

Beloved Dog 311

Chapter 311

We Drank the Trial Medicinal Wine

The aftertaste of the wine was bad... It was a combination of bitterness and overly strong sweetness...

Was this because of the medicine?

But the medicine that we had concocted was not supposed to taste like this... I suppose you really couldn't tell what the outcome would be until you tasted it.

After taking one sip, the aftertaste stayed in your mouth for quite a long time.

"Hmm... I suppose it is not undrinkable. But compared to yesterday... What do you think, Sebastian?"

"Indeed... As everyone has already said, it is quite bitter. One would not say that it is good."

"Yes. But then again, this wine is not necessarily made to taste good. What about the effects?"

"As for that, it will take some time before you can feel it..."

It seemed that all of the servants here had tasted it as well.

Now that I looked, Ms. Lyra was holding a glass of wine.

I guess it was necessary for everyone to taste and feel the effects.

Unlike the previous one, this wine was supposed to have health benefits.

While there was nothing wrong with having wine that tasted good, the effect was far more important.

And so we did as Ms. Helena said and waited quietly.

“...Hmm?”

“What is it, father?”

After waiting for some time, Mr. Ekenhart tilted his head and muttered.

Ms. Claire noticed this and looked at him curiously.

“Well...I feel as if my body has grown a little warmer. But I barely drank anything, and I am not drunk...”

“...Indeed, now that you mention it...”

“My face is also starting to feel hot...”

“Yes. I do feel a warmth in my body.”

Now that he had said it, others started to think they felt it as well.

It was such a small change that you wouldn't notice it until someone told you.

As there was alcohol in it, it made sense that your temperature would rise. However...

We also hadn't drunk that much.

In the first place, I didn't seem to get drunk, no matter how much wine I drank. And so my body temperature hadn't risen at all in Range village.

And yet, I could feel something. Was it...

“Is this the effects of the medicine...?”

“Yes. That is correct. Through mixing it with the medicine, the magic energy in your body will be vitalized, and it will improve your physical condition.”

“Hmm... So it is similar to the medicinal herbs we had before?”

“Yes, Sebastian. That is right.”

Ms. Helena nodded as she answered Mr. Ekenhart.

Sebastian asked her a question as well, and she nodded.

Indeed, before concocting it, the idea had been to make something that revitalized your magic energy and distributed nutrition to your entire body in order to improve your health.

I suppose that was what made our bodies warmer.

“So that means you can keep the effects of the medicinal herbs, and they are not weakened at all by mixing them into the wine?”

“Yes. I do believe so.”

Ms. Helena answered my question.

“There are not many things that affect magic energy... This is the first time this has been done with wine. As for how effective it truly is, we will have to keep testing... However...”

“This is certainly something very good. Something that does not affect your magic energy in a negative way. At the very least, what I can not feel in my body is not a rejection.”

“Yes. However, affecting your magic energy too much...can have troublesome effects as well. We still have to be careful at this point.”

“Hmm...yes. What do you think, Mr. Takumi?”

“Me? Well... I do not know much about magic energy... Of course, one should not drink too much of these things that are related to health. Or anything, really...”

“That’s true... Then we will have to set a limit, so that no one drinks too much.”

“Yes. I think that at most, one glass a day would be best.”

Even in Japan, there were limits for how much of a health drink you should drink in one day.

Well, it wasn’t so much as a limit, but a suggestion, that drinking more than one a day might actually have negative effects instead.

After all, I really did not know much about magic energy. And so I could not make such irresponsible claims.

It would be best to only drink a little for now, and see what happens.

“At least we won’t have to worry about Claire drinking too much and acting like a fool.”

“Father! I told you, that will not be happening again! I will be very careful!”

Mr. Ekenhart teased her, and Ms. Claire retaliated frantically.

“Hahaha. Well, nevermind that. Mr. Takumi, in order to make it clear how effective it is...could you continue to make more of this...medicinal wine?”

“Yes. Milina and I will work together to continue to make the medicine for the wine.”

We would need a decent amount in order to test it. I expected as much.

Well, it was true that it was a lot of work, and so we wouldn't be able to make that much, but...

Milina and I should still be able to manage it.

"That was a rather fruitful dinner."

After the tasting was finished, we drank some tea and relaxed.

Mr. Ekenhart seemed to feel that a lot had been accomplished.

As for Liza, she had joined Tilura in hugging and petting Leo.

After a good meal and some delicious juice, she was in a pleasant mood.

Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne seemed to be discussing something, but it was too quiet for me to hear. There was something a little suspicious about their air, and my instincts told me to not get involved.

Chapter 312

I Prayed For Mr. Ekenhart's Safety

"I think it's time for some training before bed?"

"Mmm, that's true. It's time to move..."

"Father?"

"Your Grace?"

"Hmm?"

After resting for some time, I was just about to go and do my nightly swing practice...well, these days it was more of a mental exercise. Mr. Ekenhart got up as well in order to go to the back garden.

However, just then, Ms. Claire, who had been talking a moment ago, and Sebastian, moved in front of him and grabbed his arms.

“Father, there is still something very important left to discuss...”

“You must answer some questions regarding your departure today...”

“Uh, ah... Well, wait a minute... Mr. Takumi...”

“Mr. Ekenhart...good luck...”

“?”

“Wuff...”

“Kyau?”

And like that, Ms. Claire and Sebastian dragged him away.

And though he asked me for help, all I could do was stare at him and offer a prayer...

Besides, I was more impressed with how well Sebastian and Ms. Claire worked together...

Liza, Tilura and Sherry looked a little confused. Only Leo understood as she let out a sigh.

“What will you do, Ms. Anne?”

“I shall go and rest. I still am not completely well...”

“I see...”

Even after eating dinner and resting, Ms. Anne had not recovered completely.

I had thought that she was back to her normal self after the incident with Liza, but I suppose it was just temporary.

But she also drank the medicinal wine... So perhaps she will be better tomorrow. I imagined that as I watched her leave the dining hall.

As for Liza, it seemed like she still disliked Ms. Anne, as she avoided looking at her.

“Now, Tilura. Let’s train as usual.”

“Yes!”

“Where are you going, papa?”

Just as Tilura and I were about to go to the garden, Liza looked at me with a worried expression.

She was still not used to this place, and was worried about being left behind.

“Don’t worry, I won’t leave you here. Leo, you know what to do.”

“Wuff!”

“Mama? Kya!”

“Kyau!”

I told her to not worry and we stood up together.

And then Leo barked once and picked her up by the collar.

Sherry then jumped onto Leo's head, as it was her designated seat.

"Is this what you always do here, papa?"

"Yes, that's right. Training is important if you want to become stronger."

I answered as I held up my sword.

On the way, I put her on Leo's back, as being held by the collar was not likely to be comfortable.

Even now, she was watching us with a curious expression.

"Anyway, it's a little dangerous, so don't come too close."

"Okay."

"Wuff!"

And so I asked Leo to move away so that there was no risk of them being hit by the swords, and then we started our training.

Well, even if I lost control of my sword, Leo would be fast enough to dodge it... After all, I have never been able to hit Leo.

Though, now that I thought about it, Liza had really gotten used to me and Leo now.

It hadn't even been a full day yet.

It was important to create an environment where kids could just be themselves.

And so for some time after that, Tilura and I swung our swords and trained.

We swung while imagining an enemy, just like Mr. Ekenhart had said.

As I was focusing by myself, I didn't know if I was really doing it correctly, but I tried to recall what it was like to fight the orcs as I did it.

Occasionally, I would glance over to Liza as I caught my breath, and saw that her eyes were sparkling.

"...Phew... Hah... I think that's enough for today."

"Hah...hah...hah..."

I panted while sheathing my sword and announcing that we were finished.

And so Tilura did the same as she caught her breath.

Now that we were done, Leo moved towards us.

Since we had trained for quite a long time, I wonder if Liza was bored?

"That was amazing! I didn't know you could move so fast!"

"Haha. Really? But Mr. Ekenhart...the other old man, is a lot faster."

"...I don't think we will ever be able to catch up to him..."

"Tilura... We'll just have to do our best."

Liza did not look bored at all, and had nothing but praise as her eyes shone.

I almost got carried away, but then I remembered how much better our master, Mr. Ekenhart was.

He would not be pleased if he saw us getting arrogant.

And I agreed, that I still didn't feel like I could ever catch up.

Tilura also muttered with disappointment at the thought.

I suppose it meant more to her, as his child. However, she would have plenty of time to grow.

She learned faster than me. I could see her surpassing her father one day.

...Both Ms. Claire and Tilura had a certain strength...that I doubted that I could match.

"Mr. Takumi, Lady Tilura. Here..."

"Thank you."

Ms. Lyra had suddenly appeared and offered us towels.

I used the towel to wipe off the sweat, and talked to Tilura and Liza as we returned to the mansion.

Tilura and Liza were already talking about how they would play with Leo and Sherry tomorrow.

Children really did become friends quickly... I suppose it was because they didn't think about it too much, like adults.

We then separated from Tilura and Sherry and headed to my room.

Liza seemed like she was still excited, due to being in a new place.

"Ah, now that I think about it... Your room..."

“Room?”

“Wuff?”

I realized it once we reached my room.

I had forgotten to ask them about that.

And it was already quite late... I suppose she could just sleep here for tonight.

Chapter 313

There was an intruder

“Mr. Takumi. We are currently still preparing a room for Liza.”

“...I see. I guess you’ll have to sleep here tonight, Liza.”

“With papa? Oh, okay!”

“Hehe. Well, excuse me.”

“Uh, yes. Thank you.”

Ms. Lyra had walked with us to my room, and told me that the room was still being prepared.

Upon hearing this, I suggested that she could sleep in my room, and she smiled and wagged her tail.

Ms. Lyra chuckled at this and left.

...I hadn’t even realized that Ms. Lyra was with us... Were maids good at erasing their presence?

I suppose she wanted to tell me about the room, but had been so busy with Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne.

“Ah, but I need to wash Leo first... Ms. Lyra...is probably tired, and I’d rather let her rest... If only there was someone else...”

“Where are you going?”

“...Wuff.”

I had remembered that the area around Leo’s mouth was dirty from all of the food she had eaten while walking around in Ractos.

I needed help when it came to bathing Leo.

Someone needed to dry her off after I washed her.

Thinking this, I got up from the bed and was about to leave the room, when Liza called to me.

Leo looked a little depressed at the idea of taking a bath, but she didn’t make such a big deal about it like she used to.

Was it because things had improved with how I washed her? Or maybe it was because Liza was here.

Perhaps Leo wanted to set a good example... She had been like that with Sherry.

“Well, I’m going to wash Leo, but I can’t do it alone. So I was thinking about calling someone. Don’t worry, I’ll be back.”

“...I’ll go with you.”

“Wuff...”

Liza looked worried about me leaving.

I tried to reassure her and leave the room, but Leo started to tug at my sleeve.

...I suppose I couldn't blame her for being worried about being left alone in a strange place.

"Fine, let's go."

"Yes!"

Liza went from looking worried to smiling as she held my hand.

She really had an expressive face.

"Alright, Leo. You can wash yourself now, okay?"

"Wuff!"

After taking Leo to the bath and washing her, I filled a large basin with water and let her do the rest.

Leo preferred water that wasn't heated, but it seemed really cold.

She dunked her head into the water and was practically playing as she washed up.

As I had already washed the dirtiest parts of her body, I could leave her like that for now.

Thinking this, I moved away from her and began to wash myself.

I had asked Ms. Gelda to dry off Leo once she was finished.

This was because we had met her after leaving my room.

Ms. Gelda had finished dealing with Ms. Anne.

I had also told her to take care of Liza while I was washing Leo.

I felt a little bad, as she might be tired, but Ms. Gelda looked like she was more than happy to do it.

Though she was mostly looking at the ears and tail... Perhaps Liza was letting her touch them right now

As I mused about such things, the door burst open and someone flew in.

“Papa, I want to bathe too!”

“Wuff?”

“Liza!?”

Liza shouted as she rushed towards me.

Apparently, she had wanted to bathe with Leo and me, and had managed to escape from Ms. Gelda.

“I’m so sorry, Mr. Takumi! She just started running all of a sudden!”

The door was wide open, and Ms. Gelda stood there while averting her eyes.

Well, it wasn’t her fault, kids could be like that.

“Uhh...Liza... Look here, you can’t bathe with us, because I’m a man. Understand?”

“But you’re my papa?”

“Hmm... I’m not sure how to explain this...”

It was clear that she did not understand.

I had thought that being around Leo so much made me better at dealing with kids, but apparently not... Hmm..

“Uhh, Ms. Gelda?”

“Well, if she is your daughter...it would not be strange...”

“...You think so...?”

“Yes. And I won’t tell anyone!”

“You don’t sound very convinced!”

“Papa?”

Ms. Gelda then closed the door and left.

Well...that did not sound very promising...

As I wondered what to do, Liza looked up in that worried way that she tended to do. And I could not refuse her.

I had actually meant to ask Ms. Gelda or one of the other maids to bathe her...but I suppose it could not be helped.

This was just a father bathing his daughter.

I said as if there was someone else there to hear me.

“Still... There are quite a lot of cuts. Do they hurt?”

“I’m fine.”

“Wuff...”

As I washed Liza’s back, I was reminded of how many cuts she had.

Well, most of them were scrapes that would likely heal quickly... It gave me the impression that for a long time, she was getting hurt faster than they could heal.

Most of them were on her hands and feet, as at least her clothes protected most of her body.

I was still worried that the soap would sting, but she said that it was fine.

Chapter 314

Liza Went To Sleep

Leo always looked a size or two smaller when she was wet. And she now looked at me and sighed with exasperation.

You better finish soon and dry off Leo. Or you’ll catch a cold.

Well, I didn’t know if Silver Fenrirs could actually catch a cold.

“I have never felt hot water like this! It’s amazing!”

“Hahah, yes, they have hot water here.”

Once we had finished washing up, we soaked in the hot water together.

Up until now, she was drinking mud water, so a hot bath was a new experience for her.

She was surprised and delighted, which was nice to see.

“Waachoo!”

“See, Leo. It’s quite cold, isn’t it? Do you want to get in?”

“Wuff-wuff.”

“Hah... Well, have Ms. Gelda dry you off then. You don’t want to catch a cold.”

“Wuff.”

I had suggested that Leo soak in the hot water as well, but she refused.

Did she hate hot water so much?”

Regardless, Leo nodded and walked away.

“It is getting hot...”

“Indeed. I suppose we should go too... Well, how about after fifty seconds?”

“Okay... 1...2...”

As she was young, she did not care to stay in the hot water for too long.

But as she counted, she stopped after reaching ten, and I had to remind her what came next.

She stumbled again when reaching twenty, and it ended up taking some time until she reached fifty.

“Ms. Gelda. Can you take Liza now?”

“Yes, of course.”

“Wuff.”

“What about you, papa?”

“I think I’ll stay a little longer. You go on ahead with Leo.”

“Uh, okay. I’ll go to mama.”

I called Ms. Gelda and had her take care of Liza.

While I had helped wash her back, Liza was able to wash her head, hands and tail by herself, so she shouldn’t need any help.

Ms. Gelda had been waiting outside, as if expecting to be called, and I could hear Leo as well, as she must have been waiting with her.

And so I continued to soak in the hot water after Liza left.

I did not want to let my body cool off.

“I feel so warm!”

“Hahaha. Because you were in the bath. It warms you up.”

“Wuff, wuff.”

After returning to the room, Liza still seemed excited.

I watched her and smiled.

Leo also nodded with approval... Though, Leo hadn't even warmed up at all.

She had just stood there soaked in cold water.

Well, at least she hadn't caught a cold, and seemed to be satisfied.

"Hah..."

"Hmm? Are you sleepy?"

"Wuff?"

After running around excitedly for some time, Liza started to yawn loudly.

Well, it had been a very eventful day.

She had been surrounded by so many new faces, and there was not much time to rest... And so the fatigue had probably hit her all at once now.

Sometimes, children suddenly become tired as if their battery just died.

"I'm...fine...I will stay...awake...because...it's fun..."

"...Did you have a fun day?"

"Ye...ss..."

Her eyes were already half closed and she seemed like she was about to fall asleep.

Considering all of the awful things that had happened, I was just glad that she had a good time today.

“Well, there should be plenty of fun things tomorrow as well. Well, you should go to sleep then, before it gets cold.”

“Oka...y...”

“Wuff.”

I then put her on the bed and put the blanket over her.

“Zzzz....zzz...”

“That was fast. But she seems comfortable.”

“Wuff.”

“Ah, you’re sleeping next to the bed too, Leo?”

“Wuff, wuff.”

“I see... Well, that way, she won’t fall off the side. Thanks, Leo.”

“Wuf-wuff.”

Leo answered that it was the obvious thing to do, and then she closed her eyes.

Liza was sleeping on what was the foot of the bed.

I didn’t want to move her, because she was so tired.

And there was plenty of space, as the bed was quite large.

And so Leo had taken position there, just in case Liza moved in her sleep and fell off.

Though, she seemed to be sleeping peacefully now, so I doubted that would happen...but you never knew.

And so I thanked Leo and climbed into the back part of the bed.

It really had been an eventful day. I thought back on everything that had happened in Ractos and in the mansion as I drifted off to sleep.

—

“Hmm...mmm...”

Slowly, consciousness returned as I opened my eyes.

It was bright outside of the window, and so I knew that it was morning.

“Hmm... I had a good sleep.”

I sat up in the bed and yawned.

I wonder if Tilura would come to see Leo... It was just as I thought of this that I remembered something.

“Huh...Where’s Liza...?”

That beastkin girl that we rescued...she was supposed to have been sleeping on the bed.

However, when I looked, there was no one there.

Though, the blankets and sheets were in disarray, so it was obvious that someone had been there.

Liza was sleeping in the most comfortable place

“...Maybe she went to the bathroom? But then, I doubt she would go off when she is still not familiar with this place...”

Yesterday, I had told where the bathroom was, just in case.

That was one thing no one could help her do, after all.

In any case, I had to find her.

But when did she leave...and why...

Thankfully, there was no one in the mansion who hated beastkin, so she wasn't in any real danger... Still, I was worried.

“Hey, Leo. Wake up. Liza has gone...”

Leo was rolled up into a ball and stuck to the side of the bed. And so I tried to wake her up so we could search for her.

And then I noticed it.

In the center of Leo's large, rolled up body, there was some brown hair sticking out.

“...Could it be...?”

“...Wuff.”

“Leo. You're awake? In that case...”

As I slowly approached, Leo opened her eyes and barked quietly.

She was awake, but not alarmed about Liza's absence... She was quiet, and then there was hair.

I felt relieved now that I knew what had happened. Still, I looked closer just to make sure.

"Hah...there you are..."

"Mmm...zzz..."

Liza had wrapped herself up in Leo's fur and was sleeping with a big smile on her face.

I didn't know when she had moved, but Leo must have noticed.

And so she was keeping still and did not bark loudly.

Her expression was so happy that it made me feel happy as well.

I suppose this was a feeling that parents experienced?

That old man who had taken care of Liza in the slums... I had never met him, but perhaps this is what he felt as well.

"Good morning, Leo and Mr. Takumi."

"Tilura... Shhh."

"Wuff..."

"Huh?"

There was suddenly a knock on the door and Tilura entered.

She was as energetic as ever.

I raised a finger to my mouth to signal for her to lower her voice, and then I gestured over to Leo.

Upon seeing this, Tilura tilted her head as if puzzled, but then she saw Liza sleeping on Leo.

“...She looks cute when she sleeps.”

“Yes.”

“Wuff.”

Though they were similar in age, Tilura was still supposed to be the older sister.

And so she looked at Liza with a tender expression.

“Zzz...zzz...mmm...”

“Ah, she’s going to wake up.”

“Indeed. Perhaps we were too loud?”

Either she detected our gaze or presence, as she frowned once and then her eyes opened.

“...Faaahh...mmm... Grandfather?”

“Good morning, Liza.”

“Good morning, little Liza.”

“Wuff.”

After yawning, she rubbed at her eyes and muttered about her grandfather before realizing where she was.

“...Uhh... Oh, papa!”

“Woah! Haha. Good morning.”

“Good morning! And sister Tilura is here too! Good morning!”

“Yes, I’m here!”

“Wuff-wuff.”

A few seconds later, she looked at us and blinked her eyes.

And then her mind cleared and she started to recognize things.

Then she sat up and hugged me.

After hugging her back, I put her down on the floor and we all said good morning.

She was especially happy to see Tilura again.

“...So what happened yesterday wasn’t a dream! Papa and mama and sister Tilura are all here!”

“Yes, it’s not a dream. You won’t be alone again, alright?”

“Yes!”

As she had been talking about her grandfather at first, perhaps she had been dreaming about him.

While it was unfortunate that he was dead, she now had me, Leo, Tilura and the people who lived in this mansion.

And so I told her that she would no longer be alone, and she nodded with a smile.

“Now, I have to get ready. ...Uh, Tilura.”

“Yes!”

“Can you take Liza and have one of the maids help her wash up?”

“Okay. Let’s go, Liza.”

“...But...”

“Don’t worry. I’m not going anywhere. ...Leo, will you go with them?”

“Wuff... Wuff? Wuff-wuff.”

Liza looka little worried to leave me and Leo, and hesitated to take Tilura’s hand.

And so I asked Leo to go with them.

Leo looked puzzled at first but then nodded understandingly.

“Alright, we’ll go now, Mr. Takumi.”

“Thank you.”

“Yes!”

“Wuff-wuff.”

“See you later, papa!”

“Yes, go along now.”

And so Tilura and Liza left the room while holding hands.

I watched them leave, and then I was alone in the room.

“...Papa, huh...”

I thought about it as I washed up.

As I had never had children, I was never called that before.

However, it did not feel bad. If anything, the fact that someone so honest and lively would think of me that way put a smile on my face.

“...Though, I’ll have to wipe that smile off before going to the dining hall.”

I muttered as I looked at myself in the mirror and started to shave.

...I did not want to look like Mr. Ekenhart and end up scaring Liza.

Chapter 316

Mr. Ekenhart Was Awkward Around Ms. Claire

“Good morning, Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne. Sebastian.”

“Good morning, Mr. Takumi.”

“Good morning.”

“Mr. Takumi. Good morning.”

After washing up, I went to the dining hall along with Liza and Tilura.

Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne were already waiting there, and so we greeted them.

“Wuff-wuff.”

“And good morning to you as well, Leo. And you Liza.”

“Good...morning.”

“It looks like she’s still not used to being around people besides Mr. Takumi and Leo.”

“Yes. And Mr. Ekenhart, who was with us in town.”

As Leo had barked to greet them, Ms. Claire greeted her back.

However, Ms. Anne averted her gaze. It seemed that she was still a little scared.

And Liza was partially hidden behind me as she greeted Ms. Claire.

I suppose it was still a little overwhelming to be here.

Only, she was fine around Tilura, as they were a similar age.

As always, Mr. Ekenhart slept in and skipped breakfast.

Liza ate a lot of the food that Ms. Helena prepared, and looked very happy.

At one point, Leo even tried to make Liza eat some of her sausages.

It was a surprise that she would share something that she liked so much... Perhaps it was because she knew that Liza had rarely eaten anything good, and was quite underweight.

Everyone else watched this with a smile, and I was the only one who was surprised.

In the past, whenever I gave Leo sausages, she would always devour them quickly as if she was scared that someone would take them away.

So this showed how concerned she was about Liza.

Did she really see her like a daughter? Even if Liza was older...

“Morning! What fine weather!”

“Father. Everyone had already eaten breakfast. It’s a bit late for you to be commenting on the morning.”

“Uh, yes. Perhaps you’re right.”

As we relaxed and drank the tea that Ms. Lyra poured for us, the doors burst open and in walked Mr. Ekenhart.

For someone who was bad at getting up in the morning, he sure had a lot of energy.

Perhaps the lecture he received from Ms. Claire and Sebastian was not that long.

However, Ms. Claire seemed like she was still a little upset.

“Here you are, Your Grace.”

“Mmm.”

In spite looking a little awkward around Ms. Claire, he sat down at the table as Sebastian put a cup of tea in front of him.

He took a sip and then scanned the room.

“Now, Mr. Takumi. About the matter we were discussing yesterday. I have already relayed it to Claire and Sebastian. When shall we begin?”

“Yesterday... Ah, that’s right. Indeed. ...It could be today?”

“Good. Sebastian.”

“Yes. We can be ready at any time.”

Mr. Ekenhart turned to me first and brought up what we had discussed yesterday.

At first, I didn’t know what he was talking about, but then I remembered.

I hadn’t thought about it much due to everything that happened with Liza. That was close.

The reason that Mr. Ekenhart didn’t say anything specific, was probably because Liza and Ms. Anne were here.

Neither of them knew about my Gift, Weed Cultivation.

Though, I think I had talked about making herbs in front of Ms. Anne before...but since I was concocting medicine, it would be easy to make excuses...I think.

“Papa. What are you going to do?”

“Hmm. We have a little plan. And so we must prepare and do some research.”

“Oh, I see.”

Liza seemed interested in what I was going to do.

But since Ms. Anne was here, I could not tell her the details, and so I just explained it vaguely.

As Ms. Claire already knew, she was nodding, but Ms. Anne looked puzzled.

“Ah, Milina.”

“Good morning, master. Uh, is that the child? Ms. Lyra told me about her.”

“Morning. Yes, this is Liza. Say hello, Liza.”

“Uh...it’s...nice to...meet you. I’m...Liza.”

“Hello. I’m Milina. It’s nice to meet you too. I am Mr. Takumi’s apprentice!”

After finishing my tea, I left the dining hall and then bumped into Milina in the hallway.

Tilura and Sherry had gone off to study, while Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne were talking in the drawing room.

While Milina was adult and older than Tilura, she was raised at the orphanage, and so she was much more approachable.

“Is something the matter, master?”

“Uh, indeed. It’s about the medicine. We’ll need more of it. For a while, we’ll need to drink the wine that is combined with it in order to confirm its effects.”

“I see. Ve-very well! Leave it to me!”

“Uh, yes. That’s what I wanted to do... If you are sure?”

“It’s a simple job, so I’ll be fine. Even if...my arm hurts!”

“I-I see. You can stop if it’s too much, alright?”

“Yes!”

The medicine used for the medicinal wine had to be mixed until it dried.

As all you did was move your hands, it was technically a simple task... But it was still tiring.

In any case, I asked Milina to do it, and then I went to the back garden in order to make the herbs.

Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian had gone ahead, and so they should be waiting for me.

“Sorry to keep you waiting, Mr. Ekenhart, Sebastian.”

“Mmm.”

“There you are, Mr. Takumi.”

I arrived at the garden with Leo and Liza.

Just as I expected, the two were waiting for me.

Chapter 317

I Showed Weed Cultivation to Liza

“Mr. Takumi, will you start with making the herbs?”

“Yes. I have to make herbs to sell in town, as well as herbs that will be mixed in the wine.”

“Mr. Takumi, why don’t you leave some without gathering them, so you can observe them over time?”

“In order to increase the amount of herbs that I regularly make?”

“Yes. Such as Ramogi. Or any herbs that you will mix with the wine, as you will need a lot of them. And so if possible, it would be best to grow them normally, so as to take some of the burden off of you.”

“That’s true. Very well. So with the herbs I will make now...I will leave five to ten of each.”

“I think that would be best. Would this place be suitable?”

First, I told Mr. Ekenhart that was going to make herbs for the town and for medicine, and then Mr. Sebastian, who had been listening, made a suggestion.

I had not really been thinking about which herbs I wanted to grow normally, but if I followed Sebastian, then I would be able to see how some of the herbs would grow.

I really should have put some thought into this yesterday... But there was the whole matter with Liza.

And so I had completely forgotten.

In any case, I looked at the spot that Sebastian had suggested.

It was in the corner, slightly away from the place where I usually grew herbs.

At least it would not get in the way of Leo’s running or Tilura’s playing.

Normally, it didn’t matter much where I grew them, as they would be gathered immediately. But this time, we would be leaving them there.

“Well, it does get a lot of sun, so I think it should do just fine. Though, perhaps we should also test it in the shade as well?”

“In the shade? In that case, what about this spot?”

Not all herbs grew in the same kind of environment.

Some of them might prefer more shade and humidity, for instance.

And so it was necessary to test them in various conditions.

Because many plants use photosynthesis, it was easy to assume that they prefer the sunlight. So that was why Sebastian was a little puzzled.

Other than that, we should also adjust the amount of water.

“What are you going to do, papa?”

As I was talking with Sebastian, Liza questioned me as she tilted her head.

She did not know about the Gift, so it was no wonder. But she was still curious about what I was doing.

“Uhhh, Mr. Ekenhart? Sebastian?”

“Hmm. I do not mind, if you think that it’s alright, Mr. Takumi.”

“As Liza is a beastkin, I don’t think there is much worry about word spreading.”

“Very well. Then I will tell her.”

“Wuff.”

I had looked at Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian questioningly, and they nodded and agreed that it was fine to tell her.

I suppose Sebastian meant that no one was likely to believe Liza, because she was a beastkin...

But it wasn't due to his own prejudices, but merely a fact that he felt obligated to say.

"Uhh, Liza. It so happens that I have an odd ability."

"You do? What kind of ability?"

I met Liza's eyes and after giving off a serious air, I started to explain it.

I told her that she must not tell anyone outside of this mansion about it, and then I taught her about my Gift, Weed Cultivation.

Of course...I did not go any farther, and tell her that I was from a different world.

That would just start confusing her.

"Gift...? Weed Cultivation? I don't understand."

"Hmm, of course. Well, I'll show it to you then. So watch closely, okay?"

"Yes, okay!"

Liza had never heard about Gifts, and so she was not able to understand it.

Apparently, there was no one else with it currently within the country, so only a small number of people were aware of it.

Perhaps even Ms. Anne did not know?

I wondered about such things as I moved away from Liza and to the spot that Sebastian had chosen.

“This is exciting...”

“Haha. Don’t get your hopes up too high. It’s nothing flashy.”

But Liza watched with great expectation.

Leo and Mr. Ekenhart were amused and smiled at this.

“Now, I’ll start with something familiar, Ramogi...”

As I had made Ramogi more than anything, I didn’t have to think about it much when making it.

I still had to visualize it to a degree, but it was an easy job.

And so I put my hand on the ground, imagined the Ramogi, and activated Weed Cultivation.

Within a second, several Ramogi plants started to grow from the ground.

“...! Amazing! Amazing! But how!?”

“Hahaha. This ability is Weed Cultivation. It’s my Gift.”

“Ohhh! That’s amazing!”

Upon seeing some plants grow out of the ground after I had just placed my hand down, Liza’s eyes shone in delight.

While it was great that she was excited, we still had to be careful.

“Like I said before, you can’t talk to others about this ability. So don’t tell anyone, alright?”

“Yes! I won’t tell anyone about your secret!”

“Wuff.”

Liza nodded happily.

I just hoped that she would be able to...

But she was a child, and it could just spill out accidentally. So Leo and I will have to watch her.

But then again, Ms. Anne was the only outsider in the mansion now.

And so as Liza wagged her tail and twitched her ears, I made more herbs than usual.

This time, aside from sending some to town or giving them to Milina, I also had to leave some to study.

Though, perhaps I had made a little too much, because Liza was so entertained by watching...

But since I hadn’t fainted, it was probably fine.

But I would have to be careful.

Chapter 318

I Made A Simple Herb Garden

“Hmm, that’s more than I expected... Are you alright, Mr. Takumi?”

“Yes, I’m still fine.”

“It’s good that you wish to work hard, but you must be careful and not do anything reckless.”

“Yes.”

I had made herbs in both the place that got lots of sunlight and the place with shade. As Liza and I gazed at them with satisfaction, Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian voiced their concern.

Even Leo was looking at me with worry.

I knew that I wasn’t even close to fainting, but I should avoid making them worried.

“Now, I’ll have to gather half of these.”

“Yes. ... Your Grace.”

“Mmm, I know.”

“... You’re going to do it too, Mr. Ekenhart?”

Part of the job was gathering them and using Weed Cultivation to alter their state.

But just as I stretched out to pick some, Sebastian said something to Mr. Ekenhart, who then rolled up his sleeves as he approached me.

I had meant to do this alone, and would never have dreamed that Mr. Ekenhart would help me.

“... Because of yesterday. I decided to help you, as the servants have enough on their hands.”

“Uh, I see.”

“Mmm. That’s why I didn’t sleep too late last night.”

I didn’t know whose idea it was, but I suppose Mr. Ekenhart had avoided being lectured too long by promising to help me.

That would explain why Ms. Claire seemed like she still had something to say to him.

“I’ll help too, papa!”

“You too, Liza? Well, it is easy work.”

After seeing Mr. Ekenhart help, Liza volunteered as well.

As I had made quite a lot today, I was grateful.

There was nothing about it that was dangerous, we were just picking herbs. And so I decided to have Liza help us.

“Uhh, you pull them out like this...”

“Okay!”

“That’s wrong, Your Grace. No, here, like this...”

“...Hmm. This is rather difficult. If you’re so good at it Sebastian, maybe you should help...”

“This is your job, Your Grace. I will instruct you so that you do not make mistakes and cause trouble.”

“Tsk...”

I paired with Liza and Sebastian paired with Mr. Ekenhart as we taught the other and picked the herbs.

As he wasn’t used to such work, Mr. Ekenhart received strict instructions from Sebastian.

On the other hand, Liza was quite skilled, and she was able to move quickly and with precision.

I suppose it just suited her more...or was it due to age?

“Now, please leave the rest to me.”

“Mmm.”

“What are you going to do?”

The herbs we had all gathered were separated by type and laid out on a table.

I then used Weed Cultivation to transform their state.

This was one part of the process that no one could help me with.

Liza watched me work with wide eyes.

To her, this was all new and exciting.

“And that’s it for the Ramogi. Next is...”

“That’s amazing! How did you do it, papa?”

“This is also an ability of Weed Cultivation.”

“Ohhh!”

Liza was very impressed after seeing the Ramogi dry up and turn into powder in an instant.

She was surprised a lot lately.

And since she was so happy, I was glad that I had shown it to her.

After that, Sebastian instructed Mr. Ekenhart on how to wrap them up in cloth.

This was also part of helping me.

Not that I thought about it, who prepared the table and cloth? It must have been Sebastian. In the end, he also helped us.

“Alright, that’s finished now…”

“Finished!”

“Good work, Mr. Takumi.”

“Ahh…that was very delicate work.”

After I finished transforming all of the herbs, I handed them over to Mr. Ekenhart.

Liza was raising her hands happily and repeating after me… It was pretty cute.

I turned to Mr. Ekenhart, and though he had Sebastian’s help, he seemed to be struggling a little.

I really didn’t think it was that delicate… Milina and Ms. Lyra had been able to do it with no trouble.

Perhaps Mr. Ekenhart wasn’t good with his hands?

But he was such a skilled swordsman… Though, I did understand that it was completely different.

If anything, it was probably more to do with his personality, and how he didn’t care much for the details.

“So, uh… I will give these to Milina now. And the rest can go to Mr. Kalis’s store.”

“Yes, certainly.”

“Mmm, thank you.”

“Thank you, Mr. Ekenhart.”

“I’ll go too!”

“Wuff!”

I took the herbs that would be turned into medicine, and then left the table in order to give them to Milina.

It would be fine to leave the rest to Sebastian.

As the store had plenty of stock, it seemed that Nick would not be visiting today.

And so Liza and Leo followed me as I headed over to where Milina was.

As for the herbs we hadn’t gathered, they could be left as they were, so we could see what would happen to them.

“Ah, Milina and Ms. Gelda.”

“Master!”

“Mr. Takumi. Is something the matter?”

As we walked through the mansion, I saw Ms. Gelda and Milina making their way towards the drawing room.

When there were no guests there, they sometimes used that room to teach the new servants. And so I had thought to look there, and I was right.

Milina and Ms. Gelda were also holding a pestle and mortar.

Chapter 319

Liza Was Interested In Concocting Medicine

“I brought over the herbs that I made. ...Is Ms. Gelda going to help today?”

“Yes. Because it would take too long for me to do it alone.”

“So you brought the herbs for us. I will be helping Milina today.”

“Thank you, Ms. Gelda.”

As you had to mix it until it was dry with a pestle and mortar, both of your hands would be full.

And so you would not be able to make any wind.

That was why Milina asked Ms. Gelda for help, since she appeared to have some free time.

“...What is that...for?”

Liza asked as she saw the pestle and mortar that Ms. Gelda was holding.

I suppose she had never seen one before in the slums.

There were a lot of things here that were new to her, and she was always curious.

“This is a tool used to grind and mix all kinds of things. Do you want to watch?”

“I can?”

“Of course. Milina, I’ll help you as well. It was originally my job, after all.”

“Very well. Though, I was quite happy that you trusted me to do it.”

“Yay!”

“Wuff-wuff.”

In order to show Liza, I decided to help them as well.

Even though it was something that I was supposed to do, it was easier to leave it to others.

Of course, I couldn’t do it alone either, so it was good to have help.

Liza was excited to be able to see how it was done, and Leo seemed enthusiastic as well.

I suppose she wanted to impress her.

Leo was helpful, because she could use wind magic.

“In that case, I will bring another pestle and mortar for you to use, Mr. Takumi.”

“Thank you.”

And so Mr. Gelda went to fetch one as we all moved to the drawing room.

“Now, let’s do this then.”

“Yes, master. I will do these over here, and you can do those.”

“That’s fine with me.”

Ms. Gelda had placed the pestle and mortar on the table, and so I lined up the herbs next to it.

I sat on the right side of the table, Milina sat on the left, and Leo was in the center.

Leo took that position because it would be her job to create the wind.

Liza sat in a chair next to me and watched.

“Alright, it’s time, Leo.”

“Wou. Wouuu...grau.”

“Woah! Mama is making some nice wind!”

“Yes, Liza. Leo is using wind magic to help this dry faster.”

“Mama is amazing!”

“Wuff!”

I put the herbs into the mortar and started grinding them.

Milina did the same, and after it turned into a kind of gel, I asked Leo to create some wind.

Liza felt the wind as well, and she closed her eyes as if enjoying the gentle breeze.

If this was after we had eaten, I’d be afraid that she’d fall asleep.

Leo barked smugly after hearing Liza’s words.

She was happy to have been able to show off.

“You’re a lot better than me at this, Milina.”

“It’s because I had to do it a few times yesterday.”

While Milina was doing the same thing as me, the way she moved her hands was a lot faster.

Well, I suppose you would get used to it after doing it that many times.

Even I was trying to relax my shoulders so I wasn’t any more tense than I needed to be... But I was still slow.

Still, I couldn’t leave everything to her. And so I decided to focus on my work so I wouldn’t fall too far behind.

“Phew... That’s the first batch done.”

“Yes. ...We will have to do it a few more times though.”

After a while, the contents were dried and turned into powder.

As Milina and I were a little tired after mixing it, we rested while Ms. Gelda gathered the medicine together.

Milina rested her arms and muttered while looking at the herbs on the table.

I had gotten carried away and made so many herbs because Liza was watching, and now it meant we would have to mix them many times.

It might be easier if we could do it all at once, but the mortar was not big enough. Besides, the book had said to avoid making a lot at once.

And this was not the kind of thing where I wanted to risk failure.

In any case, it would just take longer to dry if there was a lot, so it wouldn't save that much time.

"Papa, I want to do it too!"

"Hmm, are you sure? This is quite tiring, you know."

"I'll do it!"

"I see. Well, it's simple enough. But tell me if you get tired, okay?"

"Yes!"

Liza nodded cheerfully.

After watching me do it, she must have wanted to give it a try as well.

She was interested in everything new. And so it was best to let her try it as long as it wasn't too difficult.

As long as the amount of herbs was correct, then it wasn't anything difficult to do.

While it was tiring for me and Milina, we could still do it until it was finished without resting.

Liza would probably get too tired halfway through, but that was fine.

"Alright, put in these herbs...and then pick up this stick and crush them like this."

"Uhh...like this?"

"Yes, that's it."

I put the herbs in the mortar and held it in place.

Liza then used her small hands to hold the pestle and then crushed them with all of her might.

She was too young to be able to hold the mortar by herself while crushing it.

Still, she was using a lot of strength.

Milina had also started on her second batch, but it seemed like Liza was going at a similar speed to her.

Chapter 320

Liza Seemed to Be Having Fun

“Mmm...! You need a lot of strength.”

“Yes, that’s true. And so you get tired after just doing it once. Don’t hesitate to tell me when you’re tired, okay?”

“Okay! Mmm...”

“I think it’s time. Leo.”

“Wuff. Wouu...grau.”

Liza stood on the chair and used all of her might as she worked.

And since it was the right time, I asked Leo to start creating the wind.

Just like before, this breeze reached Liza and Milina and helped to dry the medicine.

Obviously, it wouldn't dry right away, but Liza did her best...which was a lot more than I was expecting.

"Liza, are you sure that you're not tired?"

"I'm fine!"

After watching her for a while, I felt that she surely must be tired by now, but she denied it cheerfully.

Indeed, she did not look tired... Though, she was sweating a little.

But when I had done it for the first time, I definitely looked more tired than she did now.

Perhaps she had a lot of energy?

Was it because she was a beastkin?

When we had talked about them at the orphanage, they did say that their physical abilities were superior to humans.

So that would explain why Liza didn't seem to get tired compared to Milina and me.

But even then, surely she should be a little tired...she was still a child, after all.

"Master, I think that it's..."

"Ah, yes. It should be ready now. Thank you, Liza. It's finished."

"Yay! I was able to do it!"

"Yes, that was very impressive, Liza."

“Did you hear that, mama?”

“Wuff-wuff-wuff!”

As I was thinking about it, Milina called to me, and so I looked inside of the mortar.

There, I saw that the medicine had turned into powder and was ready.

So Liza had been able to finish the job.

Upon being praised, she jumped off of the chair happily and ran towards Leo and hugged her.

Leo then licked her face as if to tell her that she had done well.

She really did not look tired at all...

“Master, I’m not very confident anymore... Especially since it’s supposed to be easy to do.”

“Uh, yes. Me too. But I suppose Liza has a lot of energy...yes, let’s just say that.”

As Milina was a little disappointed with herself, I agreed.

It felt a little awkward to have some small child have more strength than you... But perhaps that was just how it was with beastkin.

Ms. Gelda ignored us as she collected the medicine from the mortars and smiled as Leo and Liza played.

...Though, it did seem like she was mostly looking at Liza’s tail.

“She sure has a lot of energy...”

I muttered to myself as I walked down the hall later.

I had told myself that I would not lose the next round, but then Ms. Lyra came to the drawing room and said that Ms. Claire had called for me.

And so I left Leo and Liza in the drawing room.

Besides, she seemed like she wanted to help some more.

Liza did look a little worried as left, but Leo would be with her, and she was now used to being around Milina and Ms. Gelda.

Also...it seemed like she really liked making the medicine...or maybe it was just moving her body.

...Perhaps it was like how Leo had to take walks. It was necessary to be active?

In any case, Ms. Lyra had now taken the job of holding the mortar on the table.

She looked happy to be able to take care of Liza.

“Come in.”

“Excuse me.”

As I thought of such things, I arrived at the room.

I had come here before. It was the room where the butlers worked.

I suppose it was like an office of sorts.

I knocked on the door and was given permission to enter.

While I knew that I had been called by Ms. Claire, why was it in this room?”

When I entered, I saw that Ms. Claire was sitting at the desk in the back, and Sebastian was standing next to her.

I thought that was Sebastian’s desk... But I suppose she could sit in it when she was here.

There were other desks in the room, but no one else was present.

Right now, it was just us three.

“Mr. Takumi, I’m sorry to call you here like this.”

“No, not at all. ...Uh, since there is no one else here, is it something secretive?”

“Not in particular. It’s only a coincidence that everyone else has gone. As long as I am here, there must be a few others watching the master.”

“Because he slipped out yesterday...”

“Yes. I and the other butlers would like to avoid having something like that happen again.”

“So you called me...in order to warn me about that?”

Even though Mr. Ekenhart had been lectured, and helped me with the herbs, they were still keeping an eye on him.

Well, he was the kind of person to just leave on a whim...

That being said, he had gone with me and Leo, so it wasn’t as if didn’t have a plan.

I suppose he wanted a little more freedom, but due to his position, he had to be protected.

In any case, it would look like I had been his accomplice.

And it wasn't exactly wrong, either, as we had met up halfway there and gone to town together.

And I agreed to everything that he had asked me.

And so I was ready to be lectured by Ms. Claire and Sebastian as well.

Had the time finally come, when Ms. Claire would be angry at me...?