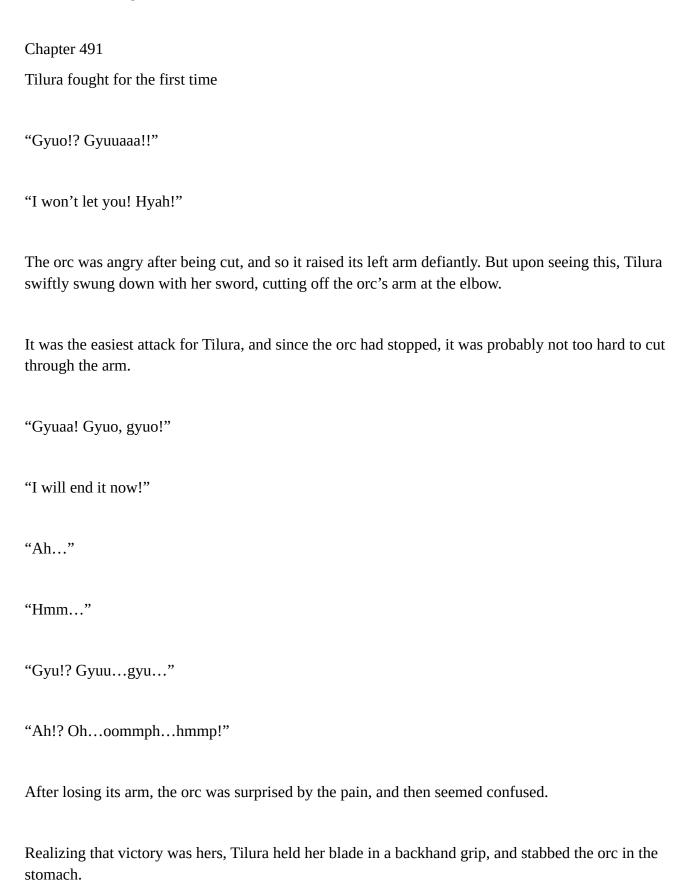
Beloved Dog 491







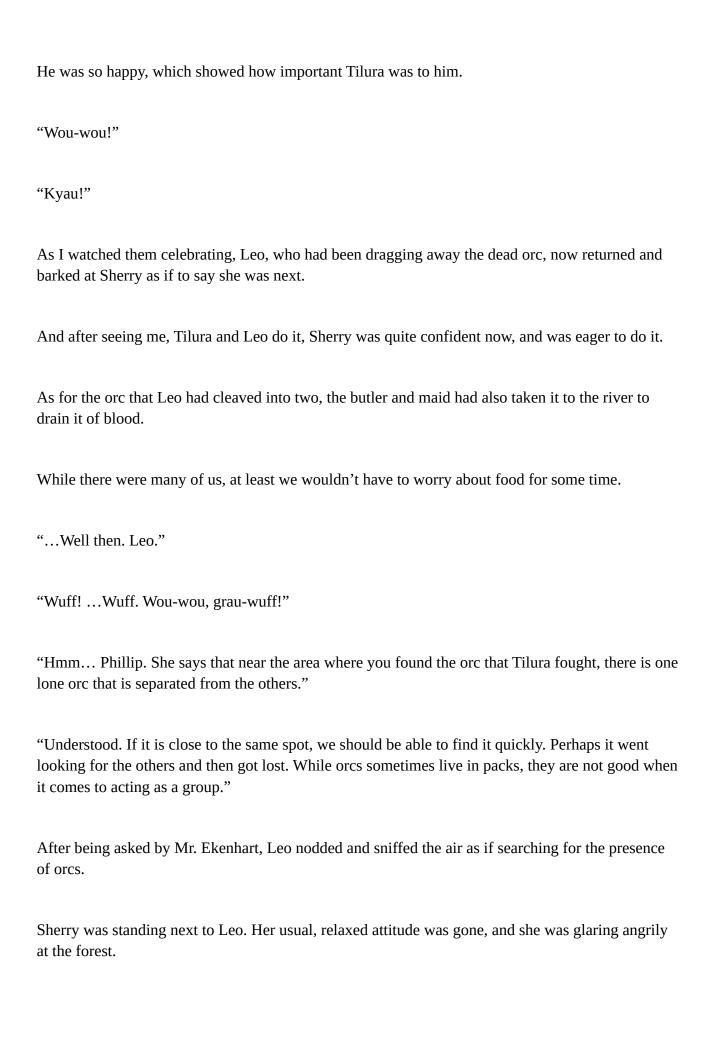
Yes, while Tillura had tried to end the orc quickly by stabbing its stomach, she was so close to it that it could have unleashed a final attack.

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.





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!"

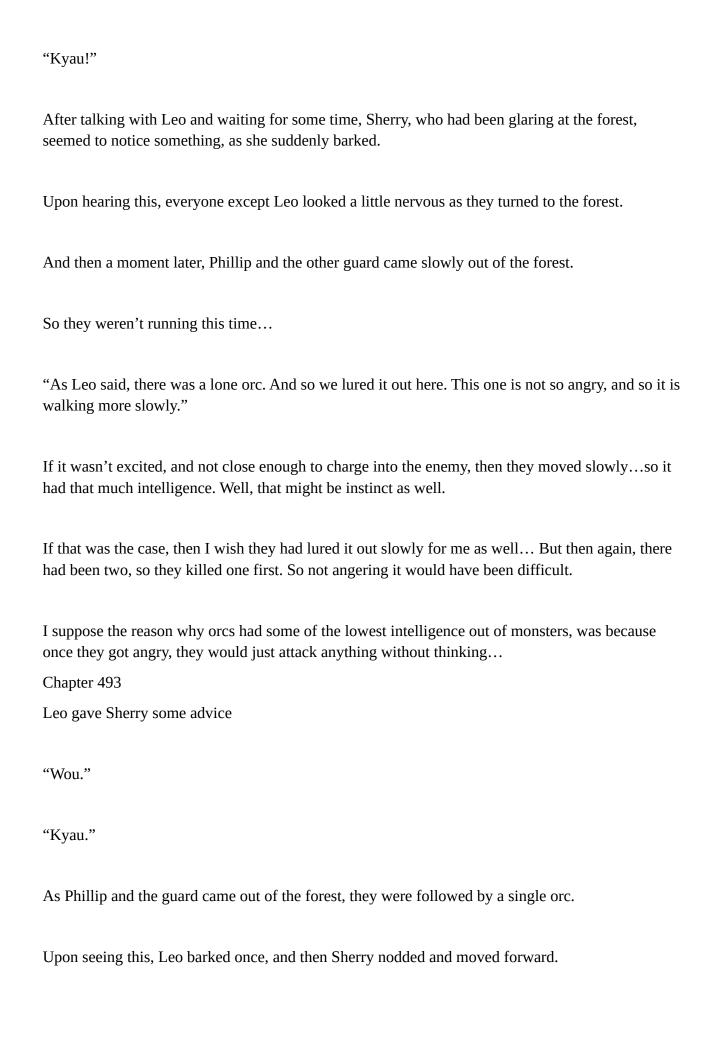
After Phillip went into the forest again, Ms. Claire called to Sherry, who was waiting next to Leo.

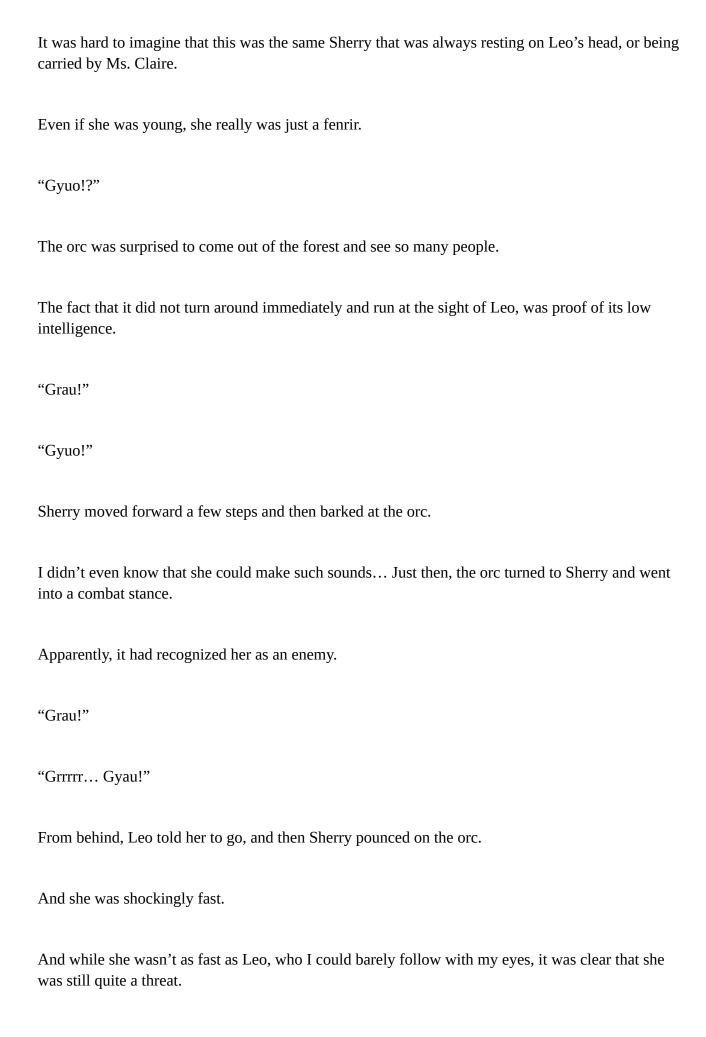
I could tell by her expression that she was worried about her familiar.

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!"







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...

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"Gyua!"

"Kyaaan...!"

"..."
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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.

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"Kyau...kyu..."
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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.



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"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.
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"Thank you...Mr. Takumi."







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"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.
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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."

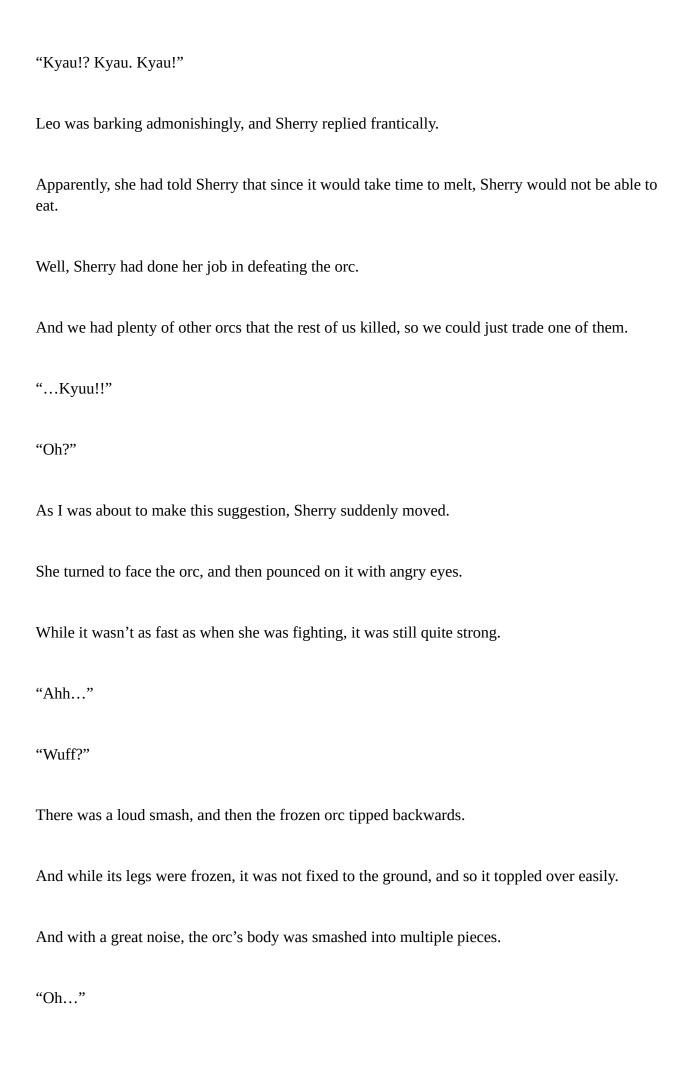
"Indeed. Well, I'm not sure the other guards will be happy to hear that..."

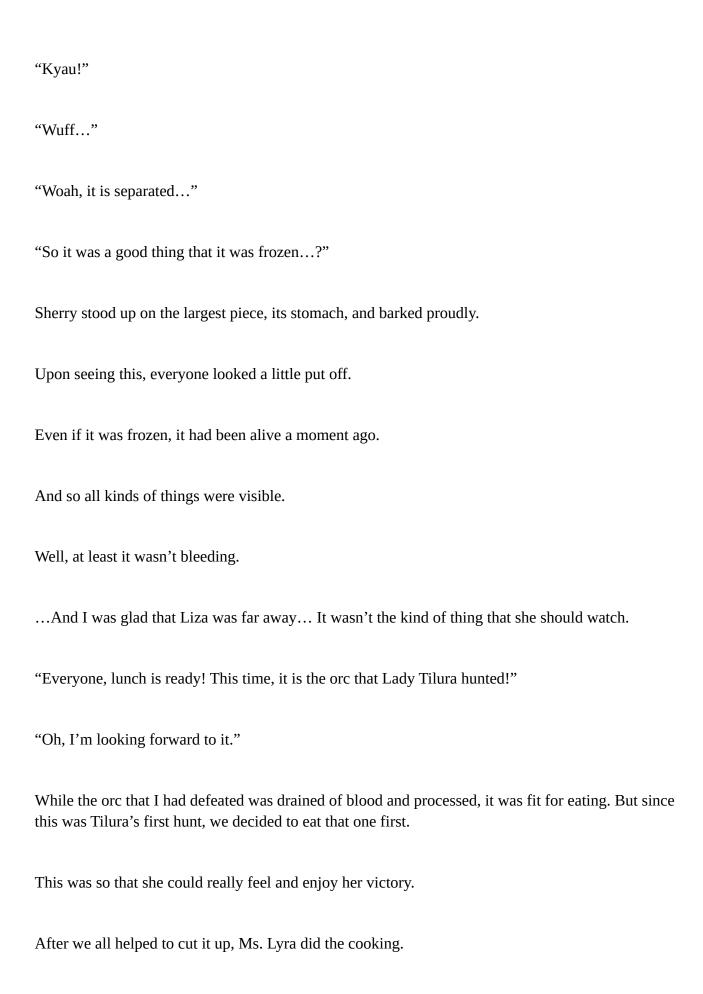
"If that happens, then I will just put them through training again. And they will be confident."

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.







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.

Chapter 496

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?"
"Butthen 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!"







"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?"



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..."

"Kyuu..."

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.