Beloved Dog 311



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?"

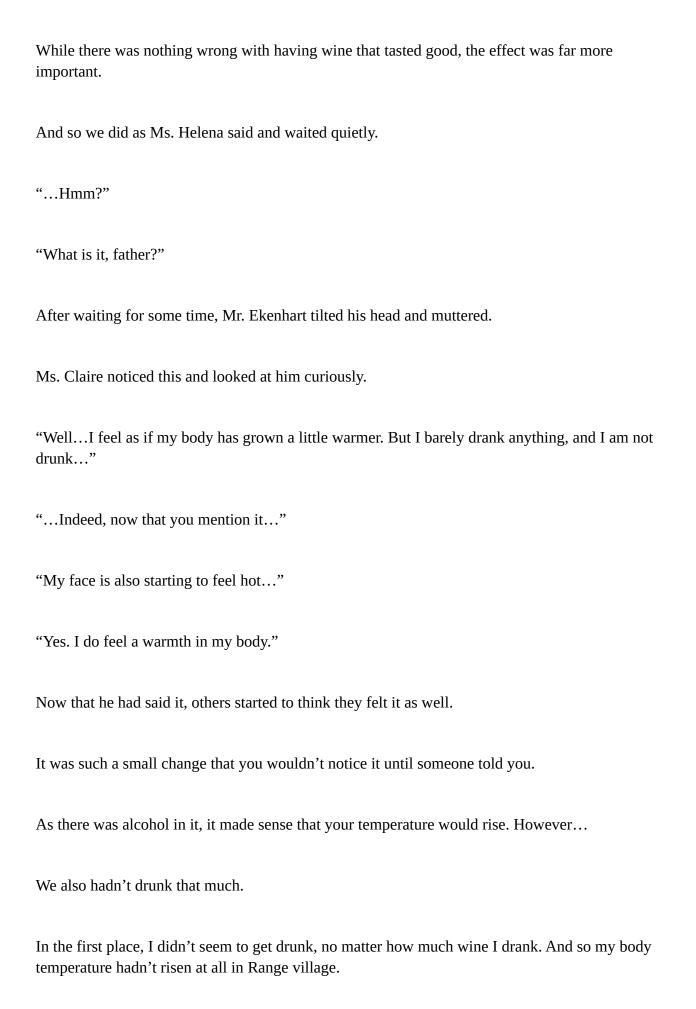
"As for that, it will take some time before you can feel it..."

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.





"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.

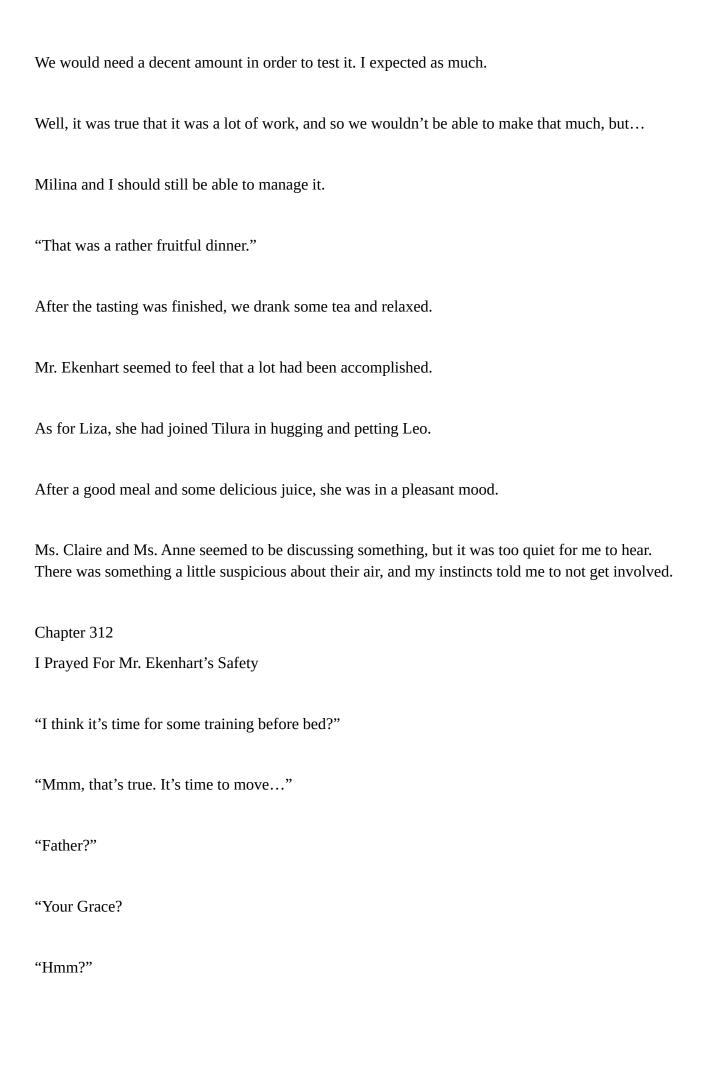
"At least we won't have to worry about Claire drinking too much and acting like a fool."

"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."



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.

"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..."





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..."



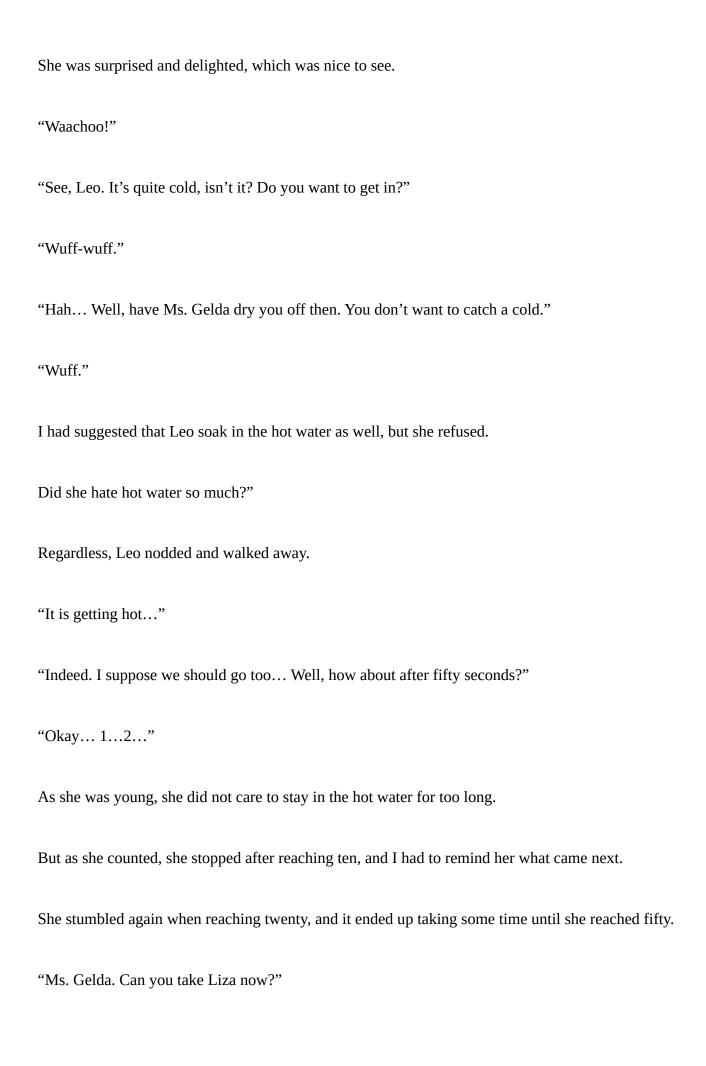




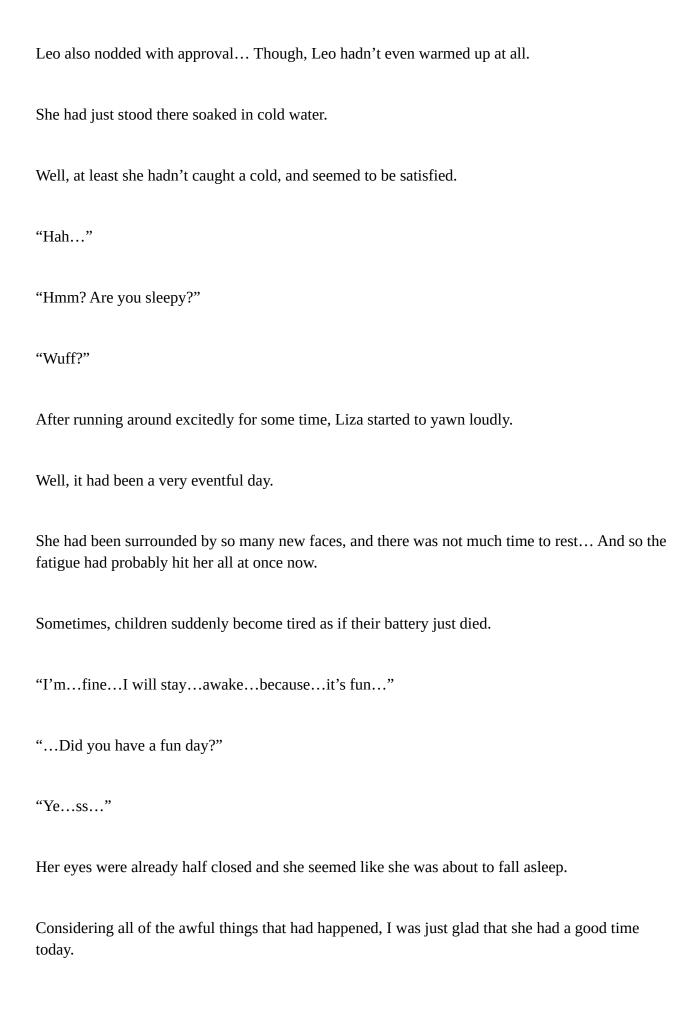
Ms. Gelda had finished dealing with Ms. Anne. I had also told her to take care of Liza while I was washing Leo. I felt a little bad, as she might be tired, but Ms. Gelda looked like she was more than happy to do it. Though she was mostly looking at the ears and tail... Perhaps Liza was letting her touch 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?"





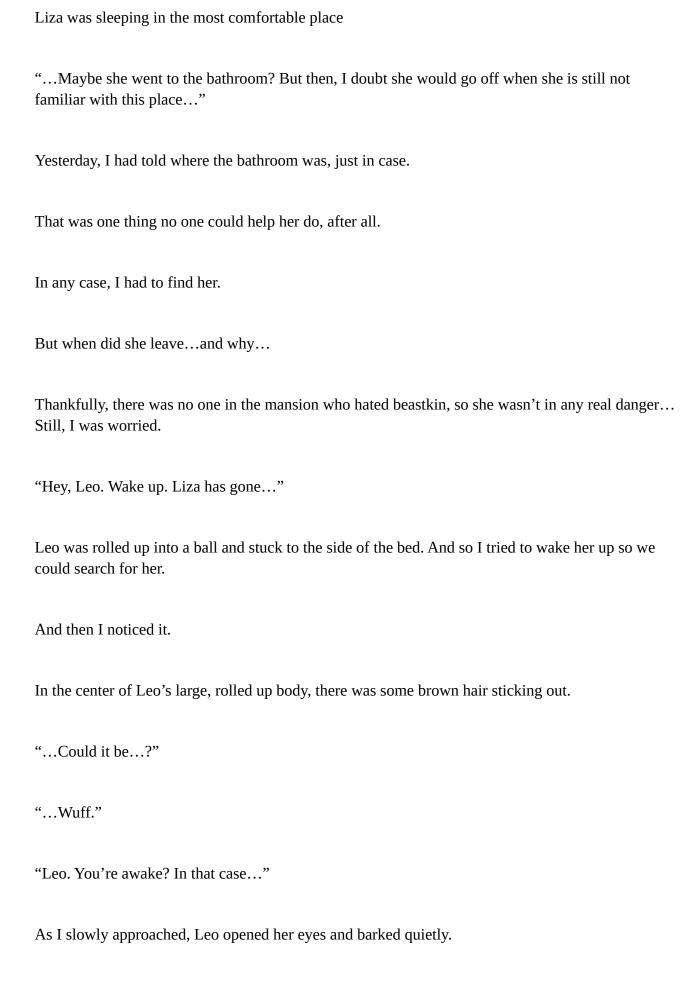






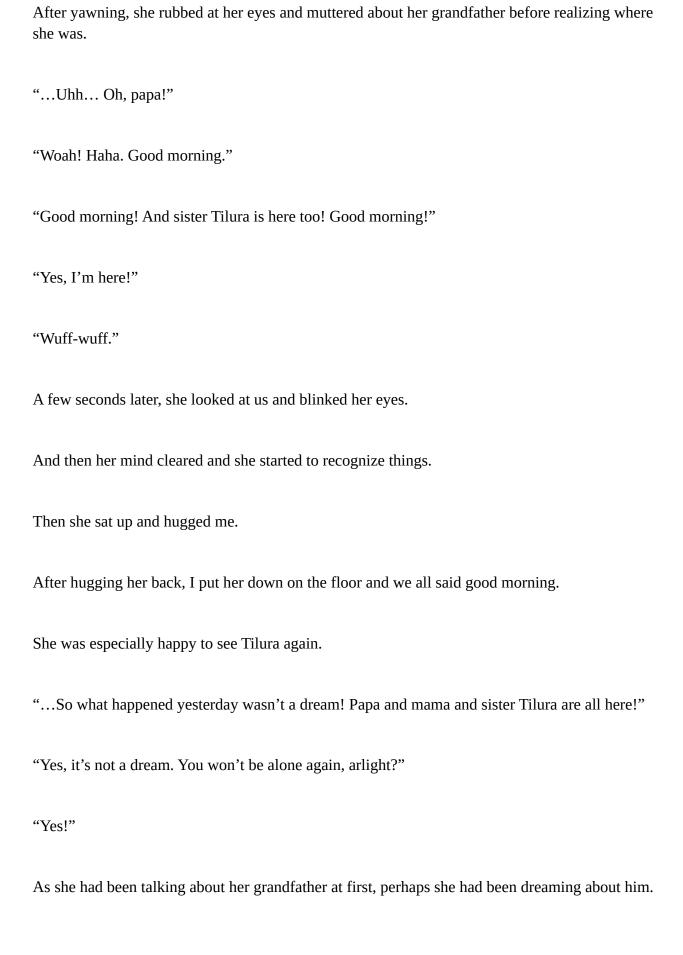


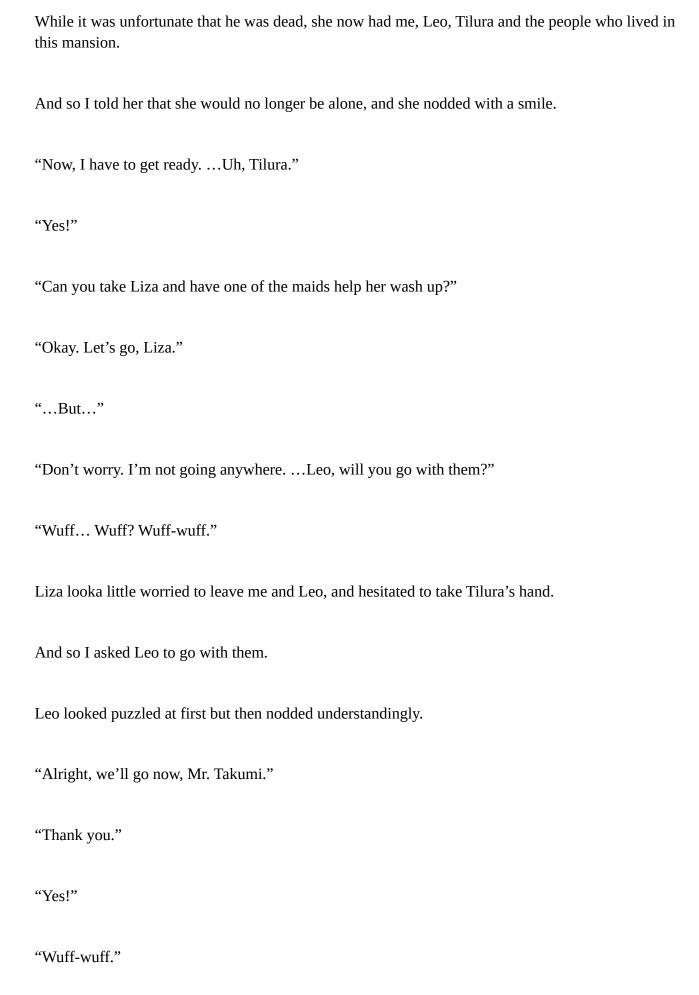
Chapter 315











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"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."
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"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?"

"Oh, I see."

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

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.

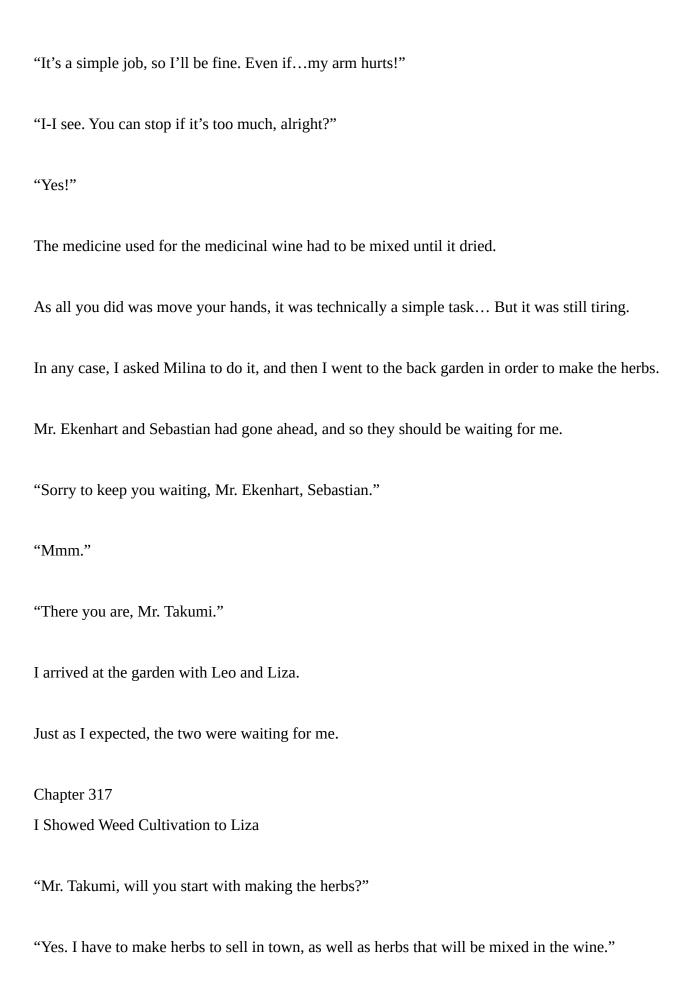
While Milina was adult and older than Tilura, she was raised at the orphanage, and so she was much more approachable.

"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?"



"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.

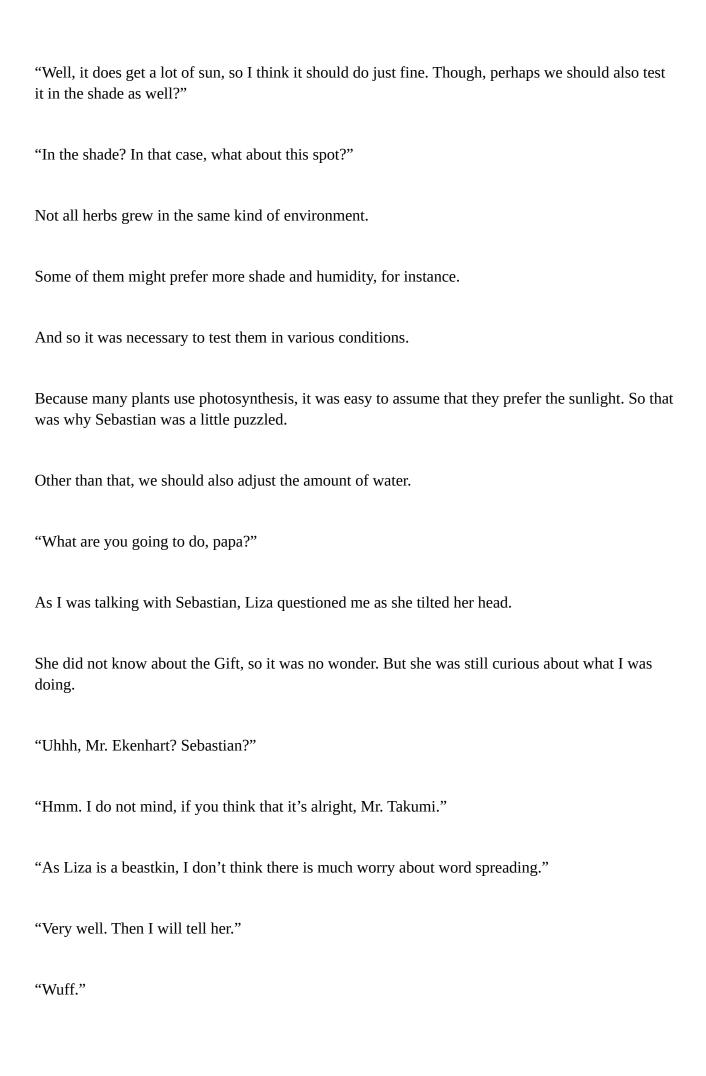
And so I had completely forgotten.

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.



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.

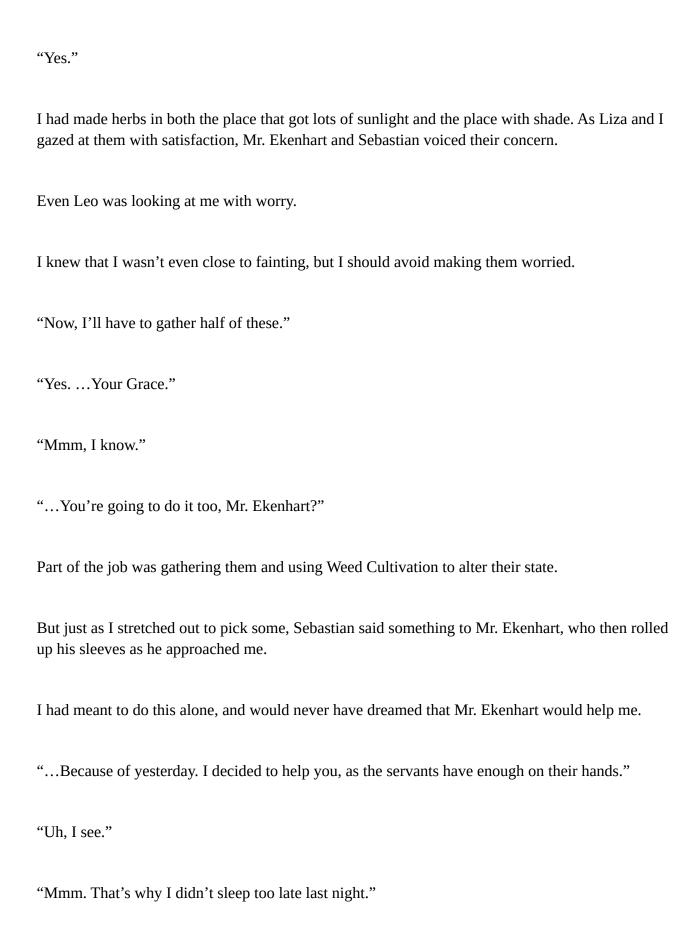
Apparently, there was no one else with it currently within the country, so only a small number of

people were aware of it.

Perhaps even Ms. Anne did not know?

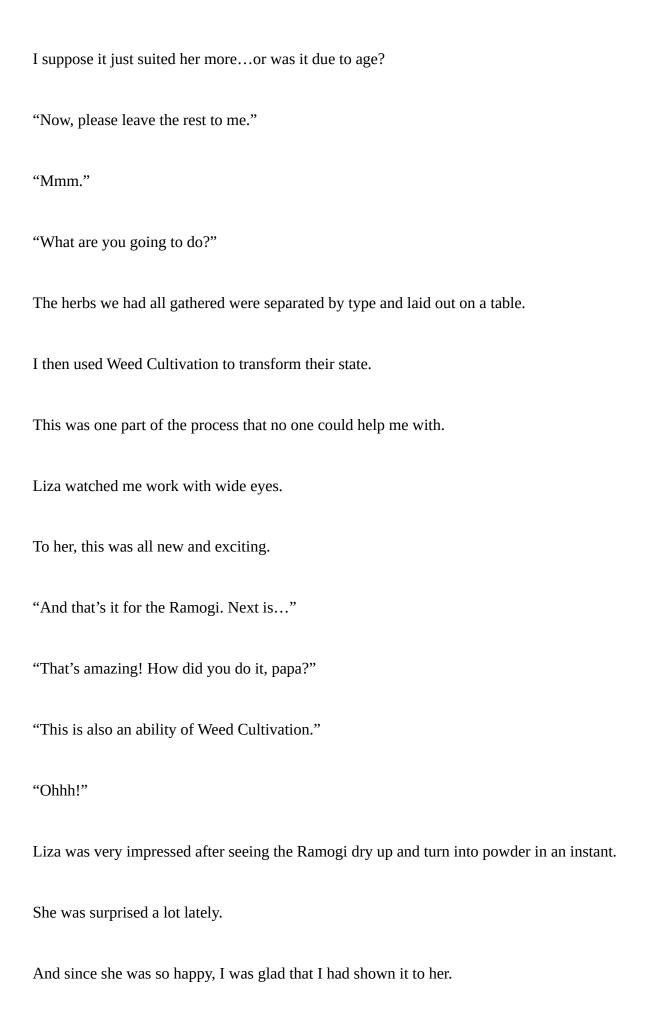






I didn't know whose idea it was, but I suppose Mr. Ekenhart had avoided being lectured too long by promising to help me.



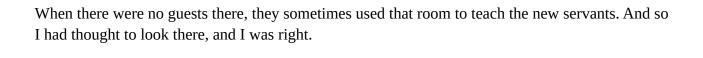


After that, Sebastian instructed Mr. Ekenhart on how to wrap them up in cloth. This was also part of helping me. Not that I thought about it, who prepared the table and cloth? It must have been Sebastian. In the end, he also helped us. "Alright, that's finished now..." "Finished!" "Good work, Mr. Takumi." "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

"So, uh... I will give these to Milina now. And the rest can go to Mr. Kalis's store."

details.





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?"

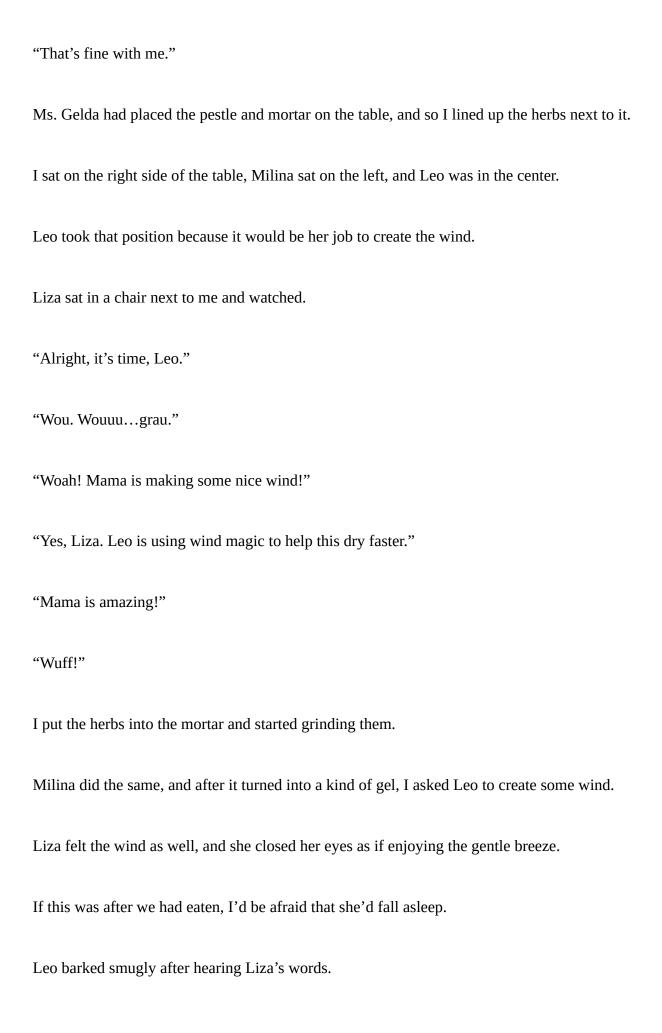
Liza asked as she saw the pestle and mortar that Ms. Gelda was holding.

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?"

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"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."
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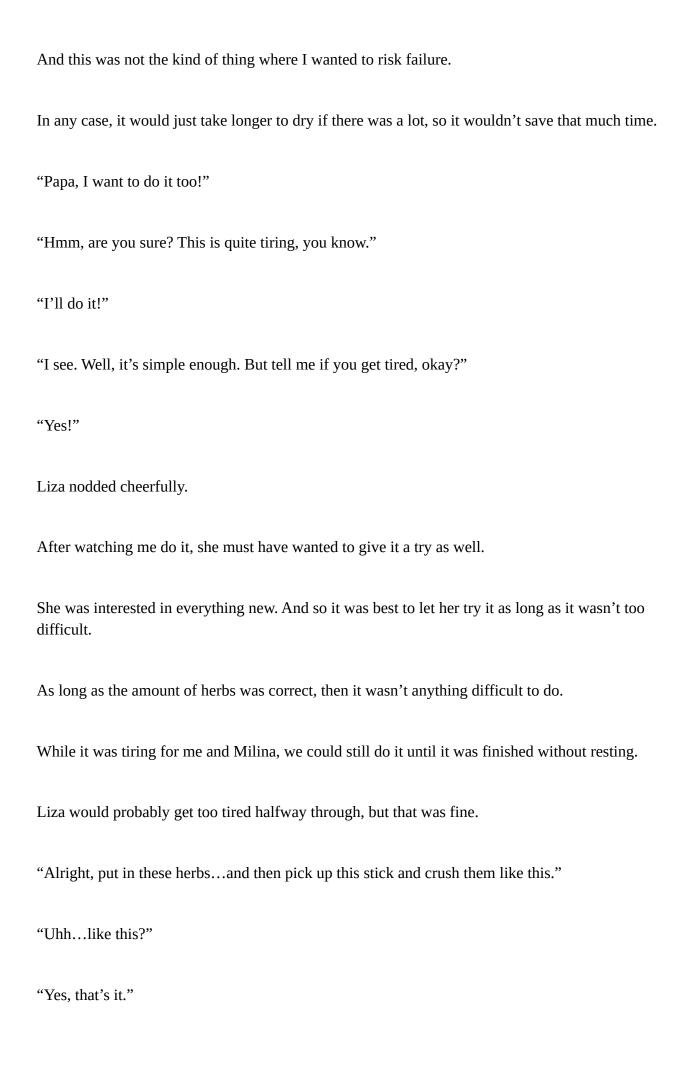


She was happy to have been able to show off. "You're a lot better than me at this, Milina." "It's because I had to do it a few times yesterday." While Milina was doing the same thing as me, the way she moved her hands was a lot faster. Well, I suppose you would get used to it after doing it that many 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.

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.

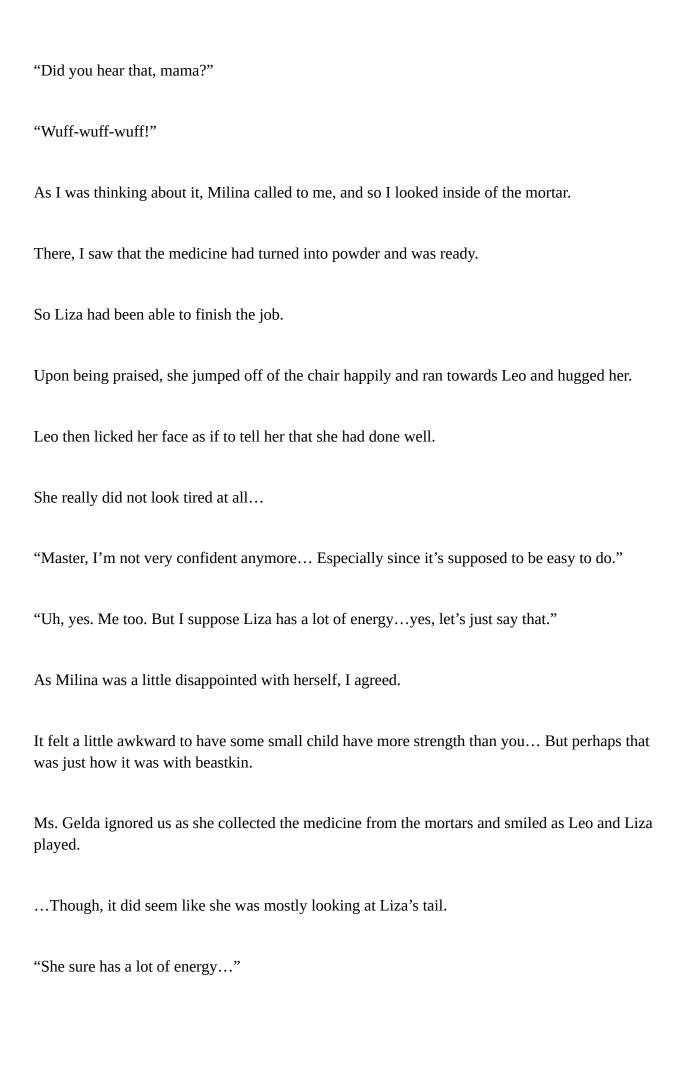
I had gotten carried away and made so many herbs because Liza was watching, and now it meant

we would have to mix them many times.









I muttered to myself	as I walked down the hall later.
•	t I would not lose the next round, but then Ms. Lyra came to the drawing room aire had called for me.
And so I left Leo and	d Liza in the drawing room.
Besides, she seemed	like she wanted to help some more.
Liza did look a little around Milina and M	worried as left, but Leo would be with her, and she was now used to being Is. Gelda.
Alsoit seemed like	e she really liked making the medicineor maybe it was just moving her body.
Perhaps it was like	e how Leo had to take walks. It was necessary to be active?
In any case, Ms. Lyr	a 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 befo	ore. It was the room where the butlers worked.
I suppose it was like	an office of sorts.
I knocked on the doc	or 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...?