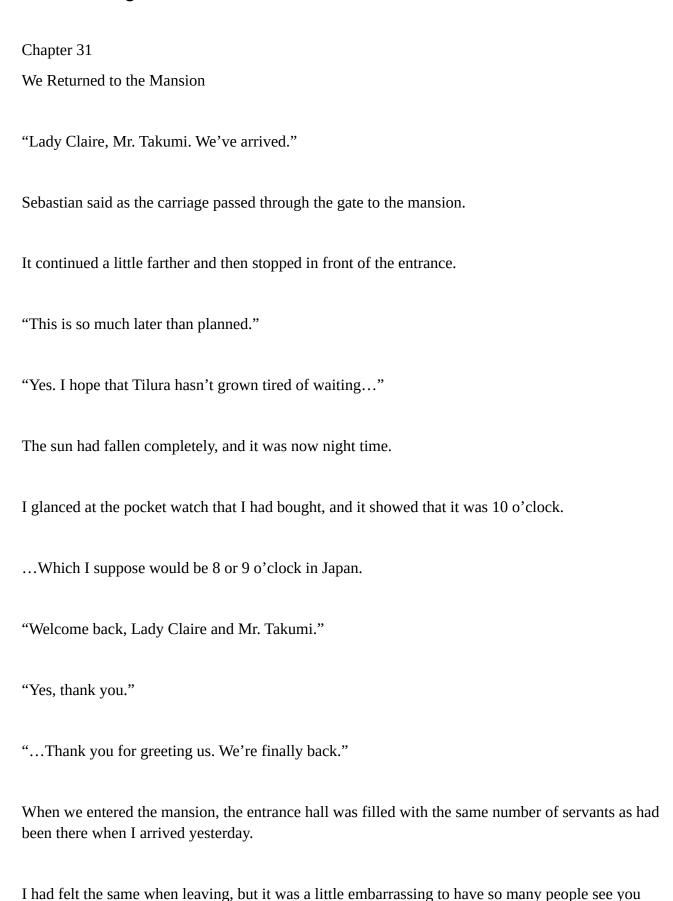
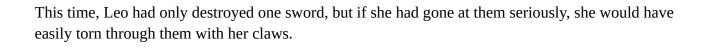
Beloved Dog 31

off.





I was still not accustomed to this world, and we had gone to a town for the first time... It seemed that I was more tired than I had thought. That being said, this was still nothing compared to how things were in my world, where I might have to work for over a month without rest... Lyra also put everything onto the ground. I decided to organize later and head to the dining hall, when I stopped. First, I had to praise Leo. "Leo, come here." "Wou?" "You were so good for letting the townspeople pet you like that. Because of that, they'll now understand that you're not to be feared." "Wuff! Wuff!" Leo came to me and put her face close to mine, and so I petted her thoroughly and praised her. It was important to praise her when she did something good. "Also, you really helped us when those strange people attacked us. Thank you." "Wou!" Judging from her manner, I had a feeling that Leo was saying, 'they were easy!' Indeed, it probably was easy for Leo. If anything, I almost felt sorry for the men.



But monsters were one thing. I hoped she wouldn't have to fight people if possible.

"Wuff. Wuff."

"Hahaha. Thanks to you, I have nothing to worry about, even when in an unfamiliar place."

"Wuff!"

Leo rubbed her face against mine playfully as I thanked her.

Really. While I had been thinking about the Gift and magic energy a lot today, I felt confident and not lonely as long as Leo was with me.

I was so thankful for her.

"...Mr. Takumi. We should be going..."

"Ah, right. ... Sorry."

"...Not at all."

As I continued to sit there and pet Leo, Ms. Lyra called to me.

...I had become too relieved after returning to my room, and forgot that she was there...

I felt a little embarrassed that she had been watching us this whole time.

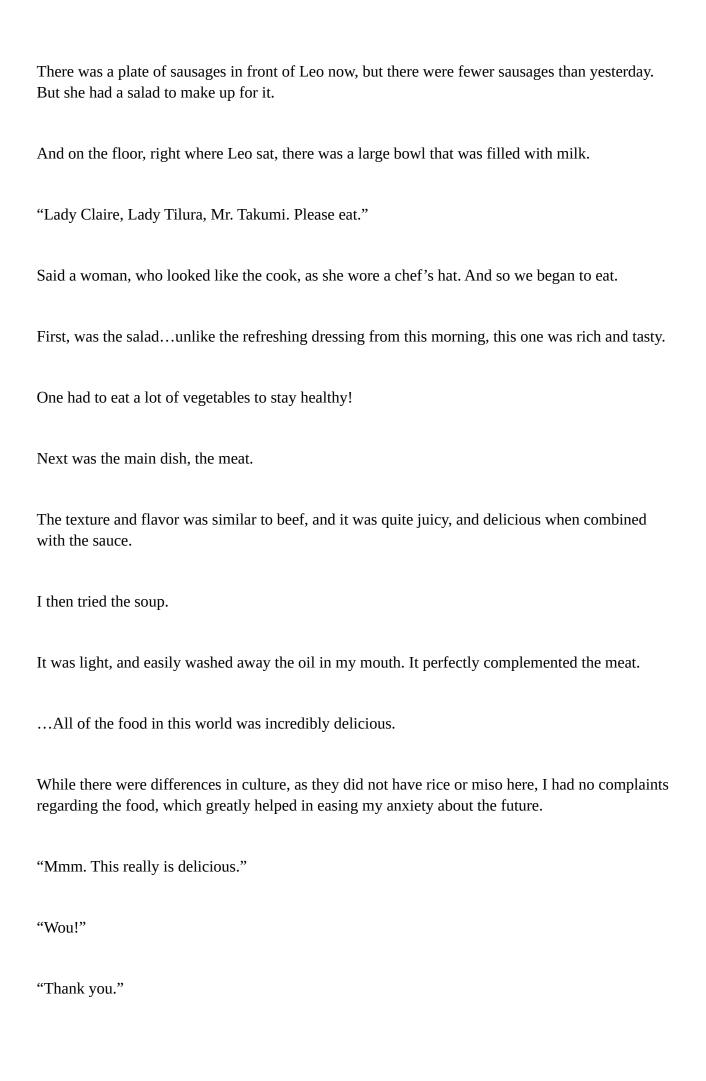
I could feel that my face had grown a little hot as Leo and I followed after Lyra towards the dining hall.

Lyra...would occasionally glance towards Leo, and her fingers would twitch... Could it be that she wanted to pet Leo? Now that I thought about it, from the very beginning, she had not been afraid of Leo and said that she found her cute. If we had time later, I would let her pet Leo. Besides, Leo seemed to have taken to Lyra and the other servants, as they were the ones to bring out the milk and sausages. We entered the dining hall, which was a large room with a long table. I think that about twenty people could sit at it? Ms. Claire sat at the head of the table. And Tilura sat down next to her. As always, Sebastian stood waiting right behind them. Now that I think about it, when did the servants eat...? "Mr. Takumi." "Sorry to keep you waiting, Ms. Claire. And sorry for being so late, Tilura." "Welcome back Mr. Takumi! And you too Leo!" "Wou!" Tilura's eyes shone as she looked at me...well, Leo.

Even now, she was about to jump out of her seat and pounce on Leo. And it was only because Ms. Claire had grabbed the hem of her dress that she didn't do just that. Now, I should take a seat... But where was I supposed to sit...? "Uhh...where should I sit?" I didn't want to be known as someone who had ill manners. But making a mistake would be even more embarrassing. It was momentarily embarrassing to ask, but eternally embarrassing to not ask. "Please sit over here." "Thank you." "Wuff." Seeing the table from the entrance, Ms. Claire and Tilura were sitting to the far right. Lyra guided me to the far left seat. There was no chair next to me, so Leo would have room to sit at the table. Internally, I thanked the servants for their consideration. "Normally, it would be proper for you to sit next to Tilura. But we don't want to be so formal now, and so I had you sit on the opposite side of us. It will be easier to talk if we can see each other's faces."

She really had become attached to her.





When Leo and I complemented the food, the woman in the chef's hat thanked us.

"You really seem to enjoy the food, Mr. Takumi."

"More than I can express. Everything I've eaten since coming here has been amazing."

"Hehehe. You must be very pleased, Helena."

"Yes, Lady Claire. As cooks, hearing that our food is delicious is our greatest joy."

"Mr. Takumi, this is Helena. The head cook of this house."

"Ms. Helena... Thank you for such a wonderful meal."

"No, thank you for being so complimentary towards the food that we made."

She thanked me back, and the atmosphere became a little awkward.

Well, one was thankful for the food, and the other thankful for the compliments. I suppose it was a good thing...I think.

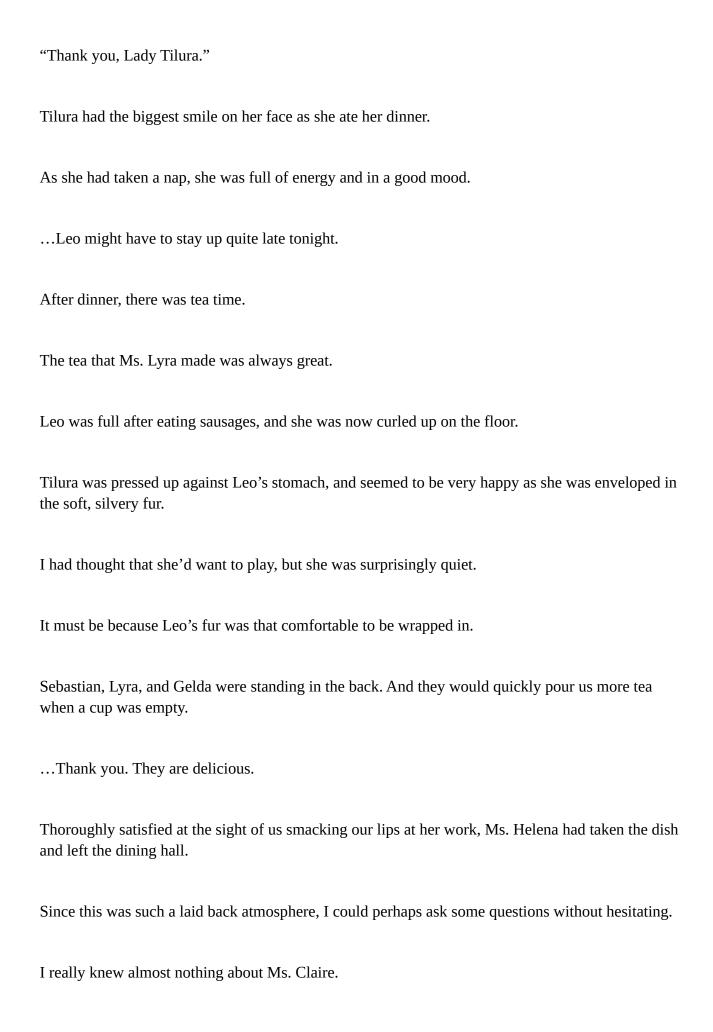
Also, she looked rather young...perhaps in her twenties. It must be rather difficult, being the head cook at that age.

Most of the head cooks I had seen at restaurants were middle-aged men.

Well, maybe it was just me. Regardless, it was pretty impressive that she had that position.

And since everything I had eaten was delicious, it was clear that she was very capable.

"Helena! Your food is delicious as always!"



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"Ms. Claire."
"What is it, Mr. Takumi?"
"Um, I was just wondering... Yesterday, I told you about myself. So today, I would like to learn
more about you."
"About...me? Oh...well, I... What can I say... I'm starting to get nervous..."
Had I said something wrong?
While Ms. Claire looked taken aback for a moment, she then blushed and began to mutter to herself.
And since she was on the other side of the table, I was not able to hear her.
"...Uh, well. I met you in the forest yesterday, but I was wondering about how you came to live in
this mansion. Also, it's not just the servants, but even the townspeople seemed to have a great
respect for you. And I was wondering why that...is..."
"...I see... Very well. It would not be fair for me to have asked about you, and not say anything
about myself... Really, I almost took that a different way..."
Huh? What...what did she just say...?
"Ms. Claire?"
"...No, it's nothing. Um, yes, about why I am living in this mansion, yes?"
"Yes."
"To put it simply, Tilura and I are here in order to be away from our father."
Away from their father. That sounded a little ominous... Had their father done something?
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Chapter 33

I Listened to Ms. Claire's Story

"Father... You are here to be away from your own father, Ms. Claire?"

"Yes. Our father is very fond of us, but... He keeps talking about how I need to get married."

"Married..."

"Nearly every day, he talks about acquaintances and colleagues who are unmarried. On one of the worst days, he brought over five people... It was very tiring to have to turn them all down..."

"I see... He sounds very eccentric."

I had no children, and wasn't even married myself, so I didn't know the feeling. But I always thought that fathers who doted on their daughters tended to not want them to marry.

Of course, I'm sure there were exceptions. Especially if the daughter remained unmarried for a very long time...

That being said, Ms. Claire was still quite young.

And everyone would agree that she was a great beauty.

So surely she wouldn't have trouble finding someone, without a father busily trying to find a match.

...I had to admit, there was a slight pang in my chest when this subject was brought up, but I wouldn't think about it.

That being said, it at least seemed like this wasn't a matter of father and daughter not getting along.

I was glad to learn that it wasn't so serious.

Well, perhaps it was very troublesome for Ms. Claire.

"And to make matters worse, he is already talking about matches for Tilura. And she has only just turned 10."

"Even Tilura..."

I looked at the girl who was wrapped up in Leo. She looked back at me with a puzzled expression after hearing her name.

"Day after day, he would talk about marriage. I grew very tired of it and...and decided that I would leave and live in this mansion."

"I see... Yes, I can imagine how that would get old very quickly."

"Exactly! Mr. Takumi, listen to me! Father would..."

After that, Ms. Claire aired her grievances about her father for what seemed like half an hour.

Women were very intimidating when they became like this...

Well, I could only imagine how stressful it must have been to keep these emotions to herself for so long. She did not seem like the type to complain about others to servants.

I could see that even Sebastian and the maids were smiling awkwardly in the back.

"...Oh, forgive me."

"No, I think that it's very important to let it all out once in a while."

After all, I knew what it was like to be worked to exhaustion and be overwhelmed by stress.

I wish that I had someone that I could complain to. But I had no one.

And so my only way of releasing that stress was to complain about work to Leo.

Whether Leo understood me or not, she always looked a little bewildered...

"...Umm... Oh, yes. About the townspeople."

"Yes. They all called you Lady Claire. And the guards recognized you immediately..."

"Indeed... Well, that too is related to my father..."

Oh, were the grievances going to continue?

...But I was wrong.

From what she told me about her father, it was no surprise that he had a great mansion as this.

"My father has the rank of duke in this country. As the head of the house, the entire land surrounding this villa...which includes the town of Ractos, is governed by him."

"...Duke... So you are all...nobles?"

"Yes. In this country, there are barons, viscounts, counts, margraves, marquis, dukes, and then royalty. So we are next after the royal family."

They really were at the top of the upper class...

While it wasn't something I thought about much in Japan, in medieval European society, they were the elite.

Perhaps it was similar to being a vice-shogun during the Edo period...maybe...maybe not...

I now felt as if I had been terribly rude towards them up until now... What if they had punishments for such insolence...? "...Umm, well... I am aware that I've been terribly discourteous towards you up until now...I hope that you can forgive..." "Oh, Mr. Takumi. I don't recall anything of the sort. Besides, you saved my life. You really should just treat me the same way as you have. ... And also..." "...Also?" "You do talk to us with polite words. But it does not seem to come to you naturally. Am I right?" "Ye-yes." "You seem the most natural when you are with Tilura. I only wish that you would be the same with me." "...Are you sure?" This wasn't just a question towards Ms. Claire, but to Sebastian and the maids as well. But Sebastian grinned and nodded. "If that is Lady Claire's wish, then I do not mind. Besides...you, Mr. Takumi, are a person with the Gift, and command a Silver Fenrir. If anything, you could be seen as someone who is above even a

duke."

"Above a duke...really?"

I was taken aback by Sebastian's answer.

It was confirmed that I indeed had the Gift, while we were in town, and combined with having a Silver Fenrir...being with Leo, I could be considered to be above a duke...

But only the royal family was above a duke.

"I will take it from here. Surely you have noticed how I and the people here treat the great Leo with such reverence."

"Yes. Sometimes out of fear, and sometimes not."

"Do you not think it odd...and I don't mean to be rude, but for a duke's family to treat a monster with such respect..."

"Yes, now that you mention it... Perhaps it is a little strange."

"When I first met you, I said that the Silver Fenrir is used on the crest of the royle family. ...Here it is."

"Yes, it is...the fangs and claws..."

Ms. Claire had taken out a palm-sized relief carving.

There was engraved a standing wolf that looked just like Leo. Its mouth was opened, showing its fangs, and its front paws were raised so that its claws were visible.

It was made of silver. Probably to match the fur of the Silver Fenrir.

Chapter 34

I Learned About the Duke and Silver Fenrir Connection

"The royal family uses the Silver Fenrir on their crest, as they symbolize a country that cannot be defeated. On the other hand, the Liebert crest shows the fangs and claws, which symbolizes how we will defeat any foe. Also...this is a very old legend, but it is said that the first head of the Liebert house was friends with a Silver Fenrir."

"Friends with a Silver Fenrir...But didn't you say that Silver Fenrirs yielded to no one?"

"Yes, it was not about yielding. They were said to be of equal standing. Well, I do not know how it really was, but this friendship helped my ancestor greatly, and after accomplishing great feats in battle, my ancestor rose to the rank of duke."' "Great feats in battle..." "Yes. This country was fighting many wars during that time. And it is said that when the first Liebert went to war, the Silver Fenrir appeared like the wind and saved the duke." So if he fought, the powerful Silver Silver Fenrir would save him. I knew that they were strong. They were said to be the strongest of monsters. How much impact had it had during the war, I wonder? Well, he had ultimately become someone who was only under the royal family, so it must have been glorious indeed. "It is because of the results of the war, and victory for the country, that House Liebert decided to use the Silver Fenrir on our crest. Ever since then, it has become our duty to respect the Silver Fenrirs." In other words, if it was because of the Silver Fenrir that he rose to duke, they had to show their gratitude towards it. But it was hard to think of Leo as the same kind of Silver Fenrir. Not when she had just stuffed herself with sausages and was now curled up on the floor... "Wou?" As I looked at Leo and thought of such things, she raised her head and barked as if to say, 'What?'

You are a reliable buddy.

I said to Leo with my eyes... But I didn't know if she understood me.

"Many people who live in towns or villages governed by House Liebert are aware of the connection to Silver Fenrirs." "Because of the stories about the first duke..." "Yes. For instance, Ms. Emeralda, who we met today. She thought Leo was a Silver Fenrir because I was there." Yes, she had said something like that. I think it was... 'It has silver fur and is with Lady Claire.' As the duke's daughter, and knowing that their family crest is the Silver Fenrir, she would have quickly assumed that Leo was a Silver Fenrir. Especially since the appearance, including the fangs, were so similar. "And that is why House Liebert will warmly welcome you and Leo. ... Well, aside from the personal reason that you saved me. Hehe." "Haha. It was Leo who saved you." Ms. Claire chuckled as her story ended. She was even more pretty when she laughed. I saw that Sebastian, the maids, and Tilura were all nodding with smiles, and I really did feel that we were welcome here. I knew that, and yet I still felt awkward about having a room prepared for me, and having them pay

for purchases that I made.

Still, it wasn't as if I would continue to rely on their hospitality.





Leaving that aside, I handed Tilura the necklace with the silver wolf. As she was so fond of Leo, she would probably like it? Chapter 35 I Gave Them the Presents "Wow! It's Leo! Thank you, Mr. Takumi!" Tilura shouted as she accepted the present. She was smiling as she looked at the wolf on it... Good, so she did like it. "And...Ms. Claire. ...Here." While I felt quite nervous towards her, I handed her the hair ornament of a white flower. ...I hoped that my hand wasn't shaking... It was probably fine... However, why did I get so nervous around Ms. Claire...? I hadn't felt nervous when giving Tilura the necklace... "This...is very beautiful... Thank you, Mr. Takumi. I am very happy!" "Haha. I'm glad that you like it."

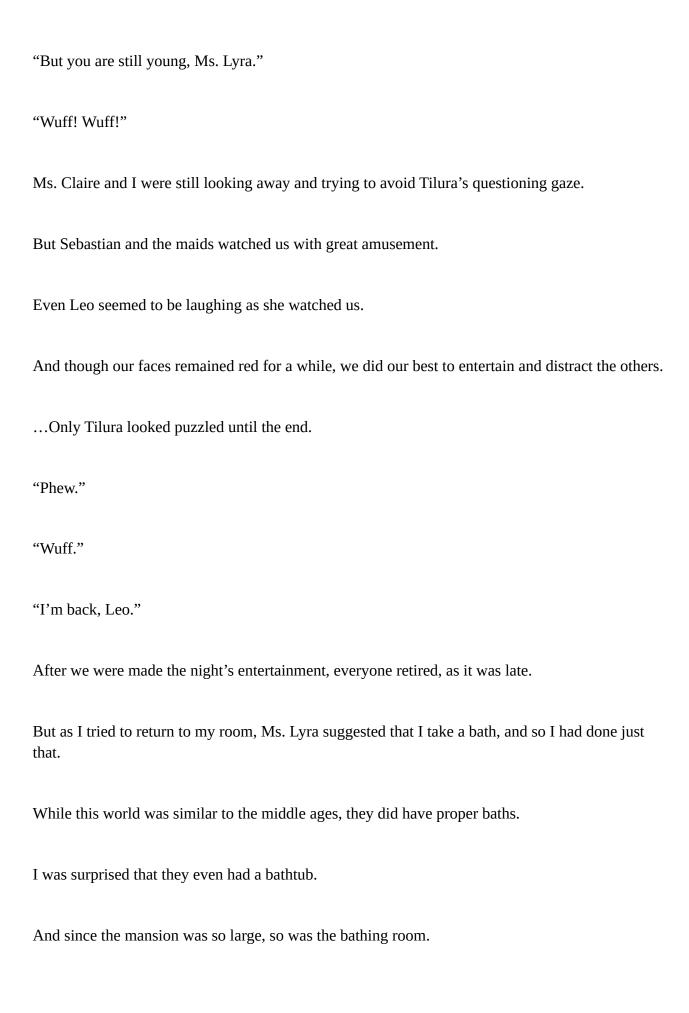
Ms. Claire smiled happily as she looked at the hair ornament.

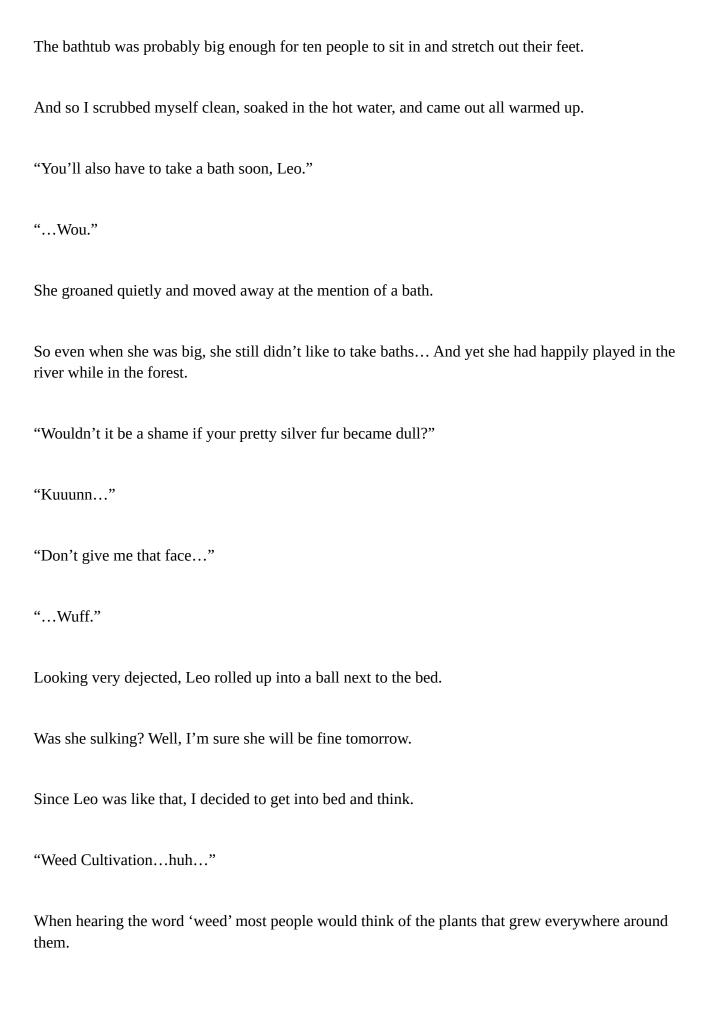
While Tilura's smile had been cute, there was something especially gratifying about seeing a beautiful woman smile.

Though, her cheeks had reddened a little as well. I wonder why?

Well, I was just glad that I was able to give her the present.

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"...How do I look?"
Ms. Claire asked me after Lyra put it in her hair.
"Yes, it suits you very well. A beautiful lady is now even more beautiful."
"!? ...What...I'm not that..."
Ms. Claire looked a little embarrassed as she turned away.
Wait, did I just...!
...Why had that just come out of my mouth like that!?
Once I realized what I had said, my face started to grow hot.
Did I now look as red as she did...?
"Sister. Mr. Takumi. What happened?"
"...It-it's nothing, Tilura."
"...Ye-yes. It's nothing at all."
While she was looking at us strangely, we somehow managed to pretend that it was nothing.
...Still, she continued to tilt her head and stare at us...perhaps she wasn't fooled...
"It must be nice to be young."
"Indeed."
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I was the same. They were weeds that I didn't even know the names of. They grow on the side of the road when no one wants them there, and people would step over them as they pass by... It wasn't the best image. And so just hearing the name made it seem like a useless ability. ...I had also thought that at first. However, after thinking about it, I had been able to grow plants like Ramogi, which could be used for medicine. So it was not useless at all. And so I would think about how to use it as I lay here in my bed. "The activation requirement..." It's not like any random plant would grow. The only plant I had made so far with this ability was the Ramogi. I had been thinking about it as I touched the ground, and then it grew from that spot. In other words, the plant I was thinking about would grow in the exact spot that I touched. "And I also made the Ramogi dry up in an instant..." Similar to when growing it, I just imagined it in a dried state, and then it had dried so that it could be used for medicine.

The explanation for this was that it would not activate when I wasn't thinking about anything, but

would activate with a touch and the right thought.



It would be important to have a grasp on what plants I could make and which I could not.

Also, I would like to test what kind of changes I could cause to occur, just like when I had dried the Ramogi.

Was it simply about making plants ready to be used as medicine, or could I manipulate them freely with thoughts?

...There were so many things that I wanted to know.

"...Well, I will take my time. Right, Leo?"

Leo did not reply, as she was still sulking...that made me a little sad.

Chapter 36

This Morning, I Was Awakened By Tilura

In the previous world, I was so overwhelmed with work, and had very little free time in my personal life.

But through coming to this world, I felt as if I was starting my life over, and so I thought that I would relax more.

Besides, I wanted to give Leo plenty of attention.

"While there is so much to think about, there is no reason to rush."

Thankfully, Ms. Claire had been the first person I met in this world, and she had welcomed me to this mansion.

But I couldn't rely on her hospitality forever, and I also wanted to return the money that I had borrowed in order to go shopping.

"...And to Sebastian as well."

If I could use Weed Cultivation to make plants that were used for medicine, then that could lead to all sorts of things.
I would think carefully and expand on what I could do.
Here, there was no superior who would get angry if I took a break, or would give me more work just as I finished up, or would shout at me for not being fast enough
"Leo?"
Just as I decided to stop thinking and go to sleep, I suddenly remembered that Leo was sulking. She had ignored me the last time that I called her name.
I raised my head a little to look at the side of the bed, and saw that she was curled up and sleeping.
Perhaps she was dreaming of food, as her mouth was moving a little as if chewing. It was rather amusing.
"So dogsSilver Fenrirs, also have dreams?"
I watched Leo for a while, and then pulled the blankets over myself and closed my eyes.
"Ahtomorrow I'll ask if I cantest Weed Cultivationin the back garden."
Just before falling asleep, when I was barely awake, I thought of plans for tomorrow as the day ended.
I heard a knock on the door.
And then I opened my eyes.



Well, maybe not. As she had entered without knocking yesterday in order to cling onto Leo... Perhaps she only knocked this time because Ms. Claire had scolded her. "Mr. Takumi, thank you for buying that necklace of Leo for me." "Hahaha. That's not Leo. But I thought you might like it, since it's a wolf." "Yes! I really like it! I'll take good care of it!" She was wearing it now, and she said this as she held the necklace preciously with both hands. "Wuff?" Leo seemed to be curious, as she pushed her nose towards Tilura's hands. "Leo, look! It's you!" "Wou... Wuff! Wuff!" Tilura showed Leo the necklace, and then Leo noticed the part that looked like a wolf. However, she did not seem to care for it, as she then shook her head. ...I think that she was saying, 'That's not me! I look so much cooler!' She was a girl who wanted to be cool... Also, ever since coming to this world, I seemed to understand Leo's gestures and barks a lot more...

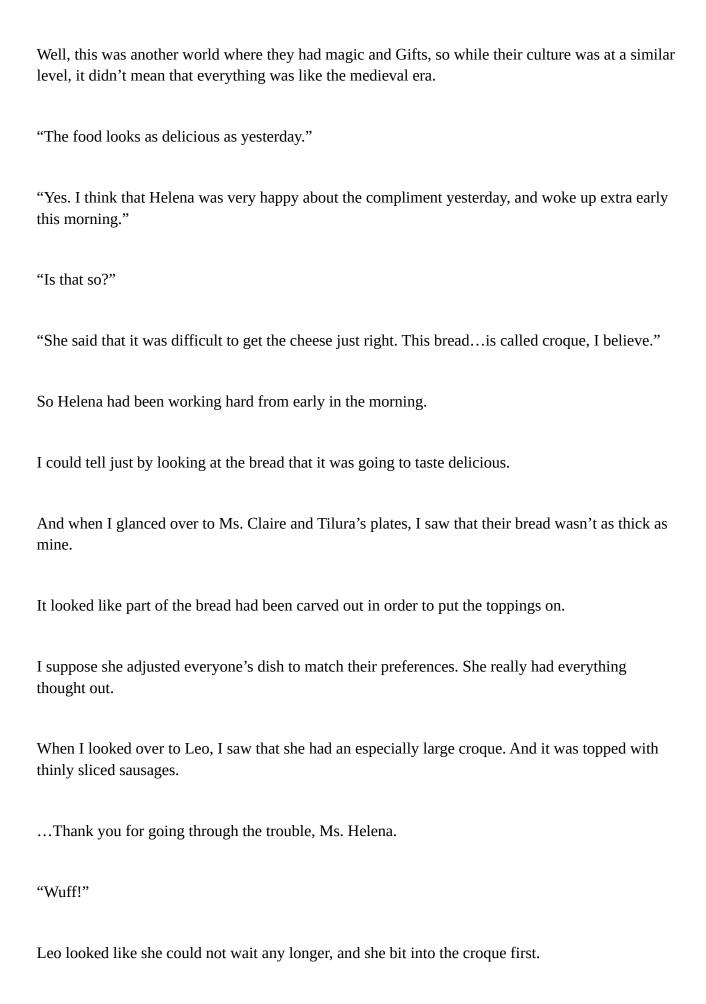
She had clearly been properly educated.





Well, it was a blade that looked like a razor. But I decided to think of it as this world's razor. I took it out from my belongings from yesterday, and then faced the mirror. You had to work quickly in the morning. I shaved carefully so that I wouldn't cut myself, and then I washed my face. Then I quickly changed my clothes and then rushed to the dining hall where the others were waiting. Ms. Claire and Sebastian would likely be waiting for me as well. ...Ms. Lyra was waiting for me outside of my door again, and while I was a little surprised, she escorted me to the dining hall. Chapter 37 Today's Breakfast Looked Delicious As Well When I entered the dining hall, I saw that Ms. Claire and Tilura were sitting and waiting in the same place as last night. "Good morning, Mr. Takumi." "Ms. Claire. Good morning, Good morning, Sebastian." "Good morning, Mr. Takumi. Lady Claire appears to be in very high spirits today." "Is that so?" "Oh, stop that, Sebastian. Mr. Takumi, it's nothing at all. I am always like this."







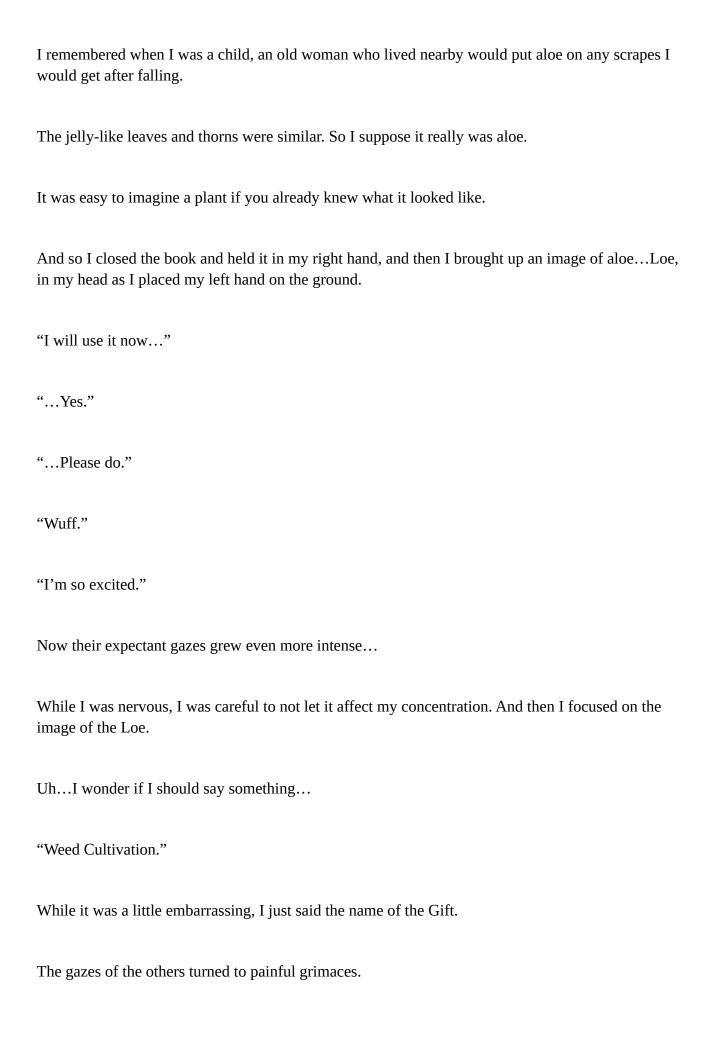


"Um...would you happen to have samples or books about medicinal plants that are detailed and with pictures?" "Medicinal plants... Indeed... We have no samples, but we do have educational books stored. As there is no pharmacist here now, we keep them in case we require that knowledge." "That's how I found out that Ramogi would be effective for Tilura's illness." "I see. Can I see this book? I want to use it for reference when trying Weed Cultivation." "Very well." So saying, Sebastian called Gelda and had her fetch the book about medicinal plants. Chapter 38 I Tried using 'Weed Cultivation' "Still, medicinal plants through Weed Cultivation..." "Is there something wrong, Sebastian?" "No, I was just thinking about how great a help it would be if medicinal plants could be acquired so easily." "You need them here?" "Yes. We currently have none in storage in this house. Ramogi is not supposed to be so difficult to acquire...but we didn't even have that. So if you could make some, we would be able to use it if there is a need."

I see. They had to store some for medicine.

Yes, you would be very anxious if you had no medicine to be used if someone suddenly became ill. Even I always made sure that I had cold medicine in stock. Because I would get in trouble at work if I took a day off just because of a cold... "Well, I still don't know what kinds of medicinal plants I can make. But I will look at the book and see what I can do." "Thank you." "Mr. Takumi, can I watch too?" "Yes. I don't think there is anything dangerous about it." Right...? I was just going to see if I could make plants grow. That's all. "Then I will watch as you use Weed Cultivation, Mr. Takumi." Ms. Claire looked at me as if she expected to see something great. Now I was getting a little nervous. After all, there was no guarantee that I would be able to use it well. But then again, I had been able to make the Ramogi without even trying. For a while after that, I enjoyed my cup of black tea and watched Leo and Tilura play. The time passed calmly as we rested there.

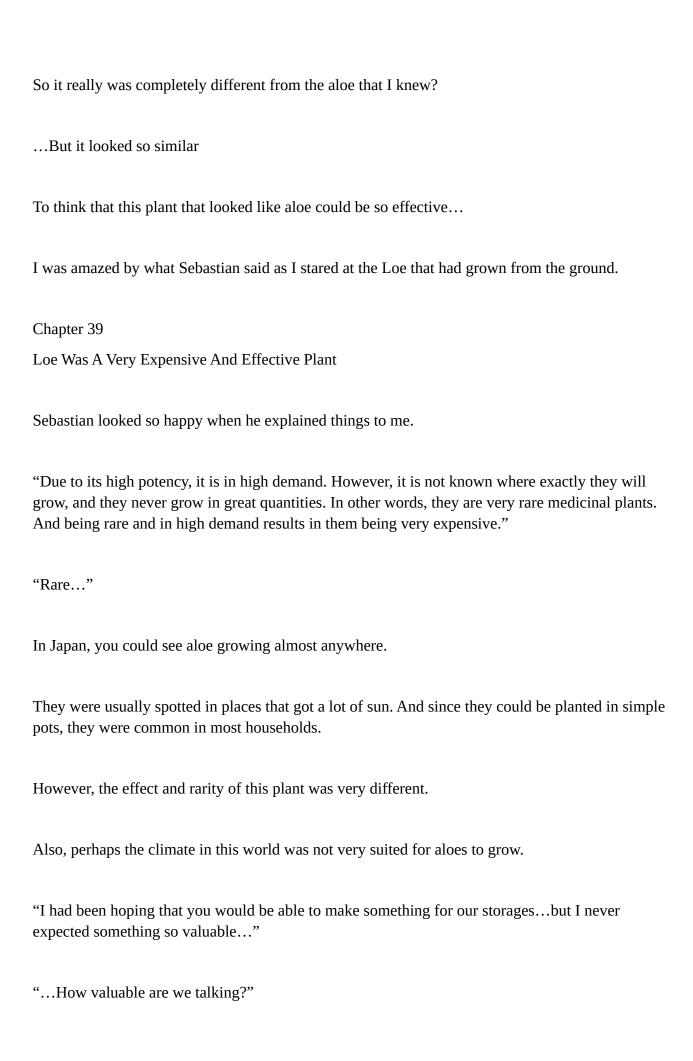
"Here is the book on medicinal plants." Once we had finished resting, Ms. Gelda gave me the book, and so I went out into the back garden along with Leo, Ms. Claire, and Sebastian. As for Tilura...ah, she was riding on Leo's back. I suppose she must have really enjoyed the ride yesterday? Once we were in the back garden, I stood a short distance away from the others and then opened the book. "Hmm... There really are a lot of plants here..." I could feel the eyes of the others on me. Ms. Claire seemed very serious, while Sebastian was perhaps more expectant. But regardless, their looks were piercing... ...It made me a little uncomfortable... "Alright, I'll do this one." I chose a medicinal plant from the book that was called Loe. It was effective against scrapes and burns. The leaves were thick and had hard thorns around them. The insides of the leaves were like jelly, and could even be eaten. It said that the leaves should be cut open and placed over the wound in order to heal it. "...Wait, is this aloe?"













"Obviously, if you sold only Loe, the price would fall greatly and it could disrupt the market."
"YesMr. Takumi, for now, could we add this Loe to our storage for medicine?"
"Oh, yes. Of course, I don't mind. That was my intention in the first place."
"Thank you. Also, if you do decide to use your ability to start a business, then please tell me. I will think of a good way to do it."
"A good way?"
I had not known about the value of Loe, but perhaps I could give it to them as a way of paying rent for now.
In any case, it seemed like Ms. Claire had some idea when it came to starting a business.
As for me, including my part time jobs and full time work, I had always been far away from anything related to customer service and trade.
And so if Ms. Claire knew the best way to go about it, I would leave everything in her hands.
Besides, I didn't like the idea of negotiating.
"Earlier, Sebastian said something about disrupting the market. Is this for cases where I make great quantities of them through Weed Cultivation and sell them?"
"Yes. If something used to be rare, then it would cause great confusion if there is suddenly so much of it available."
"I see."
Yes, that did make sense.



"When a landed noble owns a business, the people who live on the land will often buy it, because it's a product from their landlord. Obviously, this would only happen in cases where there is mutual trust. And so a landlord who is loved by the people will have an easier time selling something than the average merchant."

"Well, the quality of the product will also matter. But people trust that a noble would not sell something of low quality, because that would quickly affect their reputation."

"In other words, a business that is based on trust between the landlord and the people becomes its own brand?"

"Exactly."

Brands sold by nobles...would they be like luxury brands?

I suppose that being sold by a trusted noble was part of the brand as well.

Ms. Claire's family business brought in great profits, so that must mean they had the people's trust.

"What I am thinking is this. The medicinal herbs that you make, Mr. Takumi, will be sold as a branded product of the Liebert house. By having a duke's house manage things, people will trust that the product is of good quality. And of course, Mr. Takumi, you will be properly compensated for your work."

"Hmm."

"So in order to avoid disrupting the market, this family will handle things while you make the medicinal plants, Mr. Takumi. As it would not be wise for you to just make anything and in great quantities, we will have to organize things with the stores, and then have you cultivate them."

So they would be sold in stores owned by the duke, and I would get orders for the amount to produce...was that right?

"Of course, if you would rather not rely on us and start your own business, I will not try to stop you. While I mean to pay you properly, it's possible that you could make more of a profit if you did it all alone."

"Hmm... Well, that's not something that I'm concerned about. And I don't have any desire to be the central figure in the business either."

From my point of view, receiving the order, producing the amount, and leaving the rest to the family. If I could make enough money to live by doing that, then I had no complaints.

This was still a world where I barely knew right from left. And so it felt wise to leave the actual selling to them.

While it could not be helped that less of the profits would go to me, this was just a power I was suddenly able to use.

It's not something that I had worked hard to attain. And so I would be making money very easily.

These were very favorable conditions.

"I think that I will leave it to your family, Ms. Claire. ...Besides, I surely do not have the same talent for trade."

"Very well. That being said, it is just an early idea. My father is still the head of this house. And so we will not be able to add the medicinal plants to our stores without permission, nor can we ask you to cultivate them as an employee."

"So, Ms. Claire... We won't be able to do it immediately?"

"Yes. I must speak with my father first. However, I doubt that he won't give his permission...

Though..."

"Huh?"

"...I was just thinking about how troublesome it will be that he will bring up my marriage again when I talk to him..."

"Ah...that's true..."

She had grumbled about him for a long time yesterday. He must bring it up with her a lot... She said that it had been nearly every day.

Ms. Claire was living away from her father now, and they would be meeting after a long while. And so it was very likely that he would start trying to find her a match once again.

I felt a little sorry for her.

"I'll think about the terms of the contract and other details before I meet him. Mr. Takumi, you must also think about it very carefully and decide whether to do it or not. ... And I must also think of ways to turn those marriages down...!"

"...Of course."

She sounded the most determined during the last part...

I would try to avoid bringing the subject up with her from now on.

After that, I looked through the book and tested to see what other plants I could make with Weed Cultivation.

While I was able to make most of the plants in the book, there were also some that I was unsuccessful with.

There was one called 'Neegi,' which was like a Japanese green onion.

It even said in the description that it would heal ailments if you wrapped it around your neck.

"What kind of folk medicine is..."

Regardless, I was not able to make it through Weed Cultivation.

When I asked Sebastian, he said that it was commonly sold as food. If it was considered farm produce, then that would explain why I am unable to make it.

It did make me wonder who exactly decides if a plant is part of agriculture or not, but I decided to not think about it too deeply, as there would be no answers.

"...Phew."

I continued to try to grow different plants until lunch time.

A great variety of plants were now growing in the back garden so that it looked like a little field.

However, out of all of the plants that were there, there was one single plant that was not in the book. And I had no memory of ever seeing such a plant before.

A plant had been made when I had no knowledge of it at all.

"...I thought plants were only supposed to grow after I imagined them?"

What had I been thinking about when making this?

I think...I had been thinking vaguely about how Leo and Tilura were running around and playing in the garden, and how tired I would be if I joined them.

After that, I thought of energy drinks, and wondered if there wasn't something here that would give me energy. And then I touched the ground.

And before I knew it, a single purple leaf with no stem had sprouted from the dirt.

I had then plucked it. But I wouldn't dare use or sell something if I didn't know what effect it would have.

I showed Ms. Claire and Sebastian, but neither knew of the plant either. And so I decided to take it back to my room.

"I'll put it here for now."

I placed the unfamiliar plant on the desk in my room, and then I headed to the dining hall.

By now, I knew how to reach it, and did not need Ms. Lyra to show me the way.

For lunch, we had pasta.

It wasn't the thick, long type of spaghetti often eaten in Japan, as the noodles were flat a few centimeters wide.

Everything that Ms. Helena made was delicious, so this should be no different. It was with such thoughts that I picked up the fork that lay next to my plate.