brought you here today...? Ah, I'm terribly sorry. Please come inside..." "Oh, I'm not here on any particular business. I just came here with Mr. Takumi, who wants to look around the town. So we do not need to go inside." "I see... But, you have no guards with you?" "Well, I didn't tell Sebastian that I was coming today. And I expect you to keep this to yourself as well, Kalis. As for guards, Leo is enough to protect us." "Indeed, you would not need guards around if Leo is with you. Very well. I will not tell anyone about this. And I will say the same to Nick." "Good." As Mr. Kalis and Mr. Ekenhart talked, it was decided that this would be kept a secret from Sebastian. ...Which seemed rather futile. Surely Sebastian would find out in no time at all? "Yes, yes, Mr. Takumi. I wanted to ask you about Leo..." "What about Leo?" "Wuff?" And then Mr. Kalis turned to me. "Well, uh...do you remember how Leo played with some children in front of the store?" "Ah, yes. It was the first day that the herbs went on sale."







Though, somee looked at Leo reverently... Maybe they were the people who had touched Leo when we first came to Ractos?

As we had been here several times before, I was happy to see that some people were used to her now.

Because Leo would not attack anyone, and was not someone who should be feared.

As we walked down the street, Mr. Ekenhart became interested in the meat that was being cooked in the food stalls.

Well, it was really Leo who was the most interested.

The meat was grilled on the spot and handed to you. It appeared to be beef with a special sauce, and was incredibly delicious.

I bought three so that we could each have some... I blew on Leo's to cool it off and then removed them from the skewer before she ate it.

I didn't know if it was still the case, but dogs had sensitive tongues like cats, and the skewer could be dangerous... Though, Leo was probably smart enough to eat it properly.

"While it is good to have your own cook, such casual dining has its charms..."

Mr. Ekenhart mused as he looked at the line of stalls.

"Have you eaten in such places before?"

"Well... A very long time ago. When Claire was about this high...no, maybe smaller."

"When she was a child then."

Mr. Ekenhart smiled as he seemed to be reminiscing about the past.

As the head of his house now, he had to travel with escorts. But I suppose this was before that time.

I had wondered if Ms. Claire only had escorts because she was a lady, but it seemed that it was normal for Mr. Ekenhart as well.

"By the way, Mr. Takumi. How do you feel about Anneliese?"

"Are you trying to talk about relationships again?"

"No, indeed not! Uh, mister... I'll take three of those!"

"Certainly!"

Mr. Ekenhart suddenly started to talk about Ms. Anne.

And considering what had been on his mind while on the road, I was a little exasperated. But he insisted that this was different.

But then he stopped at a food stall and ordered more food.

"Oh, this looks good too... So, Mr. Takumi. About Anneliese... What do you think? In terms of personality and her mind?"

"Is that chicken..? Yes, it does look good. Ms. Anne is... We were able to talk once and... Does my opinion really matter?"

"Yes, I'd like to hear it... Hmm... This is delicious!"

"Thank you!"

Apparently, Mr. Ekenhart wanted to hear my opinion on Ms. Anne.

After accepting the chicken, Mr. Ekenhart paid and then ate it immediately before turning back to me.

The old man at the stall looked pleased to have his food praised so loudly as he handed me the other two.

As for what I thought about Ms. Anne... It's not like we knew each other that well... But I told Mr. Ekenhart my impression after talking to her in her room.

"Well... I don't know if it is normal for nobles to do that, but she seems to have spent too much time by herself. ... Hmm. Yes, it is quite delicious. Here, Leo."

"Wuff-wuff!"

I answered as I ate the chicken.

It was flavored with salt and was also delicious.

As Leo was looking at me and wagging her tail, I gave her some as well.

"Alone, eh? I wouldn't say it is normal as a noble..."

"Well, what I mean is...she thinks a lot about being in the privileged class. That's why she was able to make that marriage proposal out of nowhere."

"I see. Indeed, sometimes daughters of nobles will marry into other families. As noblewomen can inherit, it is not too common... But, it depends on their parents, I suppose. If the marriage is advantageous, they will likely marry into the other family, regardless if they get along or not."

"Yes, I suppose it wouldn't happen a lot... I understand that."

It had been like that in Japan.

Well, not when I was there...but a long time ago.

"Because she thinks like that, and is too used to being by herself, she gets these crazy ideas all of a sudden... Is what I thought. She does not value any interactions with other people... And does not think about what is inside of others..."

"Hmmm... Yes, I get the same impression from her. Well, it is all the fault of her father, Barsler..."

"You think so?"

"Yes. Count Barsler....decades before I became the duke...he failed in one of his businesses. Well, it is not a rare thing to happen among nobles. And as long as he didn't live extravagantly, he could live well enough off the taxes he collected. In the first place, a lot of people who are born nobles do not understand business. They think that they can sell anything because of who they are... And they usually have ridiculous prices."

"Well...it is no surprise that he failed then."

In general it, was a balance between supply and demand of the products.

If there was no demand, then it would not sell. And if you wanted to sell it at a high price, then you had to restrict the supply and increase the demand.

But if you ignored all of that and simply sold it at a high price, then it would not sell.

You had to sell things at the appropriate price and not fixate on high profits, or your business would not succeed.

Because consumers could be very severe.

"And he became frantic to make up for those failures, but only repeated those mistakes..."

"That's a bad environment."

"Yes. Eventually, he started using the tax money for these failing businesses as well. That's how desperate he was. I think that is why he liked Anneliese's suggestion, regardless of the harm it would cause others."

Chapter 283

I Asked About the Situation With The Count

"So he is a scoundrel that resorted to crime after drowning in debt?"

"Hahaha! You are not wrong! Well, they had been losing money for generations, and Barsler was trying to put an end to that. And so he left Anneliese to herself and focused on his businesses... Without realizing the effect it had on her."

"I see. So that's why she is so used to being alone."

"It appears to be the case. Well, since they own the neighboring territory, I've known House Barsler for a long time... But during the last ten years, I've only met him once a year at most. It is likely that Claire was the only person to see Anneliese back then. Otherwise, she only met servants."

"Were there never any gatherings where there were other nobles?"

"There were. But Barsler never took Anneliese to such events. I suppose he was too preoccupied with making connections and helping his business. But to put it bluntly, he might have had more success if he used his daughter..."

Had he taken his daughter to such parties, and she were to meet with other rich heirs... That was what he was suggesting.

If she were to marry into another family, or have someone marry into theirs...then the count might be able to get some aid that would help his business.

"Well, I'm sure he had been thinking about it in some way. After all, Anneliese had said something about how she would use herself to bring back glory to her house. But I don't know why they didn't consider doing that first, instead of that other plan."





"I see So you think by putting her in the right environment, she will become a decent person?"
"Exactly. However, it all depends on Anneliese. Ah, do not tell Claire or Sebastian about this, you understand? It will make matters more complicated"
"Hahaha. Because Ms. Claire will get mad at you again?"
"Yes."
"Wuff."
To Mr. Ekenhart and I, the two looked like they got along very well, even if Ms. Claire often acted harshly.
But if Ms. Claire found out that Mr. Ekenhart himself had wanted to take Ms. Anne in, she might get angry.
But why did Ms. Claire treat Ms. Anne so harshly?
I admit, it was amusing to watch them like that, but One would think you would be a little more pleasant to a friend that was your own age.
Chapter 284
A Happy Food Stall Discovery
"But that's enough talk, Mr. Takumi. We should focus on eating right now. See, there are more food stalls over there!"
"Yes."
"Wuff!"
As the conversation was a little heavy, Mr. Ekenhart wanted to change the subject. And then he cheerfully walked towards the next stall.

In the end, it all depended on Ms. Anne herself. So there was no point in us talking about it.

Though...it did make me think about how I would interact with her.

But for now, I will try to enjoy my time in the town of Ractos.

Besides, Leo had not eaten enough yet, and she was wagging her tail as she looked at the meat.

"Oh, this one is good. Ractos really does have all kinds of food. Here, try this one, Mr. Takumi."

"Yes, yes. ...Hmm, yes it is quite good. Here, Leo."

"Wuff! Wuff-wuff."

Mr. Ekenhart went around to different stalls until his hands were full with food, and then he began to bite into it.

I suppose since Ms. Claire wasn't around today, he could enjoy his food without worrying about manners.

And so I followed his advice and bought some food and ate it, while also giving some to Leo.

Indeed, they were all delicious, but... I was getting bored of it, since it was all meat...

But it seemed like that was all that Leo and Mr. Ekenhart liked.

"It would be nice if they had something less heavy... Something that isn't meat."

"Hmm. Yes, I suppose one might get bored of it... Not that I would."

"Wuff!"

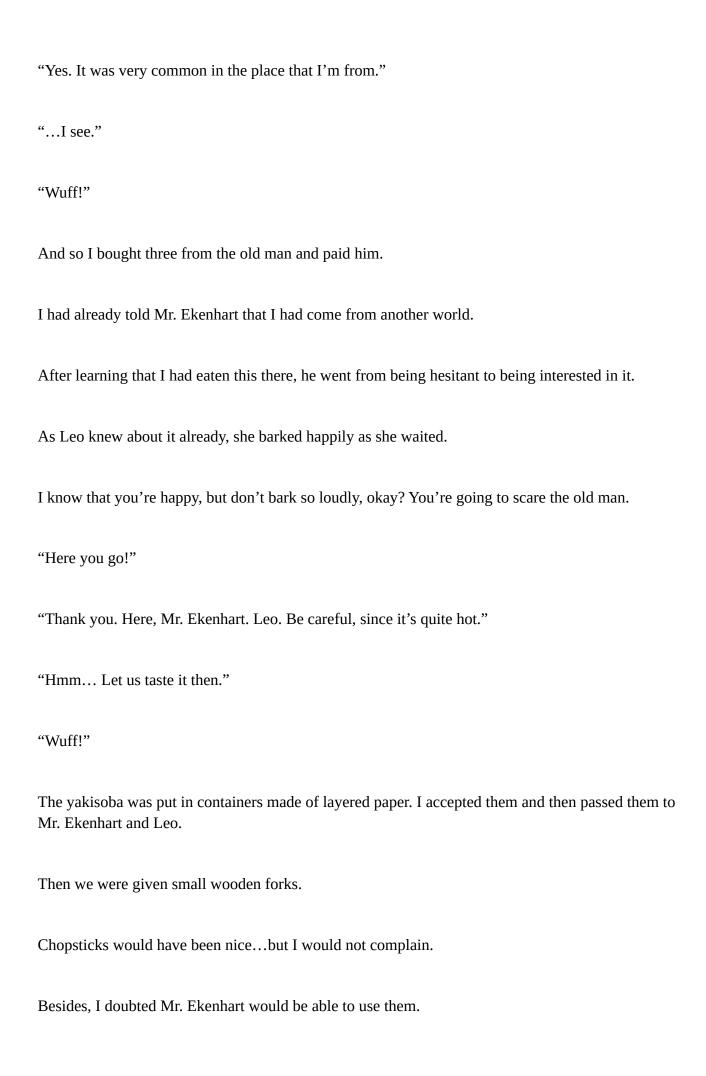
And so we moved away from the meat stalls and looked around for something else. Mr. Ekenhart did not mind only eating meat, and Leo barked in agreement. But I wanted something different. Though, I suppose I didn't really have to worry about nutritional balance, since we would have a proper meal when we returned to the mansion anyway. So it was more of a matter of variety. "Oh, what about that one..." "Hmm? Yes, that one seems a little different. Should we go and see it?" "Yes. Let's go." After looking around, most of the other stalls were also just cooking meat. But then I saw one that was a little different. And so I walked over to it with Mr. Ekenhart and Leo, and realized that there was something familiar about the smell. "Welcome!" "Is this...pasta? Though, it is quite dark...but, it does smell good..."

I could smell the scent of burning sauce.

"... Yakisoba? But why in a place like this..."

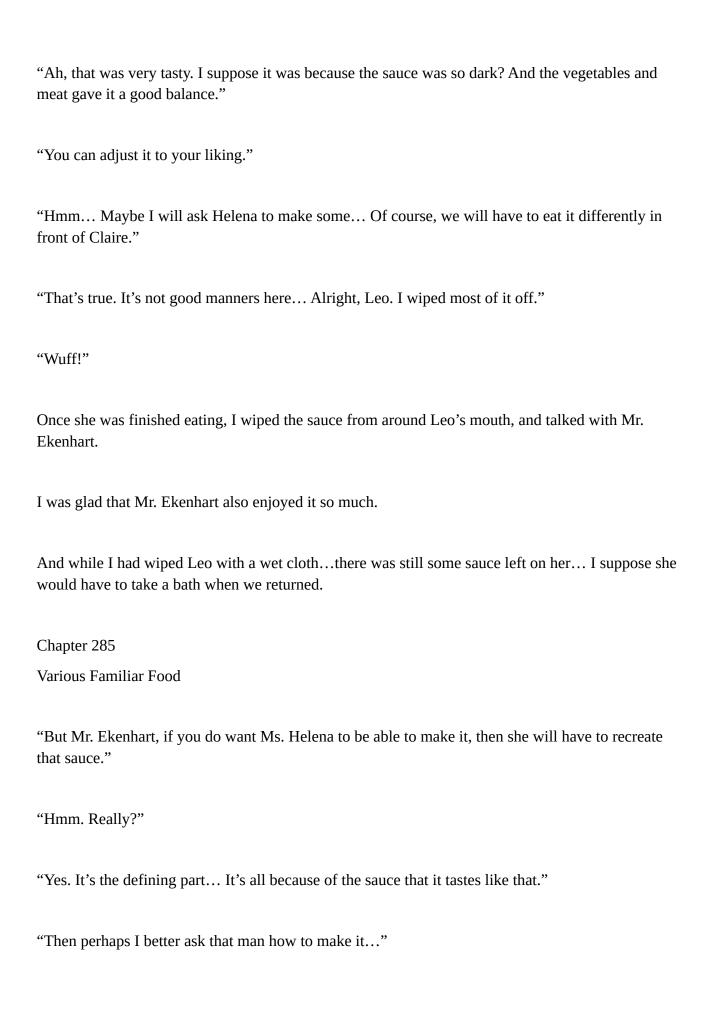
It reminded me of festivals and the food they sold at the beach.





"Let's eat it then. ...Zuru-zuru! Yes, it's good!" "Mr. Takumi... I don't mean to sound like my daughter, but perhaps you should stop slurping like that when you eat?" "Ahaha. Yes, I suppose you're right." "...Well, maybe it's not too bad. And since Claire isn't around... Zuru-zuru-zur! Hmm!" "It's good, isn't it?" "Yes! It's tasty!" "Wuff-wuff!" I used the fork to eat the noodles along with the meat and vegetables. As it wasn't soup, there was no need to slurp it, but I got carried away, since it had been a while since I last ate it. As the noodles were pasta, the texture was a little different, but it was still good. Even the sauce was a little distinct, while also being recognizable. In any case, I did not expect to see it here, and I was more than satisfied. Mr. Ekenhart then copied the way I ate it, and his eyes widened with delight. Leo allowed hers to cool off a little and then gobbled it up quickly. So she must have liked it as well.

Though, it would have been nice to have some seaweed flakes with it...



"Surely he will not want to give up such a secret so easily"
"Indeed One might use their authority in such cases, but I do not want to do that."
"Yes."
If Mr. Ekenhart was serious, then he could use his position as a duke and make them tell him how to make the sauce.
However, like Ms. Claire had said before, their family preferred to avoid using their authority in such ways.
There was no need to find out by force.
"Still, I underestimated these people Now, let us look around and see if we can find anything else."
"Yes. There may be other great things to discover."
"Wuff!"
While it wasn't exactly the same, I had found something similar to Japanese food. So who knows what else we might find?
It seemed like he had forgotten his reason for coming here, and was only interested in eating now But I suppose it was fine.
Both Leo and I were enjoying it anyway.
And more than that, I doubted I could even stop Mr. Ekenhart once he started to have fun like this.
"Phew We walked quite a lot."

"Indeed." "However, I learned a great deal about what this town has to offer." "Yes. It really is a busy place, and there are many shops." After eating the yakisoba, we walked around the streets with Mr. Ekenhart as he looked around the town. We were quite full now, and so we stopped by a cafe that was not too crowded and that was away from the main street. As it was an open cafe, we were able to sit outside near Leo. Apparently, it was run by the parents of one of the children who had played with Leo, and so they were very glad to see us. Thanks to this, they also understood that Leo wasn't dangerous. "Wuff-guff-guff..." "Leo. Calm down when you drink, okay?" "Guff-guff..." I wasn't sure if she heard me or was ignoring me... But she was now eagerly drinking milk from a bucket that had been prepared for her. I was grateful that they had been so kind to prepare it while Mr. Ekenhart and I enjoyed our tea and relaxed. It had been the case when eating as well, but the cloth that was supposed to be covering Mr.

Ekenhart's face was mostly just around his forehead and chin, so I wasn't sure it was very effective.



My Weed Cultivation was not able to make any farm produce, so I wouldn't be able to make rice... "Thank you, Takumi. It's because of you that I was able to get a good look at the town." "Not at all. I had fun as well, so it was nothing. Even though it was mostly just eating." "Now that you mention it..." Aside from visiting Mr. Kalis's store, we had spent most of the time at different food stalls. Well, since there was the most traffic on the main street, it was the best place to have people see Leo... That was a good enough reason. But perhaps we should have looked around more? Well, that could be done on another day. "Ah, that's right, Mr. Takumi." "Yes?" As I watched Leo and sipped my tea, Mr. Ekenhart turned to me again. What now... I wondered. "I intend to go to Range village soon. There is the matter of the wine, after all. Besides, I would like to assure the villagers that they are not to blame, and commend them for the way they dealt with the monsters." "I see. I think it would be a very good thing if they were able to make wine there again." "Mmm. I will have to talk to the chief about the wine, and about the acquisition of grapes as well."

"Indeed... But, uh, perhaps don't make it too much about work?" "Huh? What do you mean?" "Well, the thing is..." I recalled what I had discussed with Mr. Haines before leaving Range village, and I relayed it to Mr. Ekenhart. About how they were too preoccupied with making wine, that they were not able to spend time with the children. "Hmm...indeed... Children out the treasures of the kingdom. It is not good to neglect them. Very well. I promise that I will not make them work to the point that it will affect the children." "Thank you." While I may have made the request to Mr. Ekenhart on the children's behalf, it was probably related to my past as well. Though it is important to make money, the situation where you are only working and have no time for anything else...it is not good for humans. I didn't want the villagers to experience the same thing, where they become exhausted both mentally and physically. Well, I doubted Mr. Ekenhart would have allowed that, and neither would the villagers. Chapter 286 We Talked About Weed Cultivation "The thing is, Mr. Takumi. I want you to accompany me to Range village." "You do?"

I knew that due to the wine, I would have to make Ramogi, but... I had assumed that someone could be sent to deliver it, just like with Mr. Kalis's store.

However... I suppose for Mr. Hannes and the others, it would be best if it was someone that they knew.

Besides, there was the wine that used the medicine that Milina had worked hard to make. If it was a success, then I might have to ask them to make that as well.

...Of course, that was after Mr. Ekenhart drank it and gave his permission.

"Well, I am acquainted with the people of the village, so it might be best for me to go there. The chief and the others might be worried if I don't."

"Aye, that was part of the reason I'm asking..."

"Oh, that wasn't the main reason then?"

I had assumed that Mr. Ekenhart was worried, since they had been so recently fooled by a merchant. But I suppose it was not the case.

"I was thinking that I wanted you to focus on using Weed Cultivation in Range village..."

"Weed Cultivation?"

"Mmm. There are limits to your ability, yes? Claire said that you will faint if you use it too much."

"...That's true. Well, it's still speculation, but that's what we think."

"And so if you agree to it, I thought it would be good to make a herb garden in Range village. That way, we will be able to have enough herbs for the territory without relying on your ability too much. And it can be used for the wine..."

"A herb garden... Yes, if we had something like that, we could have a lot of herbs, even if I weren't making them every day..."

There was a limit to how many herbs I could make with Weed Cultivation.

And while I hadn't fainted since that time with Sherry, I had avoided overworking myself and making a lot of herbs.

Because if Sebastian's theory was true, then working too much would cause me to faint.

And I didn't want Ms. Claire and Leo to worry about me.

"Indeed? Well, unlike your ability...it will not be incredibly fast. But being able to make great quantities has its advantages. The only question is...whether your herbs can be planted..."

"Yes... Are there any other places where herbs are being raised?"

"No. ...Well, perhaps it is done somewhere. But not in this country. It is only herbs that are grown in nature that are picked. And so they are not distributed evenly."

"I see... But if you want to test this, wouldn't the mansion be a better location?"

"I did consider that as well. As Claire and the servants are there, it would be easier to manage. But the space..."

"Ahh...yes. Especially since Leo runs around a lot."

While some could be grown in the back garden, Leo liked to run around, and it wasn't that large to begin with.

I could ask Leo to be careful and not step on the flowers, but that could lead to stress.

Besides, Silver Fenrirs were special to the duke's house, so they might not want to restrict her freedom like that.

"Aside from the matter of Leo, even if it does go well, there will not be much room for expansion."
"That's true. If it does go well It will be inconvenient to move or to expand at the mansion."
"Mmm. But it must be tested before we can say anything. And if it is done over there, you can hire people to tend to it."
"Hire people?"
"Aye. If all goes well, that is After all, you cannot manage a large garden all by yourself. But in Range village you could hire people and have them live there."
"I see…"
I would have to hire people to manage it.
This was exactly the kind of thing I had talked about with Ms. Lyra.
Hiring people I had never had to interview someone before. Will it be alright?
Well, first, I had to test different herbs and see if they would take root.
And who knew if that would succeed
It would take a few days to find out, so I'll have to think of something to do in the meantime.
"Well, that being said, since we won't be going right away, you'll have time to experiment a little at the mansion."
"Yes. Once I get back, I'll use what free time that I have to see if I can raise plants that I made with Weed Cultivation."



Even though he asked us, Leo and I were still the ones who brought him here. Chapter 287 We Continued To Sightsee In Ractos "Speaking of Ms. Claire, is she alright? She drank quite a lot of wine yesterday..." "Ah, she will be fine. While she is quick to get drunk, she always acts like nothing happened the next day." "She doesn't get hangovers?" "Not that I have seen. However...she does remember everything she did while drunk. But she is a deep sleeper, and will usually sleep for most of the next day. And then when she wakes up..." "She thinks about what she does and regrets...?" "Yes. And so she will try not to drink so much next time... But I suppose yesterday was special. The wine was so delicious and easy to drink. And it was the first time she had it, so she ended up drinking a little too much." So Ms. Claire didn't get hangovers, and also remembered everything. Much to her own dismay. Perhaps getting a hangover and forgetting was the better between the two. Well, sometimes it could be very bad, with the headaches and feeling sick. As for me, I tended to get hangovers even if I didn't drink all that much, so I related to Ms. Anne...

Well, I had often been forced to drink with coworkers. And then the next day I would have to work

...So perhaps it was a good thing that I no longer felt drunk or got hangovers in this world.

from early in the morning.

Though, it did feel good to get a little drunk, so that was a minus.

"...I see. Do you think she'll be alright? I wanted to have another taste test tomorrow..."

I had told Milina about it in the morning. Tomorrow, we would taste the wine that Ms. Helena made, that contained the medicine.

If Ms. Claire was wallowing in regret, maybe she wouldn't want to drink it?

"Hmm, that's true. There is still more that is being made. Sebastian told me about it. However... Claire might not drink it this time... It depends on just how much she regrets yesterday... Especially since you saw her."

"Me? What about you and Ms. Anne?"

"I don't know about Anneliese, but I've seen her like that many times. So it should be fine. However, she prides herself as being a lady, so when it comes to being seen by people who are not family or servants..."

"Ah... I see. Well, if she does not want to drink it, then perhaps we could prepare some juice for her instead."

"Yes, that might be good."

Ms. Claire was hard on herself...and quite hard on her younger sister as well...

So she might be regretting that she had allowed herself to be seen in such a way.

And if she avoided drinking...that would be too bad, as I had wanted her to drink it.

But we would just have to give her something else.

"Now, what will we do next?"

"Indeed... As Leo is with us, we cannot go inside any of the stores... And there is no one who can watch Leo for us." Leo was much too big to go inside any buildings. It would be fine if there was a place that was as large as the mansion, but there weren't any here. And I didn't want to ask Mr. Ekenhart to wait outside and watch her. Next time, I would have to consider bringing someone else with me, so that I could go into the stores. "Well, we do not need to enter any shops then. We can just go around and see the town." "Yes, that's fine. Don't you agree, Leo?" "Wuff." After leaving the cafe, we decided to walk around and see the town. We had eaten enough at the stalls for lunch. Maybe a little too much even. So we didn't need to worry about that. But I thought it would be a good idea to get an idea of where everything was in the town while we were here. "By the way, Mr. Ekenhart." "Hmm. What is it?" "What is on the northern side of this town?"

"Ah, the north..." I asked Mr. Ekenhart about this just as we reached the east side. On the west side was Mr. Kalis's store, as well as the gate we always went through. As for the east side, that's where the malicious store used to be, as well as the gate I went through when going to Range village. Also, the orphanage was slightly south of the east gate. But I had yet to venture towards the north side of this town. In this town, there was a large street that went through the center, and it connected the east and west gates. Most people traveled through this town when traveling in those directions. And from there, they branched off to the south and north... But what was there to the north? But when I asked Mr. Ekenhart about it, his expression became serious. Was there a problem? "It is not something I like to say out loud... But do you know about slums, Mr. Takumi?" "Slums... A place where the poor classes live, and there is a high crime rate?"

"Something of that sort. Well, we do what we can to deal with crime. So it is not actually very high. It's just a little less safe than other places."

Slums, huh... I had heard stories. There were definitely places like that outside of Japan.

Though, I heard that there were places that were similar enough in Japan as well. Some places could be quite dangerous.

But it was not something that I knew a lot about, and so it was hard to imagine it.

"And this slum is on the north side?"

"Yes... We are trying to reduce such places on these lands. There are none around the towns near our main house. But here...far away, where there are so many people... It is much more difficult."

"I see..."

As it was far away from where he lived, he could not act quickly, and things had not progressed enough.

Unlike Japan, you could not travel quickly over long distances in this world.

Besides, since there was so much traffic in and out of the town, it was hard to keep track of who was in it... If so much happened out of sigh, then it was harder to do something about it.

And perhaps this work was a little too dangerous for someone like Ms. Claire.

Chapter 288

Leo Led Us To The North Side

"And so while going a little to the north side might be fine... I would not advise you to go too deep, even if you are with Leo."

"I see. Very well. I will be careful to not go anywhere that is dangerous."

"Mmm. That is good. You do not want to get into any unnecessary trouble."

Better safe than sorry, I suppose.

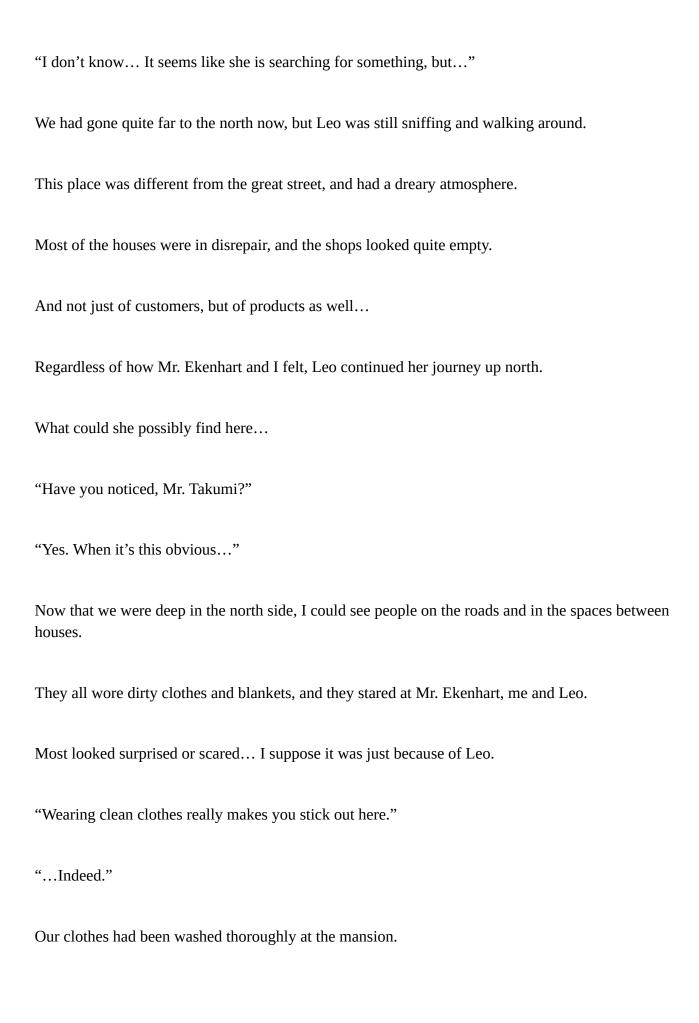


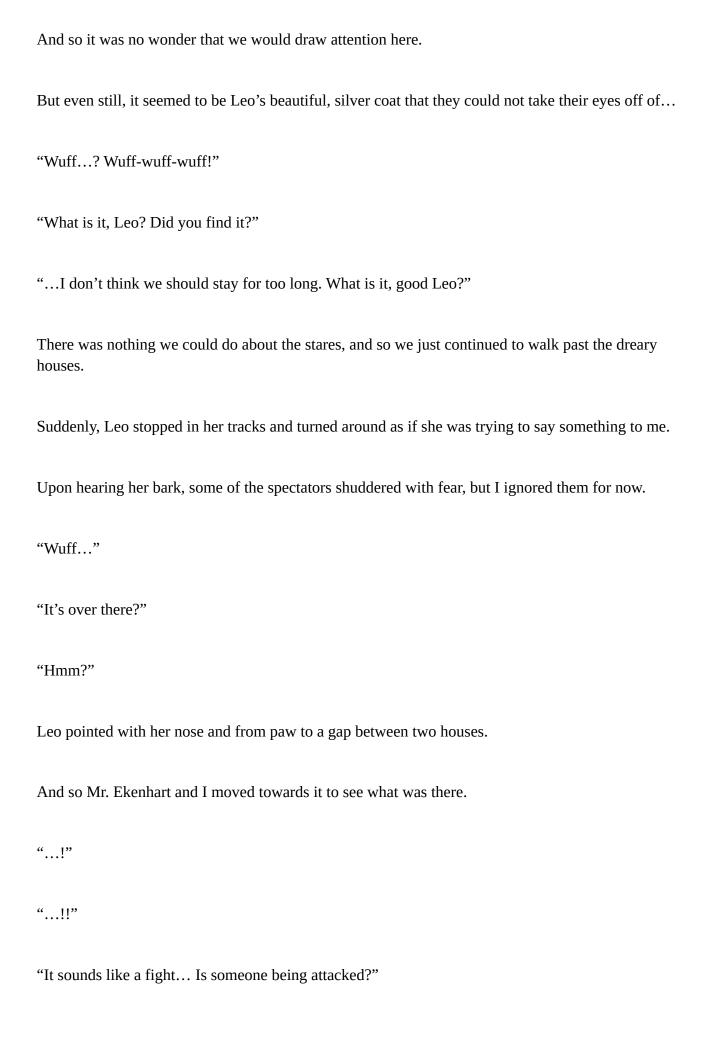
I suppose it was because he and his family had so much respect for Silver Fenrirs. But Leo didn't care about such things, so it should be fine... However, Leo had never acted like this before... I didn't know what she was thinking, but it might be best to let her do what she wanted for now. "I am also curious about it. So I will go... You should stay here, Mr. Ekenhart." "No, I will go with you. After all, I can fight if something happens. Besides, the slums here are not as bad as some other places. It should be fine... Mostly likely..." "Very well. Then let's stay prepared as we go." "Yes." And so we followed after Leo while staying on our guard. Both of us had our hands on our sword hilts as we looked at our surroundings. I didn't like the idea of unsheathing my sword on the streets, but we might not have a choice. As for Leo, she too was looking around and sniffing, like she was searching for something. There must really be something that interested her. But what could it be?

If it turned out to be something like the smell of a delicious sausage... I would have to lecture Leo

"Still, what do you think good Leo wants in a place like this...?"

once we returned to the mansion...









Once I came out on the other side, I saw that it was a square of empty land. Perhaps there had once been a building there.

And I could hear the voices clearly now... It wasn't so much a fight, as one side shouting angrily.

And in the center of the ground, a single child was kneeling, while three other children...perhaps they were about the age of junior highschool students...were kicking and punching.

As for the child in the center, it was trying its best not to make any noise.

"Hey, what are you kids doing!"

"Huh? Be quiet, old man."

"Shut up and go away."

"We're defeating the evil man eating beast."

"Man eating beast...?"

I couldn't help but shout as I stepped forward.

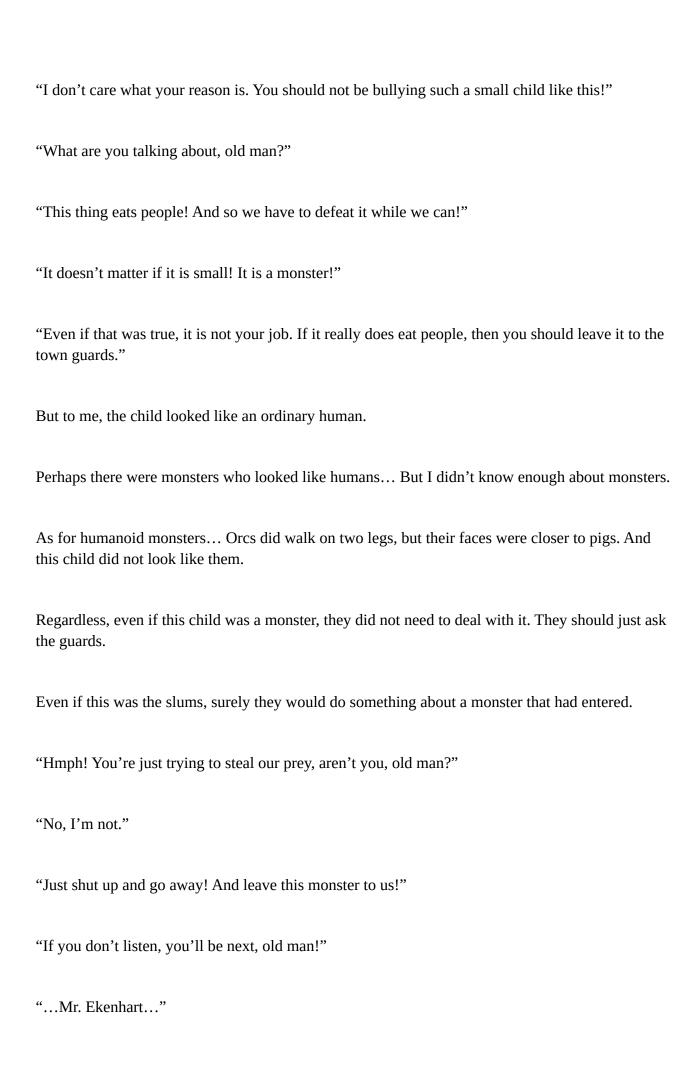
But regardless of what their reasoning was, there was no excuse to surround a child and hurt them like this.

As for the children who were doing it, they immediately turned to me angrily.

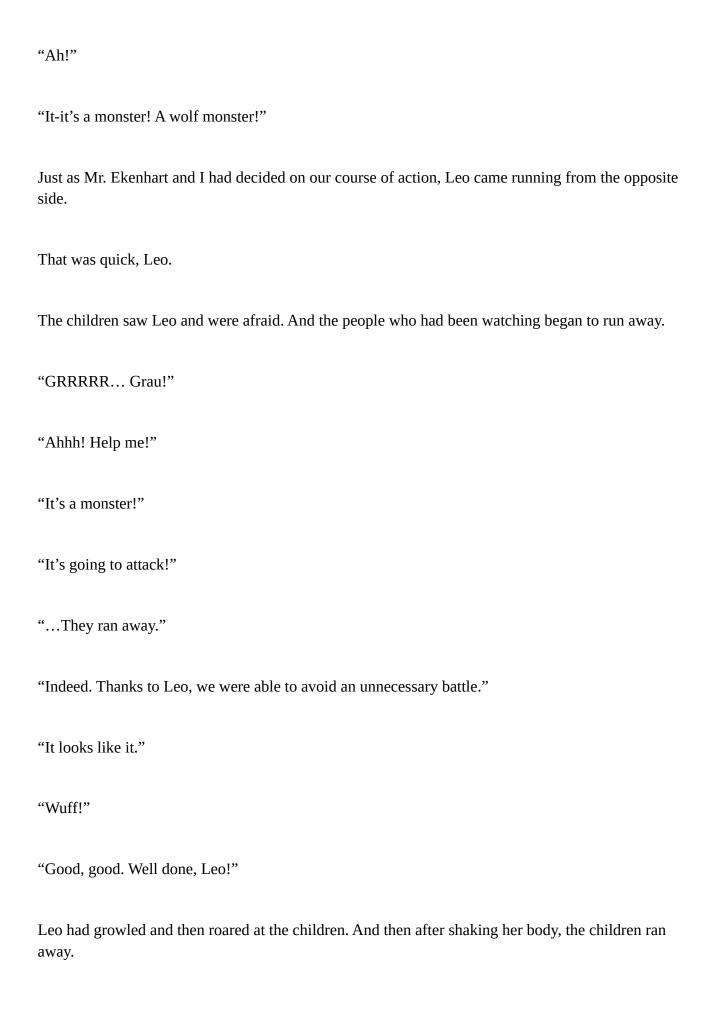
...It did not feel good to be called an old man...but that was not important right now.

I wondered why they called the child a man eater. After all, the child just seemed like a little girl.

Though, I could not see her face... But she was probably younger than Tilura.







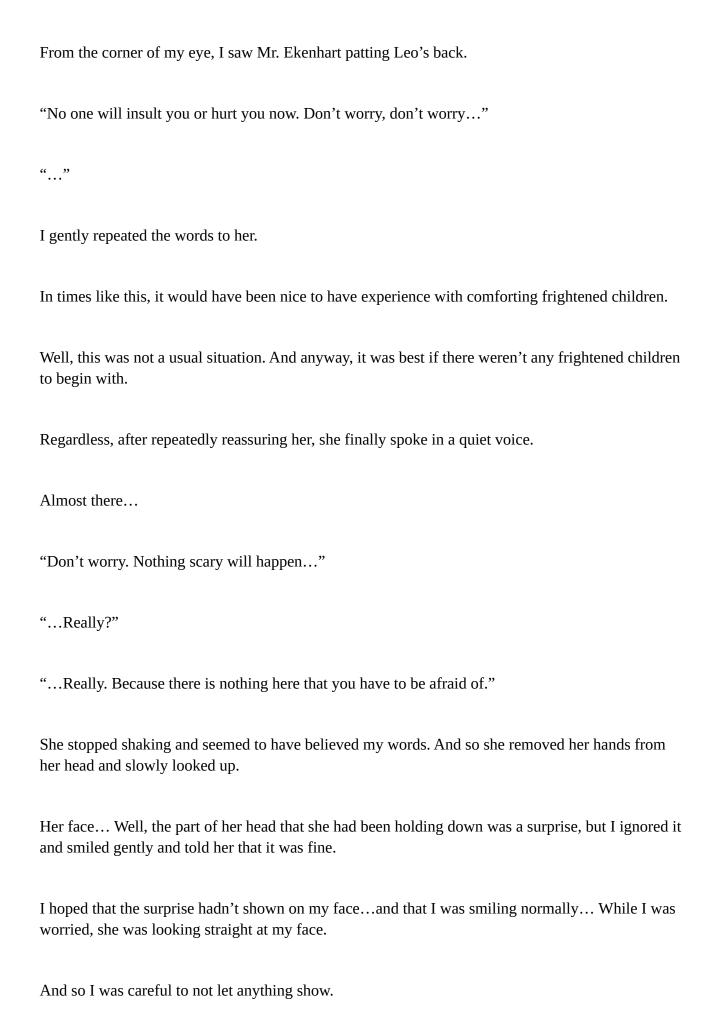
Now, it was only me, Mr. Ekenhart, Leo, and the crouching girl that remained. As I was relieved that everyone had run away, Leo looked at me with a smug expression, so I praised her and tousled her fur. I was relieved that I hadn't gotten Mr. Ekenhart involved in a fight after all. "Now, what should we do about this child..." "...If we leave her here, the other children might come back..." Mr. Ekenhart sheathed his sword and muttered as he looked at the girl. She continued to crouch as she trembled with fear. Perhaps she was even more scared than before, after hearing Leo's bark. Chapter 290 Leo Was Shocked That The Girl Was Scared Of Her "Wuff? Wuff-wuff!" "...Eeee!" "Wuff! Wuff-wuff. Wuff! Wuff!" Just as I was wondering what to do, Leo slowly approached the girl and looked into her face and barked.

The girl raised her head, and the moment that she saw Leo, she immediately hid again and started to

tremble with fear.

...Well, that big face was in front of her suddenly, so it was no wonder.







...Still, wolves were pretty scary when seen up close... Not that I thought Leo was scary in the least... But this was no time to be thinking about that. "Yes. She really is a kind wolf. She will not eat or attack anyone. Otherwise, they wouldn't have let her in the town, would they? The guards would have captured her." "...They would? I don't know..." "Well, I suppose. But if you trust me, then try looking behind you. Don't worry. There is nothing to be afraid of, remember?" "Yes...okay..." I didn't know if she would still be scared after seeing a sad-looking Leo, but we couldn't do anything until she got over it. We could not leave without her seeing Leo, and it would be dangerous to send Leo away. Perhaps she wouldn't trust someone she had just met, but thanks to my repeated reassurances, she seemed to believe in me. And so she nodded and hesitantly turned around. "...Uh... Good wolf?" "Kyunnn..." "...! See? It's fine. This is a gentle wolf that would never attack you." "Yes. I think so. ...I'm sorry, good wolf."

While the girl tensed momentarily after seeing how big Leo was, she was brave enough to speak to her.

It was like she was desperate to not be scary...

In answer, Leo let out a pitiful moan.

"Kyuun. Kyuun."

But as I was thinking about such things, I turned to look at the girl... And there was something on her backside that should not have been on a human.

Still, I coughed so that my surprise would not show, and then I called to her gently.

She then apologized to Leo for being scared.

Leo told her that it was fine, and then she turned to her slowly and pushed her nose close to the girl.

Leo still sounded rather pitiful... Besides, she looked rather amusing, as she had remained in a sitting pose while turning just her head to look around.