

## Beloved Dog 321

### Chapter 321

#### Ms. Claire Wanted to See Me

“No, that is not it. ...In the first place, I am quite sure that he left you little choice when making the request.”

“After all, it would be hard to imagine that you would want to take the master out, Mr. Takumi.”

“I know my father. He probably thought it would be amusing to go with you. And since good Leo would be there, it would be safe enough.”

“Hahaha... Uh, you are exactly right...”

They sure knew Mr. Ekenhart well.

I didn't know if it was because they were that good, or he was that simple... Perhaps it was both.

But I brushed away such rude thoughts and got to the subject at hand.

“In that case, why did you call me here?”

“It's about the tests you've started in the garden...and the herb gardens for Range village.”

“Ah, that.”

“Yes. As of now, it is just something that you spoke to His Grace about. But if we are to make it official, then we should discuss it properly.”

Indeed, it had just been a light conversation we had in the town.

There were no contracts signed or anything. So it would be a good thing to make it official.

Otherwise, there could be problems later.

“As the tests have only just begun, we do not know if it will go well. However, for now we will talk about what to do if it is a success.”

“Yes.”

Well, I had only started a few hours ago.

So there was no saying what might happen.

But if it went well, we could start growing them in Range village.

“About Weed Cultivation, I thought about preparing some farmlands...but I doubt that much space will be required.

“Yes. It is not like vegetables that are used every day... It would not be a good thing to grow too much of it.”

While it might sound like a good thing to grow as much as possible, I suppose it would cause confusion in the market.

We still didn't know what would grow, but if it happened to be expensive herbs, then making too much would drive the prices down. We had talked about that before, in regards to the Loe.

Besides, a large field would also be harder to manage.

“While it will be possible to expand it later, for now, we will likely prepare a small area between the village and the forest. As it is not near the village entrance, hardly anyone will pass by it.”

“I understand.”

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.

From what I had heard, there were times when it was unknown who owned the land, because management had been sloppy, or it was leased out to someone else.

It seemed to happen a lot in the countryside.

In any case, because there could be such problems, it would be best to find out about land rights in advance.

## Chapter 322

### I Asked About Land Management

“The land rights...in your old world, Mr. Takumi, individuals owned land?”

“Huh? Uhh...yes. You could buy land and become the owner and use it quite freely. You could lend it to others or live on it yourself. Well, you have to pay taxes as well, so it’s not all positive.”

I gave Ms. Claire and Sebastian a simple explanation of what it was like in Japan.

Obviously, there were complicated contracts and procedures, but I had never owned land, and that was not important to us now.

While it sounded good to say that you were a landowner, it was not enough to make a profit.

But how were things here?

“I see. That is quite strange.”

“Indeed.”

“...So it is different here?”

After hearing what I had said, Ms. Claire and Sebastian looked at each other with wonder.

Judging by their expression, things were done quite differently here.

It was a different world with different rules.

“In this country, the king owns all of the land. That is the law.”

“Hmm.”

“However...it would be nearly impossible for the king to manage all of that land by himself.”

“Indeed.”

Even if that king was some kind of genius, it was too much to do alone.

Though, I’m sure they hired people to help with such work, but it was still a lot to manage.

“And so the land is given to the nobles to manage. In short, those who have been given land by the king are the nobility. So every noble in this country has land.”

“So the nobles become the landlords and manage it.”

“Yes. And the lords in turn lend the land to the people. And so farms, villages and towns are built. At that point, the land is owned by the landlord.”

“So, Mr. Ekenhart owns all of this land?”

“Yes. And the people that borrow it pay taxes. Usually, the village chief or town governor takes care of that. They collect taxes from the residents and send it to those above them. That is how it works.”

“Hmm. So when Nick or I pay taxes...”

“It is deducted from your payment. As for Nick, the taxes are taken from what you pay him. As this mansion is in Ractos’s jurisdiction, it all goes to the town governor.”

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.

“Of course, we understand that there is still a lot that you don’t know about this country. And so a butler of this house will be managing it for you. You will be educated enough so that you can just leave the difficult matters to him.”

“Hah... I see.”

A butler, eh?

All of the butlers here were like Sebastian. They seemed very capable, and I wouldn’t have to worry.

If anything, I would feel fine if I just left everything to them.

Only, it felt weird to have a butler working for me.

“Don’t worry. The Liebert house has much lower taxes than the lands of other nobles. Of course, considering how much you are paid for the herbs, you will have more than enough after paying taxes.”

“Yes, but that’s not the problem...”

Ms. Claire smiled and explained after seeing that I looked hesitant.

Only, she misunderstood the reason for it.

“I...uh... I don’t know about having a butler. I’m not really used to that sort of thing.”

“Hehehe. So that’s what it is.”

“Hoho. While it may be strange for me to say it, you will be fine, Mr. Takumi. I can guarantee that.”

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



He at least knew what he was talking about.

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.

“If you have any questions or requests about it, we would be happy to help you.”

“I see. Thank you.”

As the contract would mean having a butler, they told me to think about it carefully.

After all, even if I couldn't think of any questions now, they might come to me later, so I would confide in them when the time came.

As for the butler, it would be like any other employment contract.

Obviously, they didn't have the same kind of strict employment rules that they had in Japan, and it was rather vague.

But when I thought back on how I had worked in Japan, I promised that even if things went well and I had to hire people, I would not create that kind of cruel environment.

I didn't know if they had the same concept of black companies here, but the last thing I wanted was for people to be pushed to the brink, mentally and physically.

And so I had to do my best as well.

“In that case, the official contract will be signed once your test is finished.”

“Yes, that is fine. Also...”

“Is there something else?”

“No, it's not related to the contract. I was just wondering, shouldn't Mr. Ekenhart be with us?”

He was the landlord here.

And he was the head of the family.

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?”

Was it because she was a beastkin?

But then again, Ms. Claire had given her permission for her to stay here.

And I doubted she or the other servants had prejudiced views...

But maybe there were some among them who didn't like beastkin?

"Oh, you needn't look so worried, Mr. Takumi. We are all very happy that she is here."

"Lady Claire and His Grace have accepted her. So no one in this mansion will disagree with them."

"Ah, I see."

It must have shown on my face, as they quickly reassured me.

I was relieved to hear it. So what was the request then?

I let out a sigh and realized that I had been quite tense.

It was no wonder they saw through me.

"Well... Some of them would like to touch Liza's tail or ears..."

"What?"

Ms. Claire said it a little awkwardly.

They want to touch Liza's tail or ears?

Now that sounded absurd.

“Well, you know how Leo and Sherry’s tails and ears move with their emotions? Some of the servants who saw it want to try to touch it now.”

“I-I see...”

Indeed, I had observed it myself.

Ms. Claire, Ms. Lyra and Ms. Gelda were always staring at them.

I had a feeling that Liza was starting to become quite popular within the house.

Well, that was a good thing.

## Chapter 324

### The Beastkin Had An Iron Rule

“Why not Leo or Sherry?”

“While Leo and Sherry do not complain...it is not clear how they feel. Besides, I think they assume that the fur would be quite different.”

“Ah, I suppose that is true.”

At this point, most of them would have been able to pet Leo and Sherry.

However, beastkin were quite different, and so they probably wanted to feel their fur. Humans really were such annoying creatures... Well, maybe I was thinking about it too much.

“Yes. Liza is a beastkin, but she is not much different from a human as well. And unlike Leo, she may not like it. Besides, beastkin have a rule...”

“A rule?”

What was that? It sounded quite ominous.

“As for that, it is something that you should be aware of, Mr. Takumi.”

“Sebastian... Please explain it to him.”

“Yes, certainly.”

The beastkin rule. They made it sound like it was very important.

And as long as I was going to take care of Liza, I should know about such things.

Just as Ms. Claire was about to explain, she saw a flash in Sebastian’s eyes, and so she sighed and gave the honor to him.

It really was his reason to live.

Still, he put on a serious face, though, his eyes were still smiling.

“The rules of the beastkin. This is something known to any who had reached a certain level of education.”

“A certain level?”

“Yes. Nobles and those close to them.”

In other words, if Mr. Ekenhart and Ms. Claire knew, then so did Sebastian and the servants.

“It is not some great secret, and so I’m sure there are some townsfolk who know... But not many. This rule of the beastkin has the same effect as the laws in their country, and any who break it here will be punished.”

“I see...”

“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.



Which seemed quite appropriate, for beastkin.

They looked like they would be more easy-going compared to humans.

“And so we wanted to ask you, since you are the closest to Liza right now...”

“Well...she does call me papa.”

“Yes. And so there is no doubt that you are close.”

I chuckled at Ms. Claire’s words.

Because of this rule, they wanted me to find out who she considered to be familiar enough to touch her ears and tail.

“As it is possible that it would be breaking the rules, we have told the servants to avoid it. And so they wanted you to ask her. If it is not possible, then they will give up.”

“I see. If Liza doesn’t like it, then it would be best for them to not do that. But...”

“Is there something wrong?”

“Well, she was raised in the slums of Ractos... So I don’t know if she would know anything about these rules.”

“Ah, that is true...”

“Hmm, indeed. It is not as if the beastkin know it from the moment they are born... It is not instinct...”

“Yes. I don’t know much about the grandfather who raised her, but it seems like he was a human. Who knows if he was aware of the rules, and told her?”

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.

“Excuse me. Lady Claire, lunch is now ready.”

As I was thinking about Liza, there was a knock on the door and one of the maids entered.

She had come to tell us that lunch was ready.

“Ah, I see. Well, Mr. Takumi. That is enough talk. Let us go to the dining hall.”

“Yes. ...Ah, I will call Liza from the drawing room first.”

“I see. Very well.”

“Mr. Takumi, someone else went to the drawing room to inform them, so they should have gone to the dining hall already.”

“Ah, is that right? Thank you.”

“Not at all.”

I was about to go and tell Liza that it was lunch time, but was told that another maid had already done that.

Since Ms. Lyra and Ms. Gelda were in the drawing room, they would be able to take Liza to the dining hall.

Besides, Leo was there as well.

Leo would not stay still if she knew that it was time to eat.

“Well, let’s go then.”

“Yes.”

And so the three of us headed to the dining hall.

Now that I thought about it, I had ended up leaving all the work to Milina...

“Papa!”

“Oh, Liza. I hope you were behaving?”

When I entered the room, Liza saw me immediately and threw her arms around me.

She had been helping Milina with the medicine and yet, she didn’t seem very tired at all.

Did she even get tired?

“Yes. I was making medicine with mama!”

“I see, I see. ...Ms. Lyra. How is the medicine?”

“Liza and Milina were able to use all of the herbs, and I then delivered the medicine to Helena.”

“Thank you.”

While hugging Liza, I whispered over to Ms. Lyra, who was standing near the door.

So, all the medicine had been finished and was sent to Ms. Helena... There had been quite a lot of herbs, so Milina must have worked really hard.

Liza as well.

“Hehe. She really is fond of you, Mr. Takumi.”

“Thankfully.”

Ms. Claire chuckled as she saw us.

And then I put Liza down in her chair, and I sat down as well.

Ms. Claire sat on the other side of the table.

It was the usual arrangement.

Mr. Ekenhart, Tilura, and Ms. Anne were already seated.

Leo was also sitting, and her tail was wagging impatiently for the food to arrive.

Now that everyone was present, the servants began to place the food on the table.

Shortly after, everyone’s plates were served.

Aside from Leo’s large plate of sausages, everyone had the same thing.

Today, we were eating the york pudding that Ms. Helena made when I first came to this mansion.

It was on the menu occasionally, but Ms. Helena had probably made it today because of Liza.

There would probably be dessert as well.

“Helena clearly worked hard today. Let’s eat.”

“Yes.”

“Wuff.”

“Kyau.”

Mr. Ekenhart looked at the food and announced that we should eat.

Ms. Claire, Ms. Anne and Tilura started eating immediately, and Leo and Sherry followed.

I put my hands together, and while Liza’s eyes shone at this unfamiliar food, she put her hands together as well.

And then she picked up her fork awkwardly and took a bite.

Her eyes widened and her expression was of surprise and delight.

That was to be expected, given how good Ms. Helena was.

“It’s delicious!”

Liza said with a big smile. The others all chuckled as they ate their food.

Leo and Sherry were only focused on eating their food quickly.

Were they really that hungry?

No, they were always like this.

“I never ate this before...”

“It’s sweet, isn’t it?”

“Sweet...sweet! Yes, it’s sweet!”

After lunch, dessert was served immediately.

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 polite 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.”

“Mama’s here too!”

As the two laughed, Leo seemed to want to join in, and she placed her paw on top of theirs.

I guess that was her way of shaking hands.

Leo nodded and then Liza grabbed Leo’s paw happily.

Well, because her hands were so small, she was just grabbing Leo’s fur.

## Chapter 327

### I Learned of a New Way to Use Magic

“Now, I will give you a simple explanation of magic.”

“Yes.”

“Could I use magic too?”

“Well... That is not something that I can determine. It would be irresponsible of me to say that you could...”

“I thought magic was something that anyone can use?”

Liza had looked happy at the possibility that she could use magic, but Ms. Claire answered her with a serious expression.

Previously, when it had been explained to me, I was told that everyone had magic energy, and so could use magic.

In that case, shouldn’t Liza be able to use magic?”

“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.

As this was Liza's first time learning, there was a lot she didn't know. But she tried hard to memorize and do what she was told.

That was how interested she was in magic.

"It's hard..."

Apparently, it was difficult for Liza to detect her magic energy.

Indeed, Sebastian had said that it was quite difficult when you do it for the first time.

And so he had been surprised when I did it so quickly.

Liza was scowling as she concentrated. But it was not going well.

"Now... Mr. Takumi, are you ready?"

"Yes, any time."

Ms. Claire now turned to face me with a serious expression.

As she had finished explaining things to Liza, it was now time to teach me.

After all, this was the main goal here.

Liza could start her lessons in earnest after we visited Ms. Isabelle.

"First, I want you to use the light magic that Sebastian taught you."

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

I had not used magic ever since I returned from Range village, but I remembered the feeling. And so I concentrated the energy to my hand and changed in order to activate it.

And just like that, the familiar sphere of light appeared on top of my palm.

“Papa, your magic is amazing!”

“Hahaha. Well, it’s very simple magic.”

Liza was very pleased when she saw the floating ball of light.

As the explanation on magic had ended, she could have gone to play with Leo... But apparently, she wanted to watch, as she stood next to Ms. Claire.

As for Leo, she was watching Tilura with a puzzled expression, and Sherry was sitting on her head.

...What was Tilura and Mr. Ekenhart doing?

“So you have no trouble activating it. Now, try and cast magic onto this.”

“Onto that...”

Ms. Claire handed me a small knife.

“Mr. Takumi, I’m sure you remember how Sebastian used magic to make your sword glow in the forest.”

“Yes.”

If I remember correctly, it had been very dark, so he made our swords light up so that we could navigate our way through the darkness.

Sebastian had done it as if it was easy, so I should probably be able to do it as well.

Thinking this, I started to concentrate like I did before.

“...Light Elemental Shine... Huh?”

“It doesn’t glow?”

While I had activated the magic in the same way, the knife did not glow at all.

Liza also looked at it with a tilt of her head.

Why didn’t it work...? As I wondered this and inspected the knife in my hand, I noticed that light was leaking from between my fingers.

So the magic had activated.

But why wasn’t the knife glowing?

“Hehe. You are confused. I made the same mistake the first time as well.”

“But why...?”

“Mr. Takumi, you gathered the magic energy and activated it in the same way, didn’t you?”

“Yes.”

You activated magic by gathering the energy and chanting.

It was the basics of using magic.

“Just doing that will not imbue the knife with magic. While you understand that magic energy is in your body, that knife is not part of you. You need to transfer the magic energy over to the knife, or it will not 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.”

“The knife glowed!”

“...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.”

When I activated the magic, the blade of the knife certainly emitted light this time around.

Liza, who was watching, raised her hands with delight, and Ms. Claire seemed a little surprised.

“It worked?”

“Yes. But I’m surprised that you were able to do it after a simple explanation...”

“I see. That’s good.”

Maybe it was because she explained it in a way that was easy to understand?

“I kept failing, and was not able to do it for some time.”

“You, Ms. Claire?”

“Yes. I found it difficult to concentrate on this idea of sending the magic energy. I suppose you just have a talent for it, Mr. Takumi.”

“No, not at all. Surely it has nothing to do with your talent. You just made it easy for me to understand what to do.”

“Hehe. No, but even Sebastian agrees that you are sharp when it comes to magic energy.”

“Is that so?”

But now that I thought about it, he had said something like that, when he was teaching me before.

I didn’t know if any of that was true, but it felt good to have Ms. Claire think highly of me.

“Now, Mr. Takumi, I will teach you some new magic.”

“Yes, I’m ready.”

Ms. Claire had been laughing, but she turned serious as she faced me.

And so I straightened my back as well.

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?”

“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.

I was able to do it without any problem as well.

Liza and Ms. Claire smiled pleasantly as the breeze hit them.

Well, the sun was now high in the sky, so it was quite warm.

“They all activated.”

“Yes, very good, Mr. Takumi. You were able to do it after just watching me do it once.”

“Haha. Well, they were quite simple and easy to learn...”

I chuckled, but was quite relieved that it wasn’t difficult magic to learn.

But on the other hand, I did want to learn something that was a little more flashy...

After all, I had seen such things in comic books and animation.

That being said, I was still a beginner, and so it was important to get the basics down and move slowly from there.

If I got ahead of myself and tried to learn more powerful magic, I probably wouldn’t be able to use it.

Besides, there was likely no need or opportunity for it.

“I suppose you wanted more of a challenge?”

“No, not at all.”

Ms. Claire must have seen it in my expression then.

Had I looked so unsatisfied?

“In that case, you should try something that is a little more difficult.”

“More difficult... I thought that this was all of the magic that you knew?”

“Yes, I only know this magic. However, it is possible to combine them.”

“You can combine magic?”

Ms. Claire knew four different types of magic.

And it seemed like she was able to combine them?

It definitely sounded more difficult, and so I would have to focus.

“Hehe. Don’t worry. It is still part of the basics. I doubt you shall have much trouble, Mr. Takumi.”

Ms. Claire chuckled as she saw that I had grown a little tense.

She really did read me like a book...

“Now then... Let’s try combining water and fire.”

“Water and fire?”

“Yes. By combining them, you can create mist.”

Mist... I suppose it was done by using heat to evaporate the water?

So it was like steam.



“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.

I had gotten quite used to doing this... I thought as I concentrated. In my right hand, the fire, and the water would be in my left.

“...Water, Fire, Elemental Mix Mist!”

“Huh!?”

And then I chanted the same words that Ms. Claire did.

I converted the energy and activated it

Since my eyes were closed in concentration, I didn't see anything. But Ms. Claire sounded surprised.

Was it because I had done it so suddenly?

After the magic had activated, and I felt the energy leave my palms, I opened my eyes.

Had I succeeded or failed...?

I followed Ms. Claire's surprised gaze, which was directed towards my raised hands.

Chapter 330

I Succeeded with Combined Magic

“Oh, mist is coming out.”

When I looked up at my raised hands, I saw that a cloud of mist was spreading out from them.

And while the wind quickly pushed it away, as long as I concentrated, the mist continued to appear.

“It’s all foggy! That’s amazing, papa!”

“Haha. It is?”

Liza threw her hands in the air happily.

I laughed, which affected my concentration, and the mist stopped coming out.

That was a little disappointing, but now that I know how to do it, it should be easy next time.

I had grasped the feeling of moving your magic energy.

“...I didn’t think you would do it right in the middle of the explanation. And you succeeded as well.”

“Huh? You were still explaining it?”

Claire muttered as she looked at the area above my head.

Apparently, she had meant to explain it in further detail.

But I had gone ahead and used the magic successfully.

That’s why she was surprised, I guess?

“Yes. I was going to teach you how to concentrate and maintain it... But I suppose such things are not necessary for you, Mr. Takumi.”

“I wouldn’t say that... But I guess you were very good at explaining it to me up until now. Besides, you demonstrated it, so it wasn’t difficult to understand.”

“...Is that so? Well, it was worth the effort for me then.”

“Yes. And so don’t worry, it wasn’t like I didn’t need you or anything.”

“...Need me...”

Hmm? Ms. Claire was suddenly deep in thought.

Had I said something wrong?

“Sister, what’s the matter?”

“Oh! Uh, nothing, little Liza.”

“Really? You seem strange?”

“Oh, I am quite fine! I was just a little stunned because of Mr. Takumi. He was amazing, wasn’t he?”

“Yes! He used all kinds of magic! Both of you were amazing!”

“Oh, me too? Hehe...”

Liza had looked at Ms. Claire with a worried and puzzled expression.

And so Ms. Claire smiled and assured her that she was fine.

It wasn’t just me, but Liza was also very impressed by Ms. Claire’s demonstration.

Ms. Claire laughed as she saw Liza wag her tail excitedly.

Yes, yes. Ms. Claire was the best when she smiled.

“Ms. Claire. Are there any other magic combinations?”

“Mr. Takumi...yes. Like I said earlier, it is possible to combine powerful magic. However, the chants become terribly long.”

In order to distract Ms. Claire from Liza’s wagging tail, I asked her about magic combinations.

And so she explained it to me cheerfully.

Powerful magic, eh? While that sounded very appealing, I doubted I would be able to do it for a while.

Besides, not only did they use more energy, but the chants became longer as well.

Sebastian had told me that there were chants that took a whole day to complete. And even if they weren’t that long, they might take at least a few minutes.

That was definitely not something that I could use during combat.

“Furthermore, you can also combine more than three types of magic.”

“It’s not just two?”

“Yes. However...”

“What?”

“It becomes significantly more difficult. Combining two can be hard enough, but when you go up to three and four and...”

“Ah...of course.”

While I had managed to succeed earlier...I was not confident in my ability to combine three.

“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.