## **Beloved Dog 321**





If it was between the village and the forest, it must be close to Mr. Hannes's house.

There had been a fence there, so it was unlikely that anyone would go to the forest from that direction.

Besides, the village itself was away from the main road, so there would be little traffic.

While it would be necessary to tell some villagers about Weed Cultivation, we would not have to worry about the word spreading too far.

"And the herbs that are grown there will be sent to Ractos, and from there, to other towns and villages. But none of this has been decided yet. It is just the current plan."

"How much herbs do you think we should make?"

While we had already established that it was no good to make too much, making too little would also be a problem.

Obviously, it would not be enough if I alone was making all of them with Weed Cultivation, but I had no idea how much was needed if they wanted to send it to different parts of this territory.

"Indeed... For now, I think three...no, four times what you are making now."

"By now, you mean the amount that I send to Mr. Kalis's store?"

"Yes. You should make a few days' worth and send them to Ractos. However, we still need to do some research on the amount of herbs that are sold in the territory, so nothing is decided yet."

Right now, I made extra Ramogi, and so if I excluded them I was making more than a hundred.

If that was all, then I could probably make it in a few days, but it would be pretty busy.

While the number might go up or down a little, it was not too bad.

You definitely wouldn't need a large field, and managing it would be easy.

"At first, I thought of preparing a space that was similar to the garden here."

"Really?"

"Yes. However, if sales are good, then we might not be able to keep up with demand. And so I secured a slightly larger area near the village."

Ms. Claire explained the initial plan with a serious expression.

Each herb was rather small, and it was not a great amount, so it was true that we would be able to do that in the back garden.

However, if people learned that it was a stable way to acquire them, then they might want to buy a lot, and they would be sold out.

And considering the incident with that other store, we wanted to avoid a situation where we ran out.

"If it is grown in the garden, then there probably won't be a need to make any official contracts."

"But it would be necessary if we used land near the village. That cannot be helped."

If it was just in the garden, all I needed was Ms. Claire's permission.

It was their own backyard, so they wouldn't want to go through all the trouble of making a contract.

"Who has the land rights for the area around Range village? In the place that I used to live, nearly all of the land was owned by someone."

In times like these, land rights could be an issue.





I now had a general idea of how taxes worked in this country.

In general, nobles earned an income through taxes, and those who borrowed their land developed villages and towns.

Previously, I had heard that landlords could freely decide to raise their taxes.

However, if the taxes were too high, then fewer people would want to live on your land, which meant fewer people paying.

Taxes for other living expenses in the town would rise as well, and it would be harder for the town to develop.

Also, since it was also possible that people would try to raise taxes too much to fill their own pockets, they were required to make reports of their tax revenue. Sebastian told me all of this.

It was a little similar to how things were in Japan a long time ago.

It seemed like a system that would be filled with corruption, but I didn't want to think about that now.

If it happened to go well in this world, then I had no complaints.

At least, for now.

"To get back to the subject, we think it would be best for you to borrow some land, Mr. Takumi."

"Me?"

From what I had heard, it seems like it would be difficult to have me manage land and pay taxes, or rent for it.

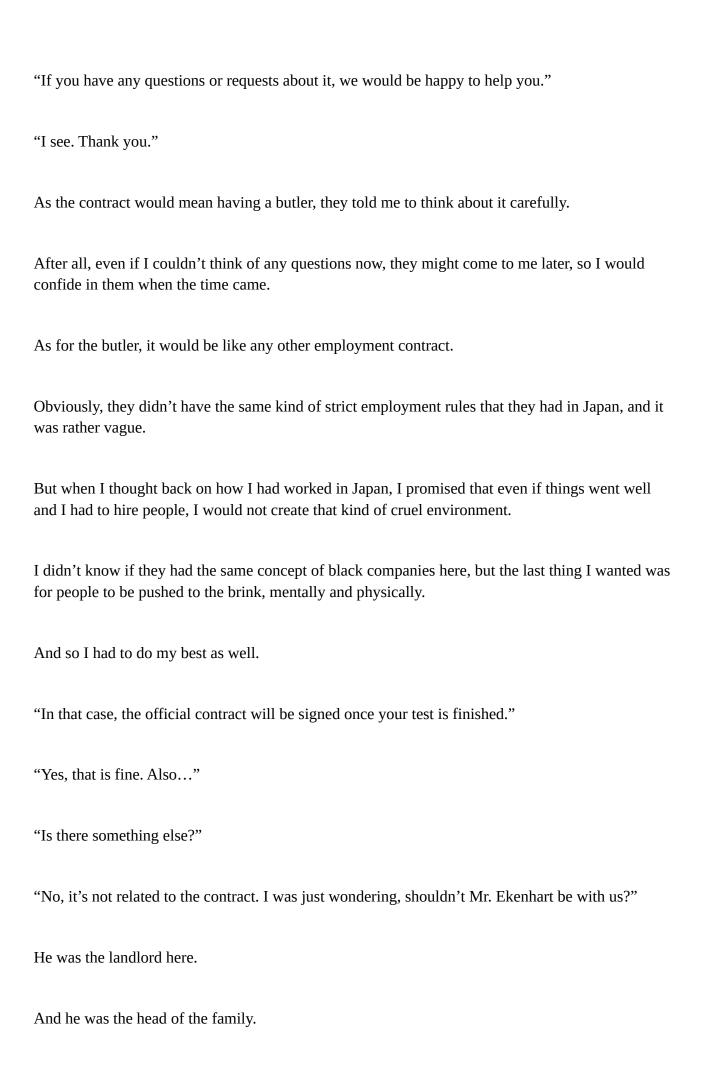
It was just a small space, and no one was going to live on it. So I wouldn't be able to collect taxes.



Hmm, if that's what Sebastian thought, I suppose I could trust him?

In Japan, no matter how much I worked, I was always at the bottom. Regardless, in spite of some flaws in his personality, Sebastian was excellent at his job. And so it must be fine, if he says so. I had wanted to take things easy, but now there was all this talk of managing herb fields and butlers... And then there was Liza. I would have a lot to think about. ...Well, the herb field would be in Range village, so I could relax there... Time seemed to pass more slowly there. Chapter 323 A Request from the Mansion Residents "So, is everything alright concerning the contract?" "Yes." After that, Ms. Claire and Sebastian talked about what would happen if we succeeded with growing the herbs. As it would require the use of land, they told me that there would need to be a more detailed contract. Of course, I did not need to sign anything right away, but they thought to tell me in advance, so I wouldn't be confused about it later.

He at least knew what he was talking about.



Should we really be deciding such things without him?

Though, I suppose that Ms. Claire was representing him.

"In regards to that, everything is fine. After all, nothing had been officially settled yet. But even if it was, I already have my father's permission."

Ms. Claire answered.

Sebastian nodded next to her. So I suppose it really was fine.

"I think father is leaving the matter to me, as part of my education. Since this is you, Mr. Takumi, the talks and negotiations should be quite simple..."

As the daughter of the duke, she had to learn how to do such things.

If it was me, she did not need to be nervous, and I was hardly going to make things difficult for her.

While Sebastian had been doing most of the explaining...it was still important.

When I was working at the company, I also had to follow my superior around and watch and listen.

While it wasn't exactly the same as this, I could see how it was Mr. Ekenhart's attempt to give her some experience.

In any case, if he was fine with this, then there was no problem.

"Ah, that's right. There is one other thing we have to ask you, Mr. Takumi."

"Hmm? What is it?"

It was just as I was thinking about leaving the room, that Ms. Claire called to me.

What could it be?
"Well, that request is Lady Claire, perhaps you don't have to talk about that now."
"But it's from the people of this house! I think it's important to keep the servants satisfied."
"Indeed, but I don't know what Mr. Takumi will say."
"Then we will have to ask him."
"Uhh, what are you talking about?"
Sebastian tried to stop Ms. Claire from saying whatever she was about to say.
But Ms. Claire seemed intent on saying it.
Apparently, Sebastian was doubtful if I would agree. But I couldn't say anything until I knew what it was.
Was it a difficult request?
It had to do with the servants Had I done something wrong?
Or had Leo made a mess somewhere and I didn't notice?
Hmm
"It is a request from the servants, and me as well. It concerns Liza"
"Liza? Is there a problem with her?"







"That being said, it is generally not about doing things to others, but about governing your own actions. For instance, just because someone gives you food, it doesn't mean you should follow them."

So it was like a form of discipline?

The beastkin country would be full of children like Liza, who would wag their tails when given a treat.

Though, it seemed rather rude to think of such things...

"There are not that many rules, but I will explain them to you later. Right now, we are talking about Liza. And as long as she lives here normally, none of the rules are likely to be broken. So you need not worry."

"I see."

I was able to relax after hearing that.

"Ears and tails are very important to the beastkin, and so they do not care to have others touch them casually. Only those who are close to them are able to..."

"Indeed. So you are not sure if the servants would be included in that?"

"Yes. It is likely that only family and relatives are considered to be close enough..."

"That makes sense... But it is rather vague. Still, it would be easy enough to just ask her who she feels close to."

Well, it was strangely vague for something that was supposed to be a rule. Apparently, it had the same effect as the law, so I was expecting something more strict.

Perhaps all of the rules in the beastkin country were vague like this.



Since he was living in the slums, he must have been human.

If he was a beastkin as well, then he would have been persecuted too.

But since he was able to stop it, he had to be human.

I wished that I could have talked to him.

Chapter 325

Liza Was Given Dessert

"In that case, could you ask her about that as well, Mr. Takumi?"

"Yes. I don't know how much I will be able to ask, but I will try."

"Thank you. We do not want to do anything that would upset her, of course..."

"Yes. It's possible that she will be sad when talking about her past. I will be careful."

Still, how should I go about it?

I suppose I should ask her about life in the slums, even if they were unpleasant memories.

And about her grandfather as well... Though, I would have to see how she reacts first.

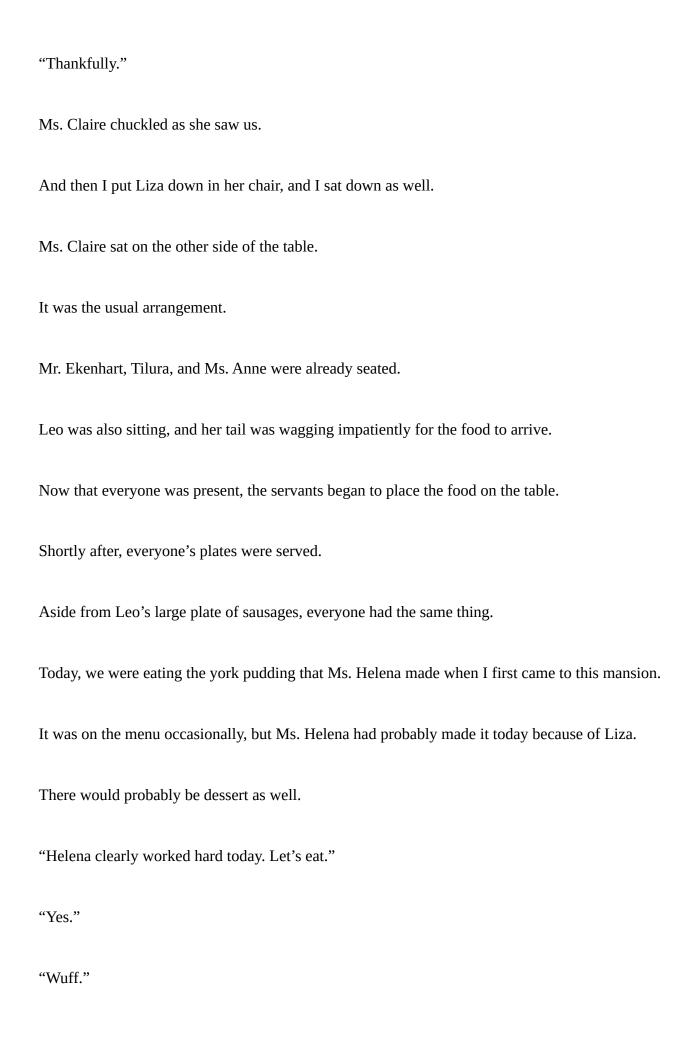
At least now that she was used to being around Leo and me, she seemed rather cheerful.

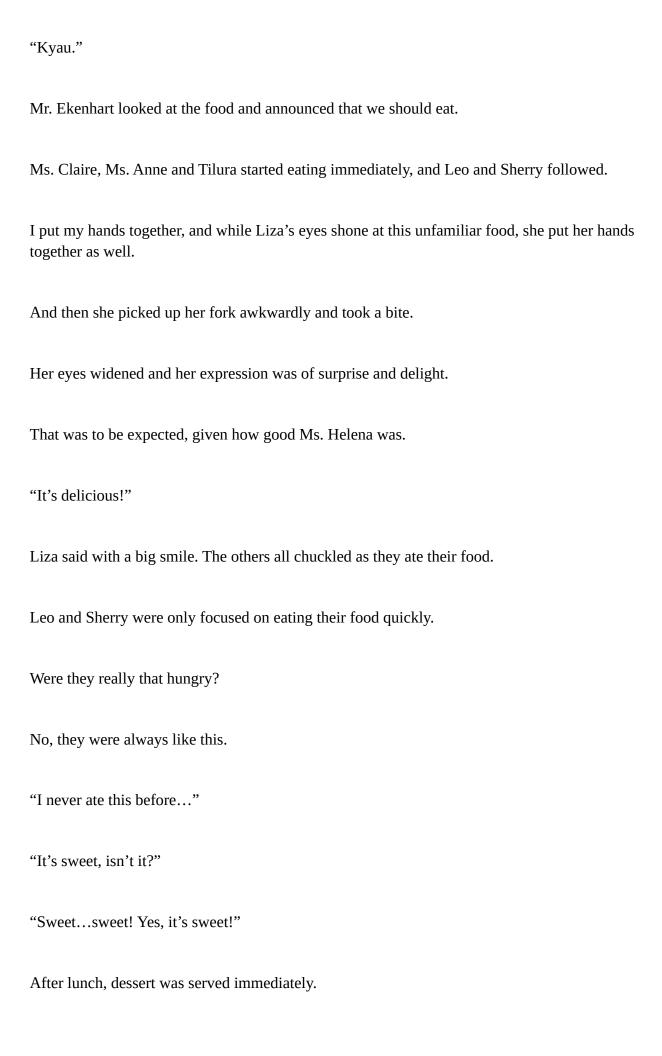
Perhaps the reason that she looked worried every time we were separated, is because she has already experienced losing her grandfather.

She was still young, and was not used to having to say goodbye to people.









When eating it, Liza was surprised once again. Apparently, she had never eaten something sweet before. I suppose there was no sweet food to be had in the slums. "Never had sweet food? Well, it can be rather expensive... It is a luxury." "Indeed. Sweet foods generally cost more than other kinds of food." "Mmm. While you can eat some in towns and villages, the slums are a different matter." "Indeed..." Mr. Ekenhart and Ms. Claire talked as they watched Liza. As for Ms. Anne...she stared at Liza's ears every time she reacted to eating something. Was she amused by it? Well, I would leave her to it then. Leo and Sherry had eaten to their fill and looked quite satisfied. They were now huddled together into a ball with Tilura... Well, it was like Leo was surrounding them. Considering this morning, Liza liked being wrapped in Leo's fur as well, but she was too preoccupied with eating something sweet for the first time. Chapter 326 I Decided to Train With Magic Instead of Swords Still, sweet foods are a luxury, huh...

There had been a time when sugar was considered to be a luxury in Japan. Perhaps if I made sugar cane and beets, the price of sugar would go down? But then I remembered that I couldn't make any farm produce with Weed Cultivation. So I couldn't make rice either... Anything to do with improving the food situation was beyond me. Well, I had no complaints with the food, so this was not a pressing issue. "Now then... Let's go, Mr. Takumi and Tilura." "Please wait one moment, father." "Huh? What is it, Claire?" After we had finished eating dessert, and drinking our tea, Mr. Ekenhart had got up to his feet and suggested we start our training. But then Ms. Claire stopped him. As for Ms. Anne, she had gone to her room and muttered something about creating a plan to make Liza like her. I felt a little bad for her... But I also hoped she wouldn't think of anything strange. "While sword training is good, perhaps Mr. Takumi wants to use magic as well?" "Oh, is that so?" "Ah, that's true. I would like to use magic. Not to fight, though..."

"Hmm. I see. In that case, we shall teach you magic today. It will be good for Tilura as well."

Ms. Claire said this because I had talked about wanting to use magic before. I had seen it for the first time after coming to this world, and so if it was possible, I wanted to use it. Sebastian had taught me the very basics, and so I was able to use magic where you create a light. Upon hearing this suggestion, Mr. Ekenhart immediately agreed to it. "About that, I think I should be teaching Mr. Takumi. You or Sebastian can teach Tilura. After all, Takumi has already learned the basics." "I see... So it's just Tilura that I'll have to teach from the beginning. Very well." "Magic?" "Mmm. Magic will allow you to do so much more. Though, it will be difficult to integrate it into your combat style at first... But you will learn eventually." "I prefer sword training, but...alright." Apparently, they had never taught magic to Tilura before, and so it was decided that Mr. Ekenhart would teach her. Since there was a difference in our knowledge, it was best to teach us separately. On the other hand, Tilura seemed to prefer moving her body and swinging a sword. That was like her. "So, it's decided. I will teach Takumi and father will teach Tilura." "Mm."

"Very well."

I wondered if Ms. Claire had remembered her promise to me in the forest, where she said that she would teach me magic?

I had thought that she forgot about it, since Sebastian had taught me some before going to Range village.

It hadn't been anything serious, and we just talked while exploring the forest. So it wouldn't have been a surprise if she forgot about it.

Still, I was a little happy that she remembered.

"Magic...?"

We went out into the garden, and after moving away from Mr. Ekenhart and Tilura, the lesson was about to begin... However, that was when Liza looked at me with a puzzled expression.

Apparently, she had not been listening to our conversation.

And so now that she finally heard about what we were going to do, she was confused.

"Liza. I am going to teach Mr. Takumi about magic. Have you ever seen magic, Liza?"

"Grandfather...used it. So I've...seen it..."

"I see. You know Liza, you don't have to talk so politely when talking to the people here."

"But...grandfather said that I should...when talking to elders..."

When Ms. Claire had answered her question, Liza replied in awkward but polie words.

Ms. Claire looked at her gently and tried to get her to relax.

Indeed, the people in this mansion were not the kind who would be angry if you spoke more casually. If anything, they might not appreciate someone who was too modest. Especially Mr. Ekenhart. But Liza did not look very convinced. And so she turned to me questioningly. Well, if Ms. Claire was going to insist like this, then there was no need for Liza to be modest. However, it did make me wonder what kind of man her grandfather was, considering they lived in the slums. "Liza. Don't worry about it. No one will be angry with you. Just talk to everyone like you talk to me." "...Um. Okay. Uhh... Sister...Claire?" "Yes, that's fine, Liza." I told her gently to reassure her, saying that she could talk to others like she talked to me. Liza thought about it for a moment and then nodded. She then turned to Ms. Claire and hesitantly called her sister and then smiled. Ms. Claire offered her hand and they shook with a laugh. "Wuff!" "Oh, you too, good Leo?" "Wuff-wuff."



"Yes, every human can. But beastkin... They have less magic energy than humans, and so I've heard that most do not like to use it."

"They don't...like to."

"Yes. It's true that there are beastkin who use magic, but whether or not all of them can... I do not know. Though, I'm quite sure they all have some magic energy."

So it was a difference between beastkin and humans, huh?

While Liza had some magic energy, there was no guarantee that she could use it.

I wonder if it was because beastkin found it more difficult to activate?

"Perhaps we should have her checked by Ms. Isabelle, next time we go to Ractos?"

"Indeed. She will be able to find out how much magic energy Liza has. In any case, I will explain things to her first."

"Yes, thank you."

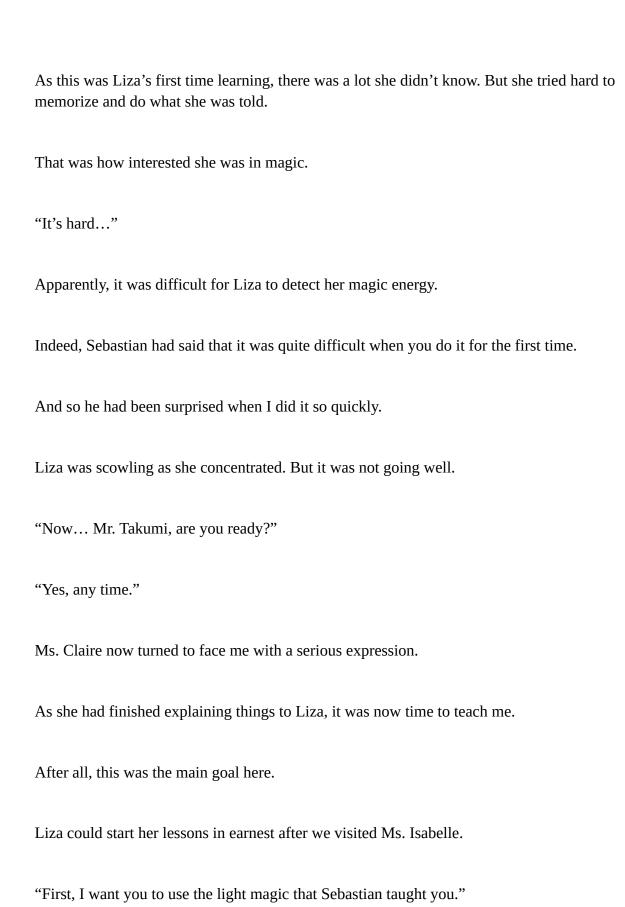
"Now, listen to me, Liza. Magic is when you use the magic energy in your body to..."

And so Ms. Claire stood in front of us and explained to us about magic.

In that case, it might have been better to have her learn with Tilura... But when I turned to look, I saw that they had taken out their swords.

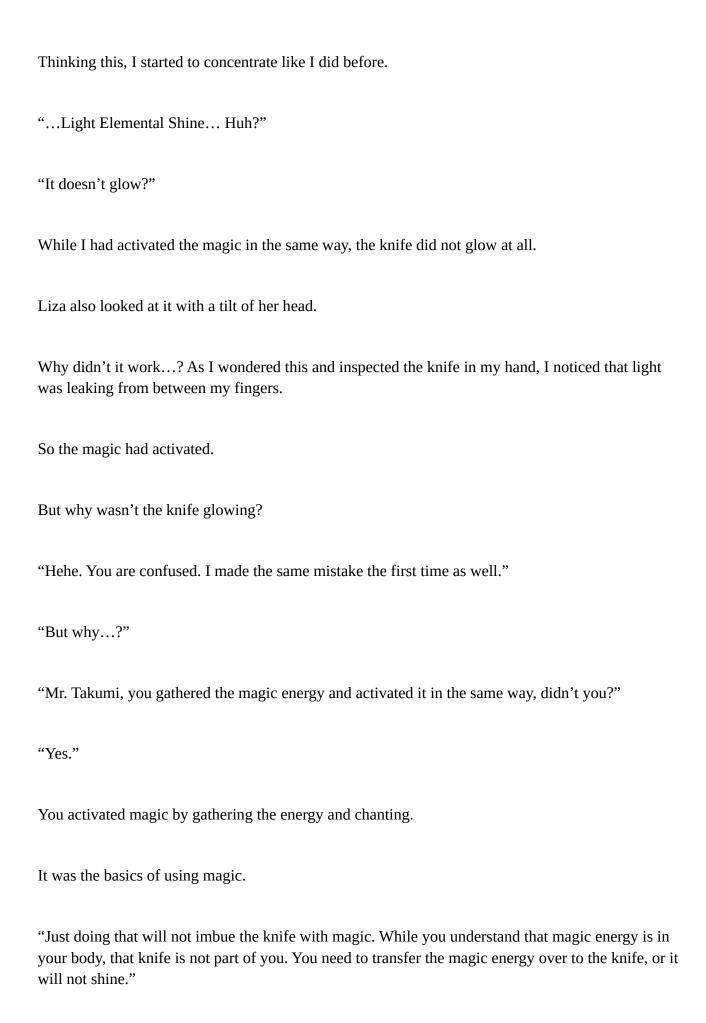
Apparently, the curious and active Tilura, and Mr. Ekenhart, who always tried to do new things, were not the types to study magic seriously and quietly.

Well, Sebastian was with them, so they probably wouldn't stray too far from the subject.



"Very well. ...Light Elemental Shine."





"Transfer"
"Yes. You have to transfer the energy to a place that is not your body. Of course, as you have to do it by force, it requires extra energy. Concentrate on forcing the energy out and into the knife."
"I see"
If it was an object like a knife, then you had to send the magic energy to it.
I suppose that made sense.
Now that I understood this, I gathered more energy to my hand and then imagined that I was forcing it towards the knife.
I think it worked? And so I began to chant
Chapter 328
I Was Taught Magic of Each Attribute
"Light Elemental Shine."
"Light Elemental Shine."  "The knife glowed!"
"It's a success I can't believe you succeeded after failing just once. I suppose I should have
"It's a success I can't believe you succeeded after failing just once. I suppose I should have expected this from you, Mr. Takumi."



For some reason, Liza also looked serious, even though she wasn't the one who was going to do it.

In any case, new magic...huh? Light magic could be used to temporarily blind people. And I was able to use it in combat because it didn't take too long to activate. Would Ms. Claire teach me something similar to that?

"I will teach you water, wind and fire magic. ... As they are the only ones that I can use."

"Really?"

"Yes. After all, I am usually the one who is being protected. And so it would be more wise for me to spend my time learning about governing our lands rather than magic or combat."

"I see..."

Ms. Claire had Phillip and those other guards.

So it made sense for her to study as the daughter of a duke, rather than magic.

However, because she was strong-willing and curious, I did find it a little surprising.

But in this world, magic wasn't anything unusual, so people generally weren't as excited about it as me, I suppose.

Even Tilura was much more interested in sword training than magic.

"We'll start with fire magic. I'm sure you've seen this before, Mr. Takumi. ...Fire Elemental Candle."

And then Ms. Claire raised her index finger, and a small flame appeared on the tip.

Indeed, this was the magic that Sebastian had shown me as a demonstration.

It could be used like a lighter for when you wanted to make a fire.

That made it sound mundane, but this was still real magic, and so I felt some excitement.

"Next is... Water Elemental Wash."

Ms. Claire erased the fire and made water appear in the palm of her hand.

We had used this magic during the forest exploration to wash dishes.

Unlike the water that Leo made for Liza, this was done through gathering the moisture in the air, and so it was not fit for drinking.

Well, it was probably fine if it was only the moisture in the air, but it probably took it from the ground as well... You just didn't know what might be mixed in it.

"Lastly... Wind Elemental Air."

Next she used wind magic.

Ms. Claire directed her hand towards me and I felt a weak wind blowing from it.

This might be useful when making medicine, but Leo's would still be more effective.

Perhaps it had to do with how much magic energy you used?

If not, I'm not sure it would be very practical for me.

"And so those are the basic attributes of magic. Just like light magic, they do not use much energy and chanting is easy. I'm sure you will have no trouble with them, Mr. Takumi."

"Do you think so? Well, I'll try it then."

And so I focused on gathering magic energy. What was important when using magic was focusing on the magic energy, and the chant that converted it. I decided to start with fire magic. "...Fire Elemental Candle." "There's fire!" I moved the index finger of my right hand like Ms. Claire did, and chanted. And then a small flame appeared with a burst. It looked a little bigger than Ms. Claire's one? Thanks to seeing Ms. Claire do it right in front of me, I was able to copy her and everything went smoothly. I suppose that was important as well. If I had never seen it before, but had to use it, then it might have been more difficult to make it activate. To my side, I saw Liza was very happy. And so I moved on to the next one. "Next is... Water Elemental Wash." "Water came out! Can I drink it?" "You...better not drink this. Are you thirsty?"

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"No, I'm fine."
"I see. Well, tell me if you are, okay?"
"Okay!"
Just like Ms. Claire, I was able to make water that burst out as if from a faucet.
As it poured out, Liza tried to catch some with her hands, but I stopped her.
This wasn't like Leo's water, after all.
While I doubted it was poisonous, it was better to not drink it.
I didn't want her to get sick.
Chapter 329
I Learned Even More New Magic
I glanced over to Ms. Lyra in order to ask her to bring water when Liza was thirsty.
She must have been listening to the conversation, as she nodded.
Now I didn't have to worry about her. And so I started to prepare the wind magic.
"...Wind Elemental Air."
"The wind feels nice."
"Yes, it does, Liza."
As I raised the palm of my hand, the wind magic activated.
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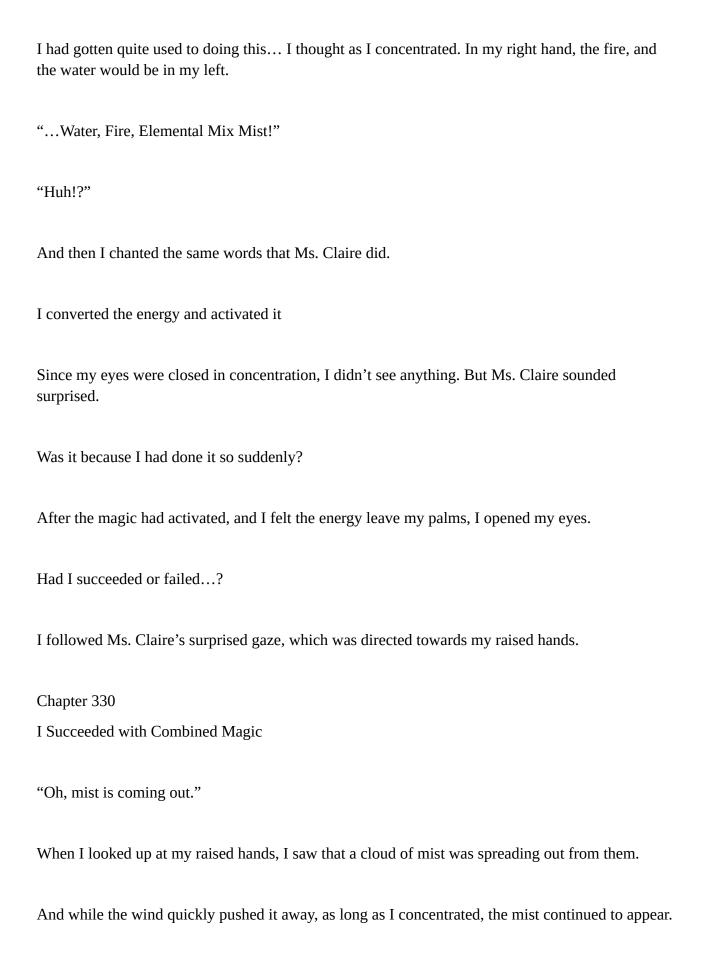


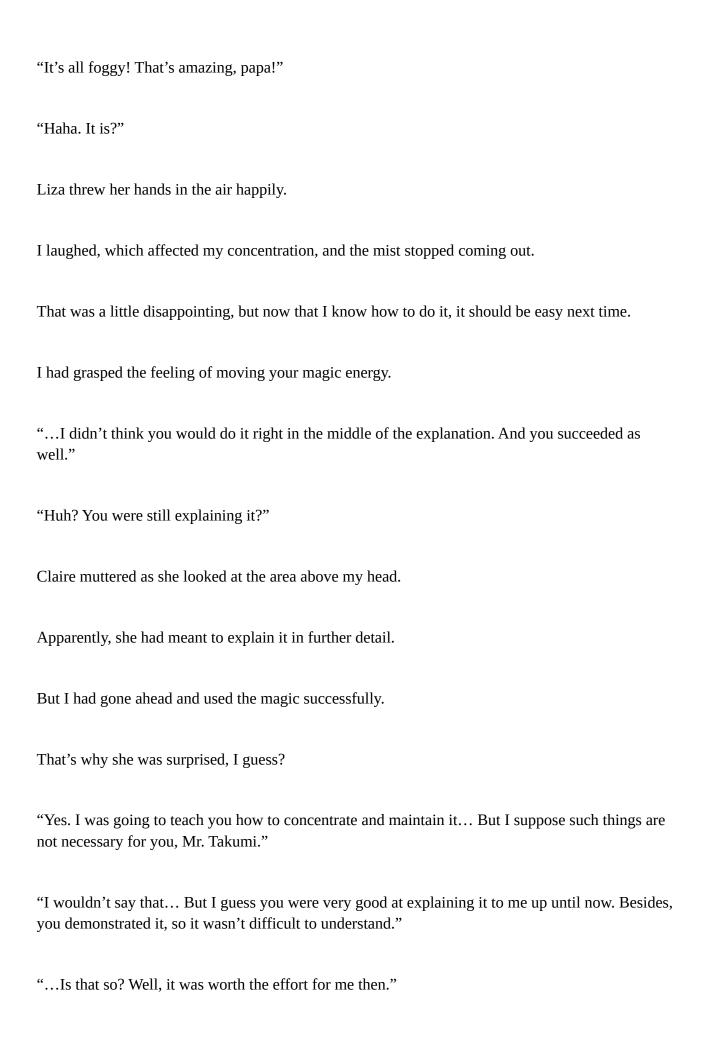


"I will start. ... Water, fire, Elemental Mix Mist!" Ms. Claire looked a little more serious this time as she raised her hand above her head and chanted. Elemental Mix... Well, the chants were getting longer now. Sebastian had said something about more effective magic having longer chants. "Smoke is coming out of your hand!" "No, that's steam...or mist." "Hehe. Exactly." The mist came out of her hands and spread out. As she was not using much magic energy, it did not spread too far, and the wind soon swept it away into nothing. To put it simply, the water and fire magic activated simultaneously, and the water evaporated from the heat. Perhaps the steam that came out of the palm was immediately cooled by the air and turned into mist? No, since it was magic, it could be a very different phenomenon. It was midday and the temperature was warm, I didn't know if it would turn to mist... "Phew... I managed to do it without failing."

"It's difficult for you, Ms. Claire?"

"Of course, it is. Magic is not one of the things that I am good at. Still, I did not want to fail in front of you, Mr. Takumi..." Ms. Claire sighed with relief. She had seemed a little embarrassed as she admitted that she was nervous. Still, her smile was very beautiful, and I felt my heart skip a beat. But this was during a magic lesson... No time to be thinking about such things. And she really didn't need to be nervous in front of someone like me... "Uh, so the combining of magic. First, you must separate the magic energy in two places before bringing them to the place of activation." "Two places?" "Yes. While you would normally gather the energy into one place, this time, you have to separate it and convert and activate the energy at the same time." Yes, that seemed much harder all of a sudden. Two...eh? Hmm. So I should gather the energy into my pal...and then separate them into two? I tried to imagine that I was rolling a ball of energy with my hand. And then I cut the ball in half so that they were separated. I raised my hands like Ms. Claire did and concentrated on making two small spheres of magic energy.









"Also, it's not just the magic energy you have to think about, but the effect as well. Sometimes, it is practically like developing entirely new magic on your own."

"New magic... Yes, I don't think that I can do that."

Combining different things to make something new...it was similar to a science experiment, perhaps.

"In fact, for a long time, combining three types was thought to be the limit. And only a small number of people have been able to do four or more."

"Is that so?"

"Well, it is written in texts or are otherwise just rumors. But that is what they say. Of course, the person who did more than four also had a Gift, so perhaps it was because of that."

"I see... If you have a Gift, then it might not be purely magic, and so no one else can do it."

"Yes, that's right."

So there was someone who had succeeded in combining more than four types of magic.

But it was likely that it was the Gift's power...

While I also had a Gift, it was probably different from Weed Cultivation, and something related to magic.

...I felt a little jealous.

But then again, my ability has been quite useful as well. And one shouldn't complain about what they didn't have.