

Beloved Dog 491

Chapter 491

Tilura fought for the first time

“Gyuo!? Gyuuaaa!!”

“I won’t let you! Hyah!”

The orc was angry after being cut, and so it raised its left arm defiantly. But upon seeing this, Tilura swiftly swung down with her sword, cutting off the orc’s arm at the elbow.

It was the easiest attack for Tilura, and since the orc had stopped, it was probably not too hard to cut through the arm.

“Gyuaa! Gyuo, gyuo!”

“I will end it now!”

“Ah...”

“Hmm...”

“Gyu!? Gyuu...gyu...”

“Ah!? Oh...oommph...hmmp!”

After losing its arm, the orc was surprised by the pain, and then seemed confused.

Realizing that victory was hers, Tilura held her blade in a backhand grip, and stabbed the orc in the stomach.

And while the orc flapped its arms around, it lost the rest of its strength before it could hit Tilura. The light left its eyes as it crumbled to the ground.

As the sword was too deep, Tilura could not pull it out in time, and so she followed it to the ground.

It was no wonder, as she did not let go of the sword.

She had tried to hold her ground, but the orc was too heavy, and her face fell on the orc's stomach.

She probably hit her nose... Well, I'm sure she was fine, as the orc looked soft.

"Wuff-wuff. Wou!"

"Ah, good Leo... I did it, didn't I...?"

"Wou-wou!"

Now that it was clear that the orc was defeated, Leo came running back to Tilura.

She then barked happily while running in a circle.

Tilura raised her head and pulled the sword out from the orc. Even she seemed almost puzzled by what she had done.

I suppose it was because she had been so nervous.

"I did it! I defeated the orc!"

"Wuff!"

She then got down from the orc and shouted excitedly with Leo.

It was a little dangerous that she didn't sheath her sword again, but I suppose it was fine since Leo was with her...

"Mr. Takumi. What did you think about the last part?"

Asked Mr. Ekenhart.

Apparently, he had felt the same way as me.

"...Indeed. Yes. While the orc had died, if the wound was not as deep, or the orc was stronger, it could have hit or grabbed her with its right hand."

"Mmm. She was good up until that point, but..."

"Well, it was her first fight, so she probably panicked a little. And wanted to end it quickly..."

"Yes."

"But she is happy now. So even if you have to warn her...perhaps it could be done later..."

"...Yes. I will let her enjoy her victory for now. I can talk to her later."

Yes, while Tillura had tried to end the orc quickly by stabbing its stomach, she was so close to it that it could have unleashed a final attack.

If you want to finish it off, you should make sure that it can't be countered. She had been told this many times during her training, but must have forgotten.

Mr. Ekenhart looked conflicted, while he wanted to be strict, as a father, he also wanted to celebrate with his daughter.

Once he decided to put it off, his expression relaxed, and he smiled while watching Leo and Tilura.

As for Ms. Claire, she was also watching Tilura with a smile.

“Father, sister, Mr. Takumi. I did it!”

“Yes, yes. You did. Well done, Tilura!”

“Yes, that was impressive.”

“You fought well, Tilura.”

After celebrating with Leo, Tilura then rushed towards us and made her report.

We all smiled and praised her.

Well, as I was a fellow student under Mr. Ekenhart, I was in no position to say anything, but I was still happy for her.

“Tilura, did you get hurt at all? It looked like you dodged the attack, but...”

“Yes, I’m fine, sister! I didn’t get hit at all!”

“You dodged it perfectly, Tilura. Neither I nor Mr. Takumi could have done it like that. You made good use of your size. Well, you won’t be able to do it eventually, but...”

Ms. Claire wiped the blood from Tilura’s face and sighed with relief.

She really had been worried about her sister after all.

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Sherry’s Turn was Last

Mr. Ekenhart didn’t say anything about the finishing blow, and just praised the way she had dodged the first attack.

He was so happy, which showed how important Tilura was to him.

“Wou-wou!”

“Kyau!”

As I watched them celebrating, Leo, who had been dragging away the dead orc, now returned and barked at Sherry as if to say she was next.

And after seeing me, Tilura and Leo do it, Sherry was quite confident now, and was eager to do it.

As for the orc that Leo had cleaved into two, the butler and maid had also taken it to the river to drain it of blood.

While there were many of us, at least we wouldn't have to worry about food for some time.

“...Well then. Leo.”

“Wuff! ...Wuff. Wou-wou, grau-wuff!”

“Hmm... Phillip. She says that near the area where you found the orc that Tilura fought, there is one lone orc that is separated from the others.”

“Understood. If it is close to the same spot, we should be able to find it quickly. Perhaps it went looking for the others and then got lost. While orcs sometimes live in packs, they are not good when it comes to acting as a group.”

After being asked by Mr. Ekenhart, Leo nodded and sniffed the air as if searching for the presence of orcs.

Sherry was standing next to Leo. Her usual, relaxed attitude was gone, and she was glaring angrily at the forest.

While she was about as big as a medium-sized dog, she was a fenrir, and certainly looked the part now.

When compared to Leo, they looked a little like parent and child. Though, the color of their fur was different.

Once Leo found the orc, she reported to me, and I relayed the information to Phillip.

As it was in a similar place as the previous one, I did not need to point them in the right direction.

As for orcs not liking to move in groups...that was understandable.

While it wasn't like they lacked intelligence completely, they moved mostly by instinct. And so they would attack humans or other animals as soon as they saw them.

Back in Range village, they had even attacked the horses. And there were no signs of them moving with any sense of unity.

Thanks to this, I was able to buy time by shocking them with light magic, but...things might have been completely different had they been more organized.

"Sherry, do your best. But don't do anything reckless, okay?"

"Kyau!"

After Phillip went into the forest again, Ms. Claire called to Sherry, who was waiting next to Leo.

I could tell by her expression that she was worried about her familiar.

I didn't know if she was as close with Sherry as I was with Leo, but they were still like family now.

"Sherry. I was able to do it, so you should be fine!"

“Kyau!”

And then Tilura talked to Sherry after that.

I wasn't really sure if it was a good argument, given that Tilura had trained diligently, while Sherry was always lazy... But I suppose it was fine.

She was a fenrir... And Sherry was nodding cheerfully.

“Wuff...”

“She seems really confident but, will she really be fine, Leo?”

“Wuff. Wou!”

“I see. If you say so.”

Leo had been scratching her ears and yawning.

Perhaps you should be a little more concerned... I thought. But Leo stated plainly that there was no way that a fenrir would lose.

After all, as a species, their strength was too different to begin with. A fenrir would be bored when facing an orc.

Well, while I didn't know if Sherry would be able to move like most fenrirs, I suppose she still would not lose.

But though I trusted Leo, it was also hard to imagine that she was so strong that there was no way that she could lose.

But Mr. Ekenhart and the others were here too, so it would probably be fine...

“Kyau!”

After talking with Leo and waiting for some time, Sherry, who had been glaring at the forest, seemed to notice something, as she suddenly barked.

Upon hearing this, everyone except Leo looked a little nervous as they turned to the forest.

And then a moment later, Phillip and the other guard came slowly out of the forest.

So they weren't running this time...

“As Leo said, there was a lone orc. And so we lured it out here. This one is not so angry, and so it is walking more slowly.”

If it wasn't excited, and not close enough to charge into the enemy, then they moved slowly...so it had that much intelligence. Well, that might be instinct as well.

If that was the case, then I wish they had lured it out slowly for me as well... But then again, there had been two, so they killed one first. So not angering it would have been difficult.

I suppose the reason why orcs had some of the lowest intelligence out of monsters, was because once they got angry, they would just attack anything without thinking...

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Leo gave Sherry some advice

“Wou.”

“Kyau.”

As Phillip and the guard came out of the forest, they were followed by a single orc.

Upon seeing this, Leo barked once, and then Sherry nodded and moved forward.

It was hard to imagine that this was the same Sherry that was always resting on Leo's head, or being carried by Ms. Claire.

Even if she was young, she really was just a fenrir.

“Gyuo!?”

The orc was surprised to come out of the forest and see so many people.

The fact that it did not turn around immediately and run at the sight of Leo, was proof of its low intelligence.

“Grau!”

“Gyuo!”

Sherry moved forward a few steps and then barked at the orc.

I didn't even know that she could make such sounds... Just then, the orc turned to Sherry and went into a combat stance.

Apparently, it had recognized her as an enemy.

“Grau!”

“Grrrrr... Gyau!”

From behind, Leo told her to go, and then Sherry pounced on the orc.

And she was shockingly fast.

And while she wasn't as fast as Leo, who I could barely follow with my eyes, it was clear that she was still quite a threat.

As for the orc that was now in its combat stance, it looked similar to the previous orcs, but its eyes were locked on Sherry.

Would Sherry be like Tilura, and nimbly move under the orc's arms? As we all watched with bated breath, it happened...

“Gyua!”

“Kyaaan...!”

“...”

“Wuff...”

While Sherry had pounced on the orc with plenty of speed, she had not been running first.

And so she was unable to change her trajectory. While the orc had been watching her movement carefully, and so it was able to smack her with its right arm.

We were all speechless.

Except for Leo, who sighed with exasperation.

“Kyau...kyu...”

Sherry landed several meters away. And though her fur was covered in dirt, she was still clear-headed and barked as she got back up.

With her paws planted firmly on the ground, she rose up...and then turned to us for some reason.

Her expression...had none of the bravery of before. She was looking at us with pleading eyes as if she wanted help.

“Uh...”

“...Should we help her?”

“...”

Mr. Ekenhart did not know what to do.

While Ms. Claire looked like she was trying to hold back the urge to rush towards Sherry.

Probably, she knew that it would only be more dangerous, she the orc was still there.

However, not everyone here was so calm.”

“Sherry! I will help you! Just wait... Huh?”

“Wuff-wuff...wuff...”

Tilura had rushed out in order to help Sherry.

It was too fast for me, Mr. Ekenhart or Ms. Claire to react. However, when she ran past Leo, Leo grabbed her by the collar and raised her into the air.

It was like how she had carried Liza yesterday... In any case, it was a good thing that she stopped her.

“Leo, but Sherry! She is in danger!”

“Wuff-wuff. Wuff!”

“Ah, thank you, good Leo. Tilura, while I understand that you want to help, you should not charge like that without thinking.”

“But, Sherry...!”

Leo barked for her to calm down, and then handed her over to Mr. Ekenhart.

But even then, Tilura still wanted to go and help Sherry.

She was very kind.

“Leo, is she really fine?”

“Wuff-wuff. Wuff!”

I asked Leo while Tilura was caught by Mr. Ekenhart.

Leo nodded to me reassuringly, and then she slowly walked over to Leo.

And as she moved, she glared at the orc, to make sure that it stayed away.

Even though it did not run away, it finally felt some fear now that Leo was focused on it.

“Mr. Takumi... Is Sherry really alright?”

“I don’t know. But...Leo seems to think she is. So let’s trust her.”

“Yes...”

Ms. Claire must have been quite worried, as her right hand squeezed my left hand.

My heart beat a little faster, as it was so sudden, but I squeezed back in order to help calm her.

“Thank you...Mr. Takumi.”

“Not at all...”

“Oh...?”

I heard Mr. Ekenhart’s voice, and so I looked back towards Leo and Sherry.

“Wou!”

“Kyu...”

For a moment, Sherry looked relieved to see Leo arrive, but then Leo barked at her.

She was likely angry.

Sherry looked disappointed, and barked back weakly.

“Wou-wou. Grau? Wou-grau-grau!”

“Kyau? Kyu! Kyu!”

“Wuff-wuff?”

“Kyau!”

They had moved their heads close together and seemed to be talking. But as they were far away, I could not hear them.

While Leo seemed to be scolding Sherry...it seemed like she was telling her to not think of slicing it open? That there were other ways to do it?

Sherry seemed to think about this for a moment, and then suddenly became cheerful again.

It was quite the change from before.

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Sherry's fight ended

After they barked at each other a few times, Sherry nodded confidently.

When Leo saw this, she bent forward and picked up Sherry by the neck with her mouth and then...

“Ah...”

“Grau!”

“Kyaaaauuu...!”

She threw Sherry at the orc!

“Gyuo!? Gyuu!”

While the orc looked surprised at first, it quickly raised its right arm again in order to attack.

It seemed like the same thing would be repeated...what would she do?

“Grrrr! Kyau!”

“Gyuo!?”

Sherry let out a growl as she flew through the air, and then she shrunk her body as if to store energy.

And when she was almost within reach of the orc, she barked loudly.

In the next moment, something like cold, blue air came out of Sherry's mouth.

It hit the orc's right arm, and immediately froze nearly half of it.

Was that...Sherry's magic?

Now that I thought about it, Sebastian had once said that fenrirs could use fire and ice magic.

“Gyu! Gyu!”

“Kyau! Kyau! Kyauuu!!”

“Gyuuuu!! ...Gyu...”

While the orc was stunned by the magic, it desperately tried to move its right arm, but it was frozen solid to the elbow, and would not move.

In the meantime, Sherry landed on the ground and continued to unleash her magic.

Similar rays of cold air hit the orc. Its left arm, both legs, stomach, neck... In the end, even its face was frozen, and it stopped moving completely...

Freezing it with magic... Was it similar to what Leo had done to those trolls while rescuing Sherry...?

“Kyu? Kyu! Hah! Hah! Hah!”

“Wou!”

After unleashing the chain of attacks, Sherry looked at the orc and tilted her head.

And when she saw that it was no longer moving, she jumped up and then turned towards us while wagging her tail excitedly.

“Mr. Takumi... Did Sherry do that...?”

“Yes. She defeated the orc. ...Please go to her. You too, Tilura.”

“Yes, of course.”

“Yes!”

Ms. Claire had been blinking with disbelief.

Still, she nodded, and along with Tilura, rushed towards where Sherry was waiting.

“Magic, eh? ...What do you think, Mr. Takumi?”

“What do I think...it’s amazing. I can’t use magic like that yet...”

“Though, the magic itself is not that strong. Well, it is still impressive...especially to do it over and over again...”

“She kept doing it until it was completely frozen. ...I think it was more than ten times.”

“Yes, indeed. ...She is a fenrir, after all. Even the young ones are capable. It would be much more difficult for a human to do the same thing.”

Mr. Ekenhart had been watching his daughters go to Sherry, but then he suddenly turned to me with a serious expression.

Of course, I was only a beginner with magic, so there wasn’t much I could say about it.

Mr. Ekenhart was mostly impressed that Sherry could use magic multiple times in a row.

I had not really thought about it before, but when humans used magic, they had to chant. So most would not be able to cast a spell ten times in an instant.

You would have to learn to use magic without chanting.

Though, gathering the magic energy was also hard... I really had no idea how much work it would take to do the same thing that Sherry just did.

But since Leo was a Silver Fenrir, maybe she could do even more amazing magic in rapid succession?

...She probably could... She was not surprised at what Sherry did. She just nodded as if it was obvious.

But I didn't want Leo to demonstrate, and so I did not mention anything.

Though, it might be a good idea to prepare a place later, so that Leo could use magic and unleash her stress.

Though, it was likely that it would exceed my imagination and surprise me...

Chapter 495

The orc was separated

"As she is a fenrir, I had high expectations for her growth. But she is already strong enough at this point. ...It is like Claire already has a powerful guard."

"Indeed. Well, I'm not sure the other guards will be happy to hear that..."

"If that happens, then I will just put them through training again. And they will be confident."

If Sherry was with Ms. Claire, then she would be able to protect her like a guard. This was something that Mr. Ekenhart was quite pleased with.

Though, the self-esteem of Phillip and the others might take a hit... Well, there would always be a need for human guards, so it would be fine.

In any case, once I make the herb fields in Range village, Ms. Claire would probably have to travel back and forth regularly, so it was good that she had someone who could protect her.

Though, Ms. Claire didn't see Sherry as a guard, but more like part of the family.

It was not too different from Leo and me.

"Sherry, you did very well! Good girl!"

"Both Sherry and I did our best! We defeated the orcs!"

"Kyau! Kyau!"

"Wuff-wuff."

I smiled while listening to their conversation, and then I walked over to the frozen orc.

"It's frozen solid... Can this be melted?"

"Wuff?"

"Well, you're going to eat it, aren't you, Sherry? Surely you can't eat it unless you defrost it first."

"Kyau!?"

I knocked on the orc to confirm that it was frozen solid. Leo then looked at me and tilted her head to the side.

While you could probably melt it with fire...that would take time. And it will be lunch time soon...

"Wuff-wuff."

“Kyau!? Kyau. Kyau!”

Leo was barking admonishingly, and Sherry replied frantically.

Apparently, she had told Sherry that since it would take time to melt, Sherry would not be able to eat.

Well, Sherry had done her job in defeating the orc.

And we had plenty of other orcs that the rest of us killed, so we could just trade one of them.

“...Kyu!!”

“Oh?”

As I was about to make this suggestion, Sherry suddenly moved.

She turned to face the orc, and then pounced on it with angry eyes.

While it wasn't as fast as when she was fighting, it was still quite strong.

“Ahh...”

“Wuff?”

There was a loud smash, and then the frozen orc tipped backwards.

And while its legs were frozen, it was not fixed to the ground, and so it toppled over easily.

And with a great noise, the orc's body was smashed into multiple pieces.

“Oh...”

“Kyau!”

“Wuff...”

“Woah, it is separated...”

“So it was a good thing that it was frozen...?”

Sherry stood up on the largest piece, its stomach, and barked proudly.

Upon seeing this, everyone looked a little put off.

Even if it was frozen, it had been alive a moment ago.

And so all kinds of things were visible.

Well, at least it wasn't bleeding.

...And I was glad that Liza was far away... It wasn't the kind of thing that she should watch.

“Everyone, lunch is ready! This time, it is the orc that Lady Tilura hunted!”

“Oh, I'm looking forward to it.”

While the orc that I had defeated was drained of blood and processed, it was fit for eating. But since this was Tilura's first hunt, we decided to eat that one first.

This was so that she could really feel and enjoy her victory.

After we all helped to cut it up, Ms. Lyra did the cooking.

While I felt bad about always relying on her, Ms. Lyra was the only one who was a good cook here.

Sebastian and the butlers could not cook, and the guards could only make simple meals. And Mr. Ekenhart, me, and Ms. Claire could not cook either.

Perhaps we should have brought some cooks... But they had chosen people who were free to go to the forest, so it could not be helped.

Even Ms. Johanna could not cook, as she had focused solely on her training.

Most people would have done the same in her position, so it was fine...

“If I tried to cook, I would burn everything!” She stated flatly.

She sounded so confident that I ended up laughing, even though it was rude.

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We discussed our mistakes after lunch

After hearing about Ms. Johanna’s skills with cooking, Ms. Lyra agreed to teach her before they went to sleep.

Along with the other maid that was forbidden from using the seasoning.

I wanted to join them, but apparently they were going to do it in their tent.

...I suppose I could just learn from Ms. Helena directly?

“This is delicious! Is it really the orc that I killed? Thinking about it makes it even more delicious!”

“Sister Tilura’s orc tastes good!”

As I thought about the food, Tilura and Liza quickly accepted their plates and started eating.

Apparently, food really did taste better when you hunted it yourself.

I had no experience hunting, but I had gone fishing once. And I still remembered that it tasted amazing.

And you didn't get to experience such things often. And I was thankful for my uncle, who took me there.

"Thank you, Ms. Lyra. It was very delicious."

"Not at all. Besides, you should be thanking Lady Tilura. Everyone was more impressed that they were eating something that she had caught."

After lunch, I thanked her while we cleaned up.

As I did not cook, I was sure to show my gratitude.

Tilura and Liza became sleepy after eating, and they were not leaning against Leo.

Ms. Anne and Sherry were with them as well.

Speaking of Sherry, since the frozen orc had been buried in the ground, Leo decided to give one of the other orcs to her.

The idea that she could only eat what she caught was just to make her focus on fighting, and was not a strict rule.

"Haha. Everyone is very fond of Tilura. But I hope they also enjoy the orc that I killed as well."

"Hehe. It will be fine, Mr. Takumi. We all know that you worked hard."

And like that, we finished cleaning up.

The other maids and butlers helped as well.

Even Mr. Ekenhart helped to wash the plates, claiming that he was good at it. I didn't know if that was a good thing for a duke.

As for Sebastian and the guards, they were not nearby, as they had gone to the forest to collect the orcs.

Of course, we had Leo check the forest in advance, so there was no danger of encountering any monsters.

Ms. Claire was petting Sherry and Tilura as if to praise them while they leaned against Leo.

"Now, since we have finished eating, it's time to talk about how you all did."

"Yes!"

"Yes!"

This was after a short rest.

Tilura and I sat across from Mr. Ekenhart. And Sherry was also sitting on a log.

Even though she had been sleepy after eating, Tilura was wide awake again and listened to her father intently.

As for Leo, she was carrying Liza on her back and swimming in the lake.

She made sure that Liza was carried above the water, and they appeared to be having fun.

Ms. Anne was looking at the unprocessed orcs grimly.

Apparently, she had never seen them being drained of blood before, and was a little shocked.

Ms. Claire seemed exasperated by her reaction.

“First, Mr. Takumi. The way you dealt with it was good. However, you should also think about what would happen if you didn’t stagger them with magic. It would be fine during the night, but the effect is weakened during the day.”

“Yes. If the light did not work, then the charge would have been fast. So I would have likely tried to weaken it with my sword first.”

“Hmm. Still there is only so much you could do, when you’re passing by it. And you cannot block it head on with your blade. Besides, the orc might change directions. And some monsters use weapons. It’s important to look at your opponent carefully and predict what they will do.”

“Yes!”

During the day, blinding someone with magic was less effective.

Still, it worked this time, because the light was focused, similar to a flashlight, and I had aimed at the orc’s eyes.

As for cutting it while it passed, it was fine because the katana was very sharp. But otherwise, it might have been in danger of breaking.

And so it was a strategy that wouldn’t work in every scenario.

As for weapons, I had seen trolls with clubs, which they would surely attack and also guard with.

In any case, as Mr. Ekenhart said, I would have to look at my opponent carefully, and think of ways to win, or at least, not lose.

Chapter 497

Tilura was told her mistakes

“Next is Tilura. First, it was impressive how you avoided the orc’s arm swing. As I said before, you may not be able to do it once you grow taller. But I commend your flexibility of thought.”

“Yes! I managed to dodge it!”

Had I tried to do it, I wouldn't have been able to duck low enough, and would have hit the orc's arm. Or I would have gone too low and fallen to the ground.

That would mean I could not attack afterwards, and the orcs would be able to hit me.

“...However, the last part. There is a problem with that.”

He had avoided saying this earlier, as Tilura was celebrating. But since we were now talking about how to improve, Mr. Ekenhart was going to tell her.

“...I thought it was fine, because it had stopped... Was that wrong?”

“As the orc had stopped due to pain and surprise, it was fine to continue attacking. However, if you are going to deal the finishing blow, you should do it when you are certain. Like Mr. Takumi, who stabbed it in the back while it was on the ground.”

“Hmm...”

Tilura seemed like she didn't quite understand what he was saying.

As Mr. Ekenhart and I had been watching from far away, we understood the situation. The orc had been making a last attempt to attack, while the sword was stuck into it.

But since Tilura was close to it, and the sword was deep into the orc, she might not have seen its raised arm.

“Tilura, you might not have seen it, but... The orc was moving its left arm as if it was about to do something. Had it had just a few more seconds of life...you might have been hit. And even if it would likely be a weak attack, it is best to avoid any such injuries.”

“...Yes.”

Tilrura now realized her mistake and nodded.

As fighting was serious, he had to be strict regarding the small things too. But I thought it was impressive that Tilura was able to do so much at this age.

None of the children I knew would have been able to fight with a sword like she did.

Well, this was a world of monsters... So it was different.

“Also, there are things to consider about what happened after as well.”

“After...? Uh, do you mean how I tumbled down with the orc?”

“Mmm. Well, since you were facing just one enemy, I don’t really mind. But that would have left you open if there were other enemies.”

“But... As I had pushed the blade in so deep, I couldn’t pull it out again...”

“If you cannot pull out the sword, why didn’t you just let go of it?”

“But...then the weapon...”

“Yes, you wouldn’t be able to fight without it. But it is just a tool. It is not important if you are in danger. You need to think about yourself first. There may even be times when you will have to throw your weapon at an enemy and run. Well, that is an extreme case.”

“Yes...”

I nodded in agreement at this.

It was similar to what Sebastian had told me when teaching me magic.

You had to prioritize protecting your own life, think of the right actions, and act on them.

Throwing your weapon and running was kind of like using magic to stun an enemy so you could escape.

Even though Tilura had trained, she was still a child.

And so she could not match the power of a monster or adult.

Perhaps knowing that she could not fight well without a weapon, she was more hesitant to let it go.

Still, Mr. Ekenhart wanted her to think about protecting herself, and not just winning.

While Tilura had been happy about defeating the orc, there were more reflection points than she was expecting, and she nodded despondently.

“...Still, while there were some mistakes, you did good for your first time... Very well. Some people get so nervous that they cannot do anything. Well done, Tilura.”

Indeed. While Tilura had been nervous for most of the day, after talking to her and letting her play with Leo...she was fine. But then she got nervous again.

But in spite of that, she was able to move fine as soon as the battle began.

Perhaps she was good when it counted... It might mean that she had the qualities of a good leader. Or was I overthinking it?

Chapter 498

Sherry wanted advice as well

After praising Tilura, Mr. Ekenhart got up and walked over to her and patted her on the head.

“...Ehehe. Father praised me.”

“I’m happy for you, Tilura. ...You could have done it a little less awkwardly?”

“...It cannot be helped. I am not very good at praising my daughters.”

Even though there were reflection points, Tilura was happy to be praised by her father, and laughed cheerfully.

Well, it was true that Mr. Ekenhart usually lived far away, in a different house, so perhaps he did not have much opportunity to act like this with them...

“Now, I think we covered everything...”

“Kyau! Kyau!”

“So you really want to join, Sherry?”

“Kyu!”

After letting go of Tilura, Mr. Ekenhart was about to bring the meeting to a close. But then Sherry started barking.

As Liza and Ms. Claire were not present, I didn’t know what she was saying, but she was likely objecting to the fact that she had been left out.

Mr. Ekenhart must have thought so too, as he asked her, and Sherry nodded.

She had been sitting next to us the whole time...so it was not really surprising. Still, what advice could she be given?

Sherry had only fought the orc because Leo made her do it. But I suppose her fenrir instincts had kicked in, and she was now more enthusiastic about fighting.

But it was just a few days ago that she was always with Ms. Claire or playing with Leo.

Perhaps coming to the forest had awakened some of her wild instincts... Though, I wasn't sure what humans like me and Mr. Ekenhart could tell her.

"Hmm...indeed...though, monster battles are...not quite the same as fighting with a weapon."

"Kyau?"

You don't know? Sherry seemed to ask, as Mr. Ekenhart thought with a serious expression. But it could not be helped.

While Mr. Ekenhart was a master swordsman, and was used to fighting against monsters, when it came to how a monster should fight... and fenrir...he would not know.

He might have some knowledge, but I doubted it would be much use to Sherry.

And while I didn't want to disturb her while she was playing, it was best to ask Leo.

"...I will go and call Leo. She will now. And she was already giving some advice earlier. Besides, we need Liza or Ms. Claire to understand what Sherry is saying."

"Indeed... Thank you, Mr. Takumi."

I made the suggestion to Mr. Ekenhart, and then walked over to the river.

Leo was near the center and splashing around, doing the doggy paddle. But she made sure that Liza did not get drenched.

"Hey, Leo! Come over here!"

"Wuff? Wuff! Wou!"

"Papa! Kya! Ahahaha! That was amazing, mama!"

After I shouted towards her, Leo looked towards me. Then her legs touched the bottom of the river, and she jumped!

While still riding on Leo's back, Liza laughed happily. It was like she was on an amusement park ride.

"Wuff?"

"Sorry to disturb you while you're having fun. But I need to ask you some things regarding Sherry. Will you come?"

"Wuff."

"I'll go too! I want to talk with Sherry."

"Of course. In fact, it will help if you are there."

Leo had landed perfectly right next to me, and then turned her head to the side questioningly.

I apologized and then asked her to come with me, which she agreed to.

Liza also wanted to come, which meant that I wouldn't have to call Ms. Claire.

But first...

"Uhh... Ah, there you are. ...I'm sorry, where are the towels...?"

"Mr. Takumi. For Leo, yes? I will do it, so you can take Liza."

"Thank you."

Perhaps Leo would dry quickly in front of the fire, but I didn't want to take her there soaking wet.

And so I asked a maid for a towel, and she offered to dry Leo for me.

In the meantime, I dried Liza's tail, which had gotten wet.

"Wuff..."

"Kyaha!"

Even while she was being dried, Leo shook her body to shake off the water.

And as always, it went flying everywhere.

Chapter 499

Liza interpreted

"The tail really absorbs a lot of water..."

"It was heavy. Thanks, papa!"

While it could not be dried completely with just a towel, I was able to get most of the water out. The fire would do the rest.

Later, I might have to brush her along with Leo, so their fur returned to their normal state.

...Well, they would just go back into the river again. So that would have to be after we returned to the mansion.

"Sorry to keep you waiting."

"Wuff."

Liza and I helped the maid dry off Leo, and then we returned to the bonfire where the others waited.

Sherry was now sitting on Tilura's lap and yawning lazily.

But when she saw Leo approaching, she jumped down and sat upright next to her.

"Sister Tilura. Is the meeting finished?"

"It is for me. But there is still Sherry left. And so we were waiting for you and Leo."

"I see!"

Liza went and sat on Tilura's lap.

She had been curious about what we were talking about.

While Liza was smaller than Tilura, they were not that different in age, and so it seemed awkward...

But they were both smiling and seemed to be having fun at least.

"Now, we will discuss the earlier battle, as Sherry requested."

"Wuff-wuff."

"Kyau!"

"So, where should we start... Yes, how about when Sherry first charged into the orc?"

"Kyau! Kyau! Kyau!"

"Sorry Liza. Can you tell us what Sherry is saying?"

"Uh, she said that since everyone went towards the orc, she did the same!"

“Hmm...I see...”

So, Sherry hadn't done it to gain any advantage. She just copied Tilura and me...

While she had decent speed and momentum, I had thought that she would slash with her claws or bite, like Leo... But she hadn't been thinking about that.

Hmm...

“Look here, Sherry. You do not have a weapon, do you? Well, you can bite people, I suppose... But you need to think more before jumping out like that. Understand?”

“Wou! Wou! Grau! Wuff! Grau-grau!”

“Hmm, that's right! Whether you use claws or fangs, there were other ways, like jumping when you are closer, or jumping higher! That's what she said.”

“Kyau...”

“She said...yes.”

In spite of being far away from the orc, Sherry's first move had been to jump towards it.

It would have been fine if she could move like Leo, who was so fast that the orc couldn't even move. However, the orc had its eyes fixed on Sherry, and was able to swing its arm.

As Mr. Ekenhart said, she should think more before acting. And Leo's advice about jumping when you are closer, or biting, also seemed like it would be more effective.

Well, like Tilura, this was Sherry's first battle. So perhaps it could not be helped that she would rely on instincts and be reckless...

“As for your movements, I'm sure Leo will have plenty to teach you later. Isn't that right?”

“Wuff!”

“Kyau...”

As the way that fenrirs moved was too different from humans, Mr. Ekenhart did not have any advice for her.

But Leo would teach her instead.

Upon hearing this, Sherry recalled how she had been made to run endlessly through the garden, and she did not sound enthusiastic.

Would she also practice jumping, slashing and biting? I kind of wanted to see that.

“So...and then you were hit by the orc’s arm and knocked away... And so I suppose I should ask you. Are you alright, Sherry?”

“Kyu?”

“Well, it seemed to hit you quite hard. And you fell on the ground...”

“Kyau...kyu! Kyu!”

“She is saying that she’s fine.”

Mr. Ekenhart was concerned about whether Sherry was injured when being struck by the orc.

Now that I thought about it, she had been hit quite hard. We had forgotten, because the shock of Sherry using magic in rapid succession was so strong.

Still, if she were a human, she would have probably been hurt by that.

However, Sherry tilted her head as if puzzled.

And after having it explained to her, she barked and then ran around us as if to show that she was perfectly fine.

While Liza interpreted for her, it was quite clear just by watching.

There was no trace of any injury, and she was the usual, energetic Sherry.

Chapter 500

The reason that Sherry was not injured

“Hmm...I guess it's because she is a fenrir. To not be injured after being hit so hard...”

“Wuff. Wuff-wuff-wou!”

“Uhhh, she says that fenrirs are able to protect themselves by enveloping their bodies in magic energy. That's why she wasn't injured.”

“...That is...so she is like Leo then...”

“Wuff. Wou-wuff-wou-wuff. Wou-wou-grau-wuff.”

“While true, it's not as strong as a Silver Fenrir, she says. That's why Sherry was hurt by the trolls.”

“So she can guard herself against orcs, but not trolls. Well, they can easily destroy a human's body...”

Now that I thought about it, I had heard that Leo could not be injured when being hit by a sword, because of the magic energy within her fur.

And so when training, we never had to worry about hitting Leo. Even Mr. Ekenhart seemed to be doing it quite seriously during the mock battles.

So I suppose Sherry had something similar.

As for the trolls, I had seen one on the way to Range village, and the way it attacked with its club and thick arms...like Mr. Ekenhart said, they would be able to destroy a human with ease.

Sherry's leg had been broken when we first found her. That showed how powerful the attack was.

And yet such an attack was still nothing for Leo. It was no wonder Silver Fenrirs were considered to be the strongest monsters.

"Ho...both Leo and Sherry are amazing!"

"Kyu, kyuu?"

"Sister Tilura... Sherry is saying that she isn't as amazing as mama...I mean, Leo."

As Tilura muttered in awe, Sherry turned to her and barked.

And then Liza interpreted it for her.

"As Leo is a Silver Fenrir, it is obvious that she is amazing, but I think fenrirs are impressive as well! If I was hit by that same attack...I wouldn't be able to stand again..."

"Indeed. While I don't like to think about it, you would definitely have been injured if hit by that attack."

"Yes, yes. And so Sherry is amazing too!"

"Kyau...kyu!"

"Wuff..."

"Kyau..."

As it was just a simple attack, it probably wouldn't have killed Tilura.

But she would have still been hurt. And perhaps if she was unlucky, it would have been a grave injury.

It was her first fight, and she was not used to pain, so she might not have been able to move. So it was impressive that Sherry was unhurt, and able to continue the fight soon after.

Perhaps it was because she had already been hurt once, and was used to the pain. And it was possible that fenrirs did not feel much pain to begin with.

In any case, Mr. Ekenhart nodded at Tilura's reaction.

...As a father, he did not want to imagine Tilura getting hurt.

"Well, in any case, it was a good thing that Sherry was a fenrir. So that is why Leo kept saying that a fenrir would never be defeated by an orc."

"Wuff-wuff. Wuff-wou-wou. Wuff."

"She is saying that it's one thing if the fenrir can't move, and there is a group of orcs attacking it... but if there is only one orc, then it's no problem!"

"...But such a situation would be very rare. In general, it would be best to think that an orc cannot beat a fenrir. And Leo knew this, so she made Sherry fight the orc."

"Wuff...wuff..."

"Uhh...she is saying that she still didn't expect Sherry to jump out without thinking..."

"Kyu..."

Well, Sherry was still young, and had been separated from her parents before she could learn to hunt.

So even if she had the will to fight, she did not know how.

...But it seemed like Leo felt that you should know by instinct.

Leo had originally been a small Maltese, so she shouldn't have known how to fight either. But as soon as she turned into a Silver Fenrir, she was able to fight orcs with ease.

That had been quite a surprise... Perhaps becoming a Silver Fenrir had affected her instincts.

In any case, I sat next to Leo and petted her, so that she wouldn't be too harsh on Sherry.

"As for fighting, she can learn from you and from experience. So don't be too hard on her, okay? Also, she did well with the magic."

"Wuff...wuff."

I said while petting Leo.

As someone who had only started learning magic recently, I had been very impressed with Sherry's magic.

Mr. Ekenhart had also been surprised by how she used it in rapid succession, and it was very effective against the orc.

Leo barked as if to say that it could not be helped.

Would she be easier on Sherry now?

Sherry was sitting next to us, and looked like she was relieved.