

Beloved Dog 441

Chapter 441

We started to explain to Mr. Haines

“Huh? Well, most of the children seemed to enjoy playing with Leo. The parents were all happy to see it as well.”

“So it wasn’t just the children, but the adults also accepted Leo?”

“Yes. Leo and Mr. Takumi saved the village. Of course, we owe a lot to you as well, Your Grace. But they saw through the wine and fought the orcs. No one would reject them.”

Answered Mr. Haines.

Indeed, I had seen Leo playing with the children as their parents watched.

“I see... In that case, it is quite simple. I have a request to make. Aside from making the wine again, we want Mr. Takumi to grow his herbs in Range village. Of course, that means Mr. Takumi and Leo will go to Range village for some time. Well, they will live there.”

“Herbs... Is that why you need the fields?”

“Mmm. And Mr. Takumi will be accompanied by some hired workers, who he will manage. But since Leo will not be involved with that, she can play with the children in the village.”

“I see... And you are fine with this, Mr. Takumi?”

“I do not mind. Leo would be happy to be able to play with the children every day. Besides, I won’t be able to play with her when I am working in the fields.”

Mr. Ekenhart’s proposition was very simple.

In other words, when the adults were too busy to mind the children, Leo would babysit for them.

The children could play happily and not feel lonely.

The adults could focus on the wine, and I could make herbs.

I understood Mr. Haines's concern, but I nodded with a smile.

"Of course, I also intend to send a few people to work in Range village. I am sure there will be times when you do not have enough people. Thankfully, there are those in Ractos who are looking for work."

He meant people aside from the ones that I was hiring.

According to Nick, Ractos was overflowing with people, and many had trouble finding work.

That resulted in many living in the slums... So perhaps Mr. Ekenhart wanted to do something about that.

As long as they were paid properly, it would have a good influence on the areas surrounding the town and village.

"We would be glad to have people come to the village... But are you certain?"

"Well, it will not be a great many people, so it will be fine. And we shall be careful when selecting them. I suppose you are worried if they will fit in, or if they might cause some problems?"

"Yes... After all, we've just been through quite a lot. And so people are cautious right now. Of course, we do trust Leo and Mr. Takumi. But others..."

I could understand why Mr. Haines didn't quite trust outsiders.

They had been fooled into helping the spread of the disease, and that had nearly resulted in the village's ruin.

“As for that, you can rest assured. I will not tell you to trust everyone immediately, but... My house will be fully responsible. Besides...I doubt there will be any trouble with Mr. Takumi and Leo there. And even if something does happen, it should be easy enough to deal with.”

“That is true...”

Perhaps Mr. Ekehnart had a little too much trust in my ability... But I would try my best.

Leo would be able to sniff out anyone who tried anything strange.

Besides, I suppose Ms. Claire would be sent as well.

It wasn't actually decided yet, but if she was going to run the business with me, should would probably visit us during the day.

Of course, we would also have some guards and butlers. So it would be easier to deal with anything that could happen.

“So what do you say? It will allow you to make wine without worrying about the children.”

“Yes, that is true. But...”

“Hmm? Is there still a problem?”

“No, uh... Range village has a number of empty houses. So we would welcome new people... But.”

“Hmm? Me?”

Mr. Ekenhart had expected Mr. Haines to agree, but he continued to look conflicted. It was as if he did not know how to explain it.

Did it have something to do with me?

I tilted my head and asked him.

Chapter 442

I hadn't thought about where I would live

"Mr. Takumi should be fine... But good Leo..."

"Wuff?"

"Hmm. You mean the house is too small."

After looking at me, Mr. Haines glanced over to Leo, who was playing with Rosalie.

Leo noticed this and turned to us questioningly.

"Indeed, it would be one thing if it was just Mr. Takumi, but you would need a very large house for Leo to live in."

"Ah... That is true..."

"What, Mr. Takumi? You didn't think about it?"

"Ahahaha... Yes..."

"So Mr. Takumi can be quite airheaded as well..."

Hmm, I did not want to be called that by Mr. Ekenhart...

Mr. Haines watched me as I laughed and scratched my head... As did Ms. Claire.

But it was true. I had not even been thinking about how much space Leo would need.

I never had to think about it here, because the mansion was so big. But in Ractos, Leo always had to stay outside when we entered stores.

Living in the mansion made me forget that sometimes, and I thought of as how she used to be.

A small Maltese...

“Well, you do not have to worry about that. Because the plan is to build a house near the fields. We are ready to start construction, and are only waiting for the chief’s permission.”

So Mr. Ekenhart had already thought of it, and had been preparing in advance.

But...

“Um, how much is that going to cost?”

As I was getting paid by the duke for the herbs, I hadn’t worried about money for some time... But this sounded very expensive... The former salaryman in me felt like fainting.

Who knew what kind of crazy house the duke would try and build.

For instance... What if it was similar to this one? I didn’t know if I wanted to own such a place.

“You do not have to worry about that either. Since Claire will also be staying there, I will pay for everything. And yes, it will be a big mansion.”

“What?”

“Father, I am quite sure that I told you that a small, cozy house would be perfectly fine?”

“...Lady Claire is what...?”

My eyes widened at Mr. Ekenhart's words. Ms. Claire looked annoyed, while Mr. Ekenhart was confused.

"No, no, no. We really do not need a mansion! Just something that Leo will be comfortable in! Besides, I do not like the idea of you paying for everything!"

"I thought you might say that, Mr. Takumi. But there is Claire. Do you think my daughter will be satisfied living in some shack?"

"Father, do not compare me to those other rich daughters. I would be very satisfied in a normal house."

I frantically protested, while ignoring the shocked Mr. Haines.

If Mr. Ekenhart paid for everything, then I wouldn't feel like I owned the house, and would not be comfortable.

And while Mr. Ekenhart tried to act like it was for Ms. Claire's sake, she also voiced her displeasure.

"But Claire. You are quite hopeless without servants to do everything around the house for you."

"Well...I will just have to learn then!"

"What do you think, Mr. Takumi?"

"Huh? Why are you asking me? Uh... That could take a long time..."

"Mr. Takumi!?"

"Ms. Claire had been surrounded by servants since she was born.

Of course, she did not know the first thing about the household duties that servants performed.

Still, she insisted that she could learn them.

I had to admit that this would be difficult in the time we had, and Ms. Claire looked at me as if this was a great betrayal.

“I, uh... Well, not that long... I think.”

“Then... Why?”

Mr. Ekenhart was just protective, so she could easily dismiss his opinions, but Ms. Claire seemed rather crushed why I seemed to agree with him.

Perhaps she was taking it too personally. I felt bad for her, but we had to be realistic.

“Ms. Claire, how are you going to learn?”

“Well...the maids will teach me.”

“When?”

“Uh... We could start today?”

“That won’t work.”

“Indeed.”

“I agree.”

“You too, Sebastian? Why do you say that?”

After I questioned Ms. Claire, Mr. Ekenhart offered his conclusion. Sebastian and I nodded in agreement.

“Ms. Claire... Ever since last night, well, today, you have been incredibly busy. And I am sure there is still much that you have to do?”

“Indeed. Besides, we are going to the forest soon. I will not be in this house for long, and Tilura has her studies. Do you really think you have time to learn some household chores? While you have more than a few days, it is not as long as a few years!”

“That’s...”

Ms. Claire had no answer for that.

Indeed, Mr. Ekenhart would be leaving soon.

I suppose he would return to the main house after we go to the forest. And there was still the matter of the slums. Ms. Claire would have a lot of work to do.

Even I could see that.

Chapter 443

There was no time for Ms. Claire to learn household chores

Even if Ms. Claire was going to Range village with me, as Sebastian had said, she would have to return to the mansion quite regularly.

And so we had to consider what would be efficient... Clearly there was no time for Ms. Claire to be learning such things.

I’m sure she would have some free time during the day, but I doubted it would be enough time, considering she hadn’t done anything like that before.

Besides, she would need to get some rest as well...

“I’m sorry, Ms. Claire. It is not that there is something wrong with you. It is simply a matter of time.”

“...Yes, I understand that. But... I did hope to cook him a meal...”

“Huh?”

“Oh, nevermind...”

“Claire, you can think of such things later. I’m sure you’ll have plenty of time in the future.”

“Very well, father.”

I apologized and told Ms. Claire that it was not her fault.

Perhaps we had sounded a bit harsh, but she seemed satisfied and nodded understandingly.

She muttered something else under her breath, but I could not hear her.

But Mr. Ekenhart seemed to know... What was it?

“Umm?”

“Oh, excuse me. In any case, I intend to prepare a place for you and Leo to live.”

“Ah...”

We had been talking about how I didn’t want a house that was too big, and the cost, but it seemed like the conversation ended with Ms. Claire.

Was this his way of negotiating?

Regardless, I suppose I would have to discuss the details of it with Sebastian later.

If Sebastian was there, then I think everything would be dealt with in a sensible manner.

...Unless he decided to take Mr. Ekenhart's side completely.

"So, I understand a place will be prepared for Mr. Takumi and Leo. However...what is this about Lady Claire?"

Apparently, Mr. Haines was still puzzled about that part.

After all, it had not been properly explained to him.

"While it is Mr. Takumi who will be making the herb fields in Range village... It is his wish that Claire be involved with management. After all, they will be running the business together."

"Indeed?"

"Yes. I want to make my own contribution to this house and the surrounding lands, including your village."

She had looked a little upset a moment ago, but Ms. Claire had now regained her calm.

It was impressive that she could switch back so quickly.

"So, does that mean the business will be controlled by the duke?"

"No, that will be Mr. Takumi. We are in more of a supporting role. Claire will handle all external matters, while Mr. Takumi takes care of the fields."

"What do you mean...external?"

"We will need to find stores in other villages and towns that will sell the herbs. Normally, there are not that many herbs, so we can just sell them in our own stores. But Mr. Takumi's herbs are special. You will see that for yourself soon enough, chief."

To put it simply, I would manage the herb fields and the people involved in working in them.

Ms. Claire would be in contact with stores across the lands and try to sell the herbs to them. Like a sales department?

As someone without connections, or much knowledge of the surrounding area, I would be very grateful for her help.

It wouldn't matter how good my herbs were if there was no one to buy them.

"Yes. Mr. Takumi's herbs cured the sick in the village within a blink of an eye. I would not doubt their quality. However... Can he really make that much?"

Mr. Haines was right to wonder about this.

Herbs weren't usually grown in large fields, and it seemed doubtful that we could make enough to send across the duke's lands.

Herbs were mainly something that were gathered in forests and mountains by people who made medicine.

Besides, they were not consumed in great quantities like grain, and the fact that there was so much variety made them unfit for growing on a large scale.

And each herb having different conditions for growing them would also make things difficult.

I suppose that if different herbs were all grown in different locations, they would be able to have a lot of types in large quantities. But the fact that this hadn't been done up until now suggested that it was probably quite difficult to do by human hands.

Even though the land that was reserved near the village was quite large, it did not seem like it would be enough to send herbs to so many towns. And it would also take a considerable amount of time to grow. That was why he was concerned.

I told Mr. Haines about Weed Cultivation

“Indeed, it is hard to imagine someone growing herbs in great quantities. Growing them at all is almost unheard of in this country. Most people gather what is found in nature. ...Mr. Takumi? Sebastian?”

“It will be fine. As Mr. Haines is the chief, it is necessary for him to know.”

“I agree. There should not be a problem.”

“Mmm.”

“?”

Mr. Haines was looking at us with a puzzled expression.

As for what we were going to tell him... It was about my Gift, ‘Weed Cultivation.’

Since I was going to be growing the herbs in Range village, it would be deceitful to not tell the chief. Besides, it would be difficult to determine whether or not it would work.

As for the people I was going to hire, since they would be watching me use Weed Cultivation at some point, I already intended to tell them.

The method of making herbs was strange and unusual, not telling them would lead to distrust.

Well, I had already discussed the matter with Mr. Ekenhart before, so there was no need for him to ask us again.

I suppose it was part of a performance... To show how important this information was.

“The truth is, Mr. Takumi has a special ability.”

“He does?”

“Mmm. I’m sure you have heard of it. It’s called a Gift.”

“Gift... An ability that is granted from god... Yes, I have heard of it. Though I have never seen anyone with it. I thought it was more of a rumor. But it is real?”

“That is right. Mr. Takumai has the Gift ability. And it allows him to make herbs. So he is not limited by environment or type. And he can make a lot of them.”

“A gift to make herbs... Is that true? No, now that I think about it, he produced a lot of Ramogi in just one day. And he said to tell him if it was not enough...”

“Is that right?”

“Yes, I did say that. Since most of the villagers were ill... I knew how many people there were, but I wondered if it might not be as effective on some, and there might not be enough...”

I had brought extra Ramogi to the village, but I was still anxious.

After all, more people might have become sick while Mr. Haines was away from the village.

Besides, since there were some who coughed a lot, it was possible that they wouldn’t be able to swallow the powdered Ramogi.

But in the end, it had all been fine.

“I see. While it will be difficult to believe immediately... Mr. Takumi is able to make herbs no matter where he is. That was why this whole business with the disease came to an end so quickly. I don’t want to think about what would have happened without his help.”

To be precise, it was weeds, not herbs.

I could make plants that weren’t the result of selective breeding or anything like that.

I still didn't know what my actual limit was in terms of making them, but I could faint if I used my ability too much, so I did not want to rely on it.

That's why we were making a field.

"I see. You really do have the Gift... Since the duke and Mr. Takumi say it, it must be true. Besides, you did save the village."

"Thank you."

"So you will believe. Well, even if you didn't, we could just have Mr. Takumi demonstrate it for you."

Mr. Haines really did trust us a lot.

Even though we were talking about something that he didn't think was real, he was able to believe it immediately.

I was grateful for that.

And I would do my best to live up to his expectations... I was starting to feel more ambitious towards the herb fields.

As for the demonstration, I had done it for Mr. Ekenhart before. He already believed me, because of Ms. Claire and Sebastian, but I thought it would be simpler if I just showed him Weed Cultivation.

Especially since there was the matter of the contract.

"In that case, may I see it?"

"Hmm? Ah, that should be fine. While we do not want too many people to know about it, seeing it now won't be a problem. Isn't that right, Mr. Takumi?"

“Indeed. I think it would be easier to understand it that way. Though, why are you the one saying it, Mr. Ekenhart?”

“Hahah! Well, because that’s our relationship, isn’t it?”

Is it?

Well, I did owe him a lot. So it wasn’t like I would be angry if he gave his permission in my place.

This wasn’t some kind of special ability that no one could ever see.

We just needed to be a little careful, so that the wrong people didn’t learn of it.

Chapter 445

Sebastian explained it excitedly

“Well, the demonstration can come later. For now, we should talk about the herb fields. Mr. Haines, I assume you have already decided to give your permission?”

“...Yes. We would gladly welcome Mr. Takumi and Leo to the village. And we have no reason to object. Especially with the duke’s involvement. I think it would help breathe new life into the village.”

“It is good to hear that. Now then...”

Sebastian seemed to have become a little impatient, as the conversation kept changing, moving from Mr. Ekenhart, Ms. Claire and me. And so he quickly summarized everything and asked for Mr. Haines’s permission.

After that, he explained to Mr. Haines about how we were currently studying different ways of growing the herbs.

He looked like he wanted to talk about that for a while.

He had only been holding back, as there were things Mr. Ekenhart and I had to discuss with Mr. Haines first. But he could wait no longer.

Well, I had said most of the important stuff, and since Mr. Haines had agreed, it was not bad timing.

Though, I did think that Mr. Haines had already decided to give his permission, and had come here in order to hear more details.

“So...here it is. The wine and medicinal wine that will be made in Range village and sold across the lands.”

“This wine... But it looks different from our wine? And this...”

Once he finished talking about the herb fields, the conversation moved to the wine.

Sebastian had asked one of the maids to bring enough for everyone to taste.

As it was made by mixing wine with herbs, we wanted Range village to make more wine...

Perhaps we should have talked about this point in the very beginning, but we got side-tracked.

Mostly because I hadn't thought about my house. And then there was Ms. Claire...

“This is what we call rosé wine. While the color and scent is the same as the original wine...isn't the color pretty?”

“Indeed... It tastes and smells the same as our wine.”

Mr. Haines took a sip and confirmed with a nod that it was the same wine.

As he was the chief of the village, he knew a lot about their wine.

“While the wine from Range village is delicious, it is too similar to other kinds of wine to get any notice. And so we have this wine. Even though it is practically the same, we can sell it in clear bottles, which will make it stick out visually. We expect it to be especially popular with women.”

“I see... I suppose you are right. While we sent much of our wine to Ractos, it was not exactly flying off of shelves. Some places did favor our wine...until the illness spread...”

Sebastian sounded like he was doing his best impression of a salesman as he talked about the wine.

Mr. Haines nodded and seemed convinced.

I was surprised that the wine hadn't done too well in Ractos... It was so good. Or maybe it was because I hadn't tasted the other wines yet.

Also, it seemed that rumors had spread about the connection between the wine and illness.

Even though the whole business was done, many people would have suspected the connection.

And so many of the stores stopped buying from them.

Well, there was nothing you could do to stop rumors. Especially since it was true.

“I see... So, about this wine. It is beautiful! And tastes just as good as the old wine from Range village! And with the duke's house backing it, the quality is assured!”

Sebastian said excitedly.

“...And so in order to spread this through Ractos and other towns and villages, we need you to make more wine.”

“Ah... I understand now. With this beautiful color, and the duke's endorsement, we won't have to worry about the rumors anymore. However... How did you make this?”

“It's the...Ramogi!”

After pausing for a brief moment, Sebastian explained that we had mixed Ramogi in the wine.

When soaking Ramogi in water, the medicinal substances cause the color to change.

We used this to create the pink color in the wine... Well, it was really just a coincidence.

Mr. Haines was very surprised to hear that adding the Ramogi to the contaminated wine had made it harmless.

Apparently, he thought that the wine he had just drunk was something we had acquired from Ractos, that happened to be safe.

And so when he learned that we had used the wine that I brought back, and made it so that it would cause you to become ill, he looked at me with great respect.

He would probably start worshiping me if Mr. Ekenhart was not there.

I would not have liked that at all. So I was glad that the others were here.

After that, we finished explaining about the wine. I told him to not expect it to sell well immediately. But people will slowly feel the effects, and word will spread.

The taste and smell was not the selling point, but that it was healthy. Mr. Haines was surprised by that.

Apparently, it was an unusual way to sell products.

I suppose it was easier to sell something just because it tasted good...

Chapter 446

I introduced Liza to Rosalie

After we finished discussing the herbs, Gift, and wine, we all moved to the dining room.

We had talked for so long that it was now dinner time.

And just like before, Mr. Haines would be dining with us as a guest. But since Mr. Ekenhart was also here, he seemed very nervous.

“Uh... I am Liza!”

“I’m Rosalie. It’s nice to meet you! ...Cute tail and ears. I want them too!”

“Haha! Rosalie, you can’t just grow them because you want to.”

Upon meeting Liza in the dining room, Rosalie declared that she wanted the beastkin ears and tail as well.

I did not expect that reaction... But I was relieved that she was not prejudiced against them.

Rosalie looked a little disappointed when she learned she could not grow them, but she smiled once Liza allowed her to touch her ears and tail.

Liza was very kind.

“It’s so soft!”

“Haha. It tickles...”

“Ahaha! Liza has a very fluffy tail.”

“Wuff? Wuff!”

“I can touch your tail too, Leo? Yay!”

Leo seemed just a little jealous, and wagged her tail in Rosalie's direction.

Her tail was also very soft...but it seemed unnecessary to feel a sense of rivalry?

Well, Rosalie seemed happy to play with Leo's tail as well, so it was fine.

Everyone else who was there watched this scene with amusement.

Except for Mr. Haines, who seemed a little flustered... He was probably worried about doing anything rude in front of the duke.

Of course, Mr. Ekenhart was not strict about such things.

Also, Ms. Anne was looking at Rosalie with a jealous expression.

She was still sorry about what happened to Range village, and so she wouldn't do anything, but... If she wanted to pet Leo so much, she should just say it.

Well, she was still a little afraid of Leo as well.

...It was taking longer than I would have thought...

"Mr. Haines. What do you think about beastkin?"

I turned my attention away from Liza, Rosalie and Leo, as they played, and questioned Mr. Haines.

As he was a guest, I thought I should help him relax.

But I also wanted to know his thoughts about beastkin.

I had already introduced Liza to him, saying that we had rescued her in Ractos.

It was clear that he knew that beastkin were sometimes persecuted.

I wanted to talk to him about it, because I would be taking Liza with me to Range village.

“Aye, Mr. Takumi. I am sorry for Rosalie’s rudeness. Not just to Leo, but to the duke as well...”

“No, not at all. Liza looks happy to have made a new friend. Besides, Mr. Ekenhart does not mind when it comes to such things.”

“Are you sure about that, Mr. Takumi? Well, it is true that I don’t really care.”

“Indeed, father. Mr. Haines, please don’t be so nervous, and enjoy yourself.”

Mr. Haines was more concerned with Rosalie than the beastkin.

While I could see that they were having fun, Mr. Haines was still worried that she would cause offense.

As for Mr. Ekenhart and Ms. Claire, if they were the kind of people who care so much about manners and small details, then I probably wouldn’t be sitting here with them.

I tried to do the bare minimum, but it was likely not much.

As I did not know much about how things were done here, I was grateful that they went easy on me.

Besides, they allowed Leo and Sherry to eat at the table... Which was significant, even if they held fenrirs in high regard...

“In any case, Mr. Haines. What about the beastkin?”

“I do not know a lot... Only about what happened a long time ago. And the rumors. But I was not directly involved in any fighting. But I do believe that the rumors were baseless lies.”

As I thought, he did not have any prejudices against the beastkin.

Judging by his age, I did think he would know something about the war. But he did not trust the rumors themselves.

Perhaps people who didn't fight were less likely to believe in them.

It would explain how most people in Ractos merely looked at Liza with curiosity. Because these lands were far from where the fighting took place.

It reminded me how bad Deam was to use those rumors for his own gain.

...Thankfully, he had been caught before too much harm was done.

Otherwise, there may have been more people who believed him.

And it would become harder to undo the damage...

Chapter 447

It seemed that Range village did not discriminate against beastkin

"In that case, it should be fine to take Liza to Range village."

"As long as Mr. Takumi and Leo are there, there should not be a problem. While the children of the village might do something rude...like Rosalie..."

"Hmm. Well, things do happen between children. That is not strange. As long as they do not hate beastkin, it should be fine."

"I do not think that the children would be prejudiced... Of course, they have never seen a beastkin before... But they know better than to believe such senseless rumors."

"I am relieved to hear that."

Liza was still a child.

Due to her past experiences, there was something a little mature...as if she was resigned to her fate.

And while I wanted her to live peacefully in Range village, it was also natural for children to disagree or fight sometimes. It could not be helped.

And if any were prejudiced, I could talk to them.

I wanted Liza to experience being a normal child.

Besides, it seemed like her unusual ears and tail were well-received by girls.

“Well, let us eat then.”

Once the food was served, we started to eat.

Today, the seating was slightly different from usual.

Mr. Ekenhart sat the head, and Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne sat on his left. While Mr. Haines and I sat on his right.

A short distance away, Sherry, Leo, Tilura, Liza, and Rosalie sat together. Mr. Ekenhart thought the children would enjoy being put together.

Leo was being watchful so that Sherry did not eat too much... She was quite strict.

While Tilura, Rosalie and Liza were not the same age, they were close enough, and seemed to be having fun together.

For once, Ms. Claire did not bother to warn Tilura about her manners.

“By the way, Mr. Ekenhart...”

“Mmmmt is it, Mr. mmmakumi?”

“Father. Don’t speak with food in your mouth...”

Mr. Ekenhart was smiling and looking at Tilura when I spoke to him.

But my timing must have been bad, as he had a mouthful of meat, and I could not understand what he was saying...

Ms. Claire scolded him for this, and I had to wait for him to chew it up and swallow.

“No, I was just thinking about where we will live. I would not feel comfortable in a house that is too big... And also, there is the cost.”

“You’re still worried about that? I told you already. We will profit from it as well. So building one mansion is nothing. And Claire will stay there. And if there are servants, then a house of this size is necessary.”

“No...I think that is much too big...”

This house belonged to a duke. It was incredibly vast.

I had never explored it from corner to corner, but there were three floors, and it was very wide.

It would take you several minutes to cross from one side to the other.

Besides, there was also the garden and walls that surrounded the area.

Surely that was much too big to build in Range village...

I understood that it couldn't be small, because Leo was with me. But I still wanted something simple and cozy.

"I would not be able to relax in such a place..."

"Is that so? Hmm... But you seem pretty relaxed here."

While that was true, I still felt like I was imposing on their hospitality.

Well, it was true in some ways, so I didn't mind, as long as I was here.

But I was going to be independent now, managing my own fields.

"The servants are very kind to me here. And so I am comfortable. Ms. Claire and the others are also very friendly."

"Because it is also in our best interest to have you and Leo here. You are like family now. ... Sometimes, I feel a little out of place, when it is just my daughters here."

"Father?"

"Oh. Nothing, Claire."

Perhaps Mr. Ekenhart had wanted a son as well.

In any case, I felt happy that he saw me like family now.

After that, we continued to eat and talk about what should be done with the house in Range village.

I was mainly trying to get Mr. Ekenhart to stop his plans for building a large house.

Even though it was related to his village, Mr. Haines refrained from saying anything.

He was glad of being directly connected to the duke, and so as far as the village was concerned, the size of the house was not important.

...I had hoped that he would support me, and say that a large mansion was not fitting for the village... Well, he did not seem like the type to say such a thing.

Chapter 448

I talked to Mr. Haines about the forest

“Well, then, that settles the matter of Mr. Takumi, Lady Claire, and Leo’s house. As for the cost... are you sure?”

“Yes. I would not like it if someone else paid for me...”

“Very well...”

“Mr. Takumi is so modest... He should just leave it to me.”

In the end, it seemed like nothing would be decided, and so Sebastian had to come to help me.

I was still a little worried about how large the house would end up being, but I would leave it to Sebastian.

Mr. Ekenhart was very insistent about paying, since Ms. Claire and some servants would be staying there... And so I compromised, and agreed to pay half of it.

As the project had not even been started, we didn’t know how much it would cost in the end, but I heard the estimate, and was relieved that it was something I would be able to pay.

Though, it was high enough to surprise Mr. Haines... But I had a lot of money left from making the herbs.

And I hadn’t used money recently, outside of buying some things for Liza. And there was no reason to think I would lack money in the future.

Even when considering that I would be paying employees as well.

“It’s not modesty. I just don’t think that I should rely on the duke’s house for everything.”

“Is that so? I don’t mind doing it. So I still think you should just leave it to me.”

“Father, some people do not appreciate you adding so much pressure on them. I think you need to practice some restraint.”

“Well, I suppose. Very well. Then we will do it as Mr. Takumi requested.”

It seemed that in this world, people didn’t really refuse offers often. And so Mr. Ekenhart was quite puzzled by my reaction.

As Ms. Claire said, some people would take it as him having high expectations for them...and that pressure would weigh heavily on their shoulders.

Though, I tried to not think about it too deeply...or not at all... Regardless, it reminded me how much he was from the upper class.

Would Ms. Claire become like this one day, when she succeeds him?

“By the way, Mr. Takumi. The journey to the forest will be on the day after tomorrow. Is that alright?”

“The day after tomorrow? Yes, that is fine. Did you hear that, Leo?”

“Wuff! Wou-wou?”

“Kyu...”

Once we were finished talking about the house, Sebastian told me of their plans for going to the forest.

The day after tomorrow...I supposed that meant that Mr. Haines would leave tomorrow, and so would have just enough time to prepare.

Leo nodded to me in reply and then turned to Sherry.

I think she was saying, 'time to fight for real.'

Sherry nodded and looked quite crestfallen... Would she be alright?

Leo wanted her to go on a diet and regain her instincts, but... Well, I'm sure that she wouldn't put Sherry in any danger.

Besides, I would be there, as well as Mr. Ekenhart and the guards.

"Do you mean the fenrir forest?"

"You know of it, Mr. Haines?"

"Yes. Though, I have never been to it... But it is not so far away, so I have heard stories."

While Sebastian and I were talking about the forest, Mr. Haines suddenly raised his voice.

Yes, it was called the fenrir forest.

Most people did not travel too deep into it. And so though it was well known, it made sense that Mr. Haines had never been there.

"...Is it not dangerous?"

"Ah, yes. It is dangerous for the average person. While fenris are rarely sighted, it was still where we found Sherry. Also, there are orcs, trolls and other monsters."

Mr. Haines was right to be concerned.

Orcs could hurt you if you let your guard down, but trolls were worse.

And so even if you had guards with you, it was still a dangerous place to step foot in.

Mr. Ekenhart nodded at Mr. Haines, and then he explained that he knew how dangerous the forest could be, which is to say, he did not think it was that dangerous at all.

Leo would ensure that no fenrirs bothered us.

Leo would also make quick work of any orcs or trolls that might show up.

Fenrirs were submissive towards Silver Fenrirs. It was their instinct.

And Leo had assured me that even if they did attack, they were merely small fry.

I had already seen her defeat trolls easily in the forest, and then again on the road to Range village.

It was the kind of sight that would make children cry...

"I see... With good Leo..."

"Mmm. With Leo, the forest will be perfectly safe. Of course, we won't rely on her alone. I have my own guards, and we will be careful... After all, the goal is for Tilura to..."

Was it really important to say that much...? I wondered, but I suppose he wanted to boast about his daughter as well.

The people on his lands would probably feel safer if they knew that their lord had people who could hunt orcs.

Not that much time had passed since Range village was attacked by orcs, and so hearing all of this helped put his mind at ease.

Chapter 449

I suggested that I make Loe

“Wuff! Wuff!”

“Mama is so amazing!”

“Leo is so impressive! I cannot fall too far behind. I will work hard with my sword training!”

“Kyau...”

Leo barked proudly, saying that it was indeed safe to go to the forest.

Mr. Ekenhart and ms. Claire watched with a smile.

Liza, Rosalie and Tilura were also very impressed with her.

However, Sherry was clearly not enthusiastic about going to the forest...

Also, Ms. Anne looked a little scared... Even when sitting at a distance, she was scared of Leo.

Regardless, the peaceful dinner ended, and we relaxed with some tea.

“Ah, that’s right. Mr. Ekenhart. And Sebastian.”

“Hmm? What is it, Mr. Takumi?”

“What is the matter?”

After tea, I went out into the garden in order to train before going to bed.

But as there was something on my mind, I decided to ask them first.

In the meantime, Leo stayed with Tilura and Liza.

Sherry was apparently tired from running during the day, and so Ms. Claire took her to bed.

“I was just thinking... What about growing Loe in large quantities.”

“Loe? But that will cause chaos in the market. Sebastian said that you already knew this.”

“Yes. I told Mr. Takumi this before. And those who are negatively affected might target him if they lose money.”

“Uh, yes. I am not saying I want to flood the market with it. However, it is such an effective herb, so it would be convenient if it was more widely available...”

“Hmm. It is true that there are many people who could be helped... But what are you thinking about?”

Loe was a rare and expensive herb.

I had once heard that it had the same price tag as a house.

And I had used Loe myself when fighting the orcs, and treating the villagers.

After seeing the effects, I understood why someone would pay that.

It could heal a fatal wound in seconds.

Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian were concerned that making them readily available would cause the market to crash and prices to plunge.

And that would result in sellers of Loe holding a grudge against me.

But I wasn't thinking about selling it, but using it effectively.

With a herb that useful, even if we didn't mass produce it, there was no way we could not do something with it...

...Especially since I or the people around me could get hurt.

"Well...I could give some to the guards who protect this house, as well as the town guards... I think it could help during an emergency. Especially since some of them might face monsters and criminals."

"...I see. It's true that guards and soldiers are often wounded. And sometimes, they are hurt so badly that they can no longer be soldiers. Or they might even die."

It had been like that in Range village as well, but if you fought against monsters and criminals, then there was a risk of being injured.

Unlike in Japan, anyone could get a weapon here, so you could not let your guard down.

Nick had only had a knife, so I had not been too worried. But Deam was different.

He had wielded a longsword, and its weight had nearly knocked me down.

Had that been directed at the guards, then it wouldn't have been strange for someone to be injured.

In that case, I thought they should be able to use Loe for treatment.

It would help to decrease instances where they were permanently maimed and had to retire.

"However...there are dozens of guards here. And over a hundred in Ractos... I do not think there will be enough to..."

“Well, I’m not saying that there has to be enough for everyone. I just think there should be some in stock in case of emergencies.”

“Hmm... I suppose that would be possible...”

“And so...while I will have to discuss the matter with others and decide on the amount, they can be stored in the necessary locations and be used whenever there is someone who is badly wounded... That is my idea.”

“It will still be a large amount... I am not sure it is realistic.”

“Hmm. If it is only reserved for those who are badly injured, it might work. It is expensive because it is rare. There are times when it is not even sold in large cities. If it is only that much, we should be able to cover the cost.”

“Indeed. ...I thought that Mr. Takumi was thinking about selling Loe to all the soldiers on your land. Hohoho...”

Chapter 450

It was decided that I would grow more Loe

“Oh, I wouldn’t do that... I’m just making them with Weed Cultivation, so there is no need to charge anything.”

Loe was so rare and expensive here, that a store having even one was considered a big deal.

Because of this, it was possible that you could not acquire it when it was needed. Besides, it would be too expensive for individual soldiers.

And it seemed wrong for people to have to risk their lives and put themselves in danger, just to buy herbs to treat their injuries...

I suppose it would be like insurance.

By having some Loe in stock, they might be able to help certain soldiers who are badly injured...

Mr. Ekenhart was talking about paying for them, but I didn't have any intention of selling them at a high price or anything.

The duke had been very kind to me, so I was happy for an opportunity to repay him, while also helping other people.

"No, Mr. Takumi. You cannot expect me to receive them for free? Besides, we already have a contract in place. And so I will pay the wholesale price at least."

"Indeed. And it will probably still be cheaper than other places."

"Really? But I wanted it to be a show of my gratitude to you and the soldiers..."

"No, no, no. The fact that you can produce them at all is enough. Besides, if we're talking about shows of gratitude, it is I who should be doing something for you, Mr. Takumi."

"Yes, it is as His Grace says. You dealt with Deam and Range village, and lowered the price of Ramogi to cure the disease...on top of finding the source of it. It is we who should be thanking you."

Is that so?

But they were allowing me to live in this mansion, and the people of Range village had given us delicious wine and treated me well.

They had also accepted Leo...

I had known nothing when coming to this world. Without Ms. Claire and the duke's help, I could not imagine what would have happened to us.

We might have just died in the wilderness... At least, we would not be living as comfortably as we were now.

...Especially because, up until now, I had lived without relying on others as much as possible.

Still, while we had only been here for a few months, we had accomplished quite a lot.

I suppose I didn't think about it much, as it was mainly due to this sudden ability I acquired.

No, more than Weed Cultivation, it was Leo's involvement.

"However, there are also the herb fields... I just don't know what I would do with more money..."

"Well, I don't see how that is a problem. In any case, I understand your suggestion now, Mr. Takumi. We will now be able to get reasonably priced Loe, and the soldiers will be a little safer. And you get to make more money. It is all positive then."

Mr. Ekenhart didn't seem to think that having too much money could be a problem. But for starters...where would I put it?

There were no banks, so I couldn't make a deposit and withdraw it when I wanted... That meant I had to keep it all by myself.

I had never had so much money before, and if I converted it to Japanese yen... No, I didn't want to think about that... It would be a scary number compared to what I made as a salaryman.

Mr. Ekenhart was a duke, who governed lands and owned businesses. And so he was used to managing his money. But I just felt anxious.

At least I had Leo with me, and everyone in the mansion could be trusted... Still, I was getting to the point where I would have to think about where I kept my savings.

Well, I would have to spend a lot to build the house... But it would be something I had to think about soon.

"What's the matter, Mr. Takumi?"

“No, it is nothing. So, the Loe will be sold at the wholesale price. But as for how much will be needed...”

“You will have to wait for that. I will figure out which locations should store it, and then calculate how much will be needed. Still, are you quite sure? You could sell them for a little higher...”

“Very well, I will wait. But as for the price, I am fine with it. I already feel like it’s too much.”

“You are so modest, Mr. Takumi. Most greedy merchants would have tried to sell for as high as possible.”

As I was deep in thought about the money, Mr. Ekenhart brought the conversation back to the Loe.

I had no intention of being modest, like Mr. Ekenhart said, but... I suppose I looked that way to some people from this world.

I just had this perception that things should be discounted when buying them in bulk... And so I actually wanted to lower the price even further.

In the first place, I hadn’t made the suggestion so that I could make a profit.

The biggest reason was for the people and soldiers...

I suppose it was not a mentality that was suited for a merchant.