

## Beloved Dog 691

Chapter 691

I made suggestions about personnel

“However, if you’re going to build an inn, then there will need to be people to run it.”

“Hmm, that’s true... I’m sure there are plenty of people searching for work, so they should not be hard to find. Though, they will need to be trustworthy. After all, any trouble caused with customers could affect the reputation of the whole village...”

Well..I had an idea when it came to personnel.

The idea came to me a short while ago. And there shouldn’t be any problem with it...

“Excuse me, Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian. There was something I was thinking about, considering this subject.”

“Oh?”

“You have an idea?”

“Well, I heard that many of the servants at the mansion were originally from the orphanage in Ractos.”

“Hmm. Yes, Claire sees them directly and determines whether or not they are suited for the post.”

“Indeed. Some of them have come from the main house, but recently, we hire from Ractos. And in my experience, the ones from the orphanage have all been hard workers.”

“Yes. And I found out after rescuing Liza, that they are overcrowded at the moment...”

"I have heard that as well. And so you think we should consider hiring people here, instead of just for the mansion?"

"Yes, but I don't think there will be many of them?"

"True... It depends on how many people Mr. Takumi and hire later, but it should be about ten at the most."

Obviously, they would have to be old enough, and have a degree of knowledge about the work they would do. It would be much too difficult for us to have to teach everything to all of them.

Still, even if we could hire a few, and make more space at the orphanage, it would still not solve the problem, as they would likely become full again.

"Um...why don't you just invite some of them here? Not necessarily for the mansion where they would work for me or Claire."

"You mean the new inn?"

"Yes. That way, more people will be able to work. And there will be space in the orphanage...for those children..."

"Like the ones that the guards rescued during the Deam incident?"

"Yes. There are like many other children there in the slums..."

"...Sebastian. Do you have any idea how many there may be?"

"No... There is too much traffic both in and out of the town. So we could never know the exact numbers. However, this could lead to there being fewer children there, decrease the size of the slums as well."

"Indeed. While I could use my power to do something by force, it would only be temporary, and the problem would just continue... That would not solve anything. Not in a place like Ractos. Of

course, Mr. Takumi's suggestion won't change things immediately either. But it will help make things better, little by little."

"Yes, while it isn't a complete solution, it will still move things in a good direction. I am impressed, Mr. Takumi."

"Not at all. I was just thinking about ways to make space there...not trying to solve the larger problems of the town."

While Claire and Mr. Ekenhart had thought of it before, it had been difficult, as if it was officially the duke who was acting, then some people might think that it was unfair.

Well, since I had deep ties to the house, it might still cause some to complain. But it would be less troublesome than if Claire did it.

In any world, there were always people who harbored ill feelings, just because the person they were dealing with was a person of authority.

## Chapter 692

My suggestion was accepted

As for what I had said, it was mainly based on what I had seen and heard at the orphanage, or what other people had told me.

When we went with Liza, they told me that people usually left when they were of age. However, some ended up staying, like Milina. In her case, it was because she had not found suitable work.

Part of the reason that I wanted there to be more space in the orphanage was because I had seen children like Mark in the slums.

If they were able to enter the orphanage and eventually find places to work, it would decrease the number of them who resorted to crime.

Of course, we could not just take all of them to Range village directly. People would worry. But it would be a different story if they were hired after being in the duke's orphanage.

They would receive a proper education there, and would hopefully change for the better.

“Once we return to the mansion, I shall contact them.”

“Good. I will leave that to you. You and Takumi can take care of that.”

“Yes. And I would like to visit the orphanage again. We will work things out.”

I had wanted to stop by before coming to Range village, but we didn’t have enough time.

It would have been nice to talk to Ms. Anna.

“...First, I thought it was only going to involve making herbs. But it is expanding already.”

“Indeed. I think with your advice, Mr. Takumi, things will become more active within these territories... It is not just herbs, but there is also the wine and medicine, after all. Who knows if it will all go well, but there will be so much to do...”

“Yes, we must do our best. If Ractos and the surrounding area are doing well, it will help with the reputation of these lands. Other towns and villages will be affected as well. And so we must make sure that things go in a good direction.”

Mr. Ekenhart and the others had helped me so much. And there were people in Ractos who had helped me as well.

Whether or not I could do something for all of them remained to be seen. But if I could help with revitalizing the place, and make people happy, it would be worth the effort.

Huh? I had been meaning to just plant some herbs and live leisurely with Leo and Liza, but... Was I going to be terribly busy?

...No, surely not... Yes.

“Ractos is a key point, but the duke’s lands are also quite influential within the kingdom, and so its development will be celebrated. Yes, yes. I will sit back and enjoy seeing how things unfold.”

“Your Excellency, I told you about the kingdom’s decision. You must return for now.”

“Ah, that’s right... How troublesome. Are you sure? Why did this happen...”

“It’s because of you. You made the decision. I believe in the past, someone pretended to be you and relayed false information.”

“Hah... Back then, there was still a lot of chaos due to the war. And so we had to be more cautious. I suppose I could come up with other ways to prove that a message is from me... But I’m too lazy. Nevermind. Let us go then.”

“Yes. I am sure that the others of the royal family are eagerly waiting for your return. Uh, but Your Excellency, first...you must visit the count...no, the viscount.”

“Ah, there was that as well. Yes, we must get that over with. Hmm...and there are other lands to visit.”

“Indeed. While they may not all be like the former count, we cannot visit all of them...”

“Well, we should at least hear stories about them. It might be more useful than actually seeing them? Because people always hide their true nature anyway. I will gather information and then let someone else handle it.”

“...It would be faster if you did it, but... Hah...”

Ms. Lugretta let out a sigh, but Mr. Euto had already made his decision.

Looking at Mr. Ekenhart, you might think that nobles cared about their people. But humans were greedy creatures. And so there were probably plenty that only thought about their own profits, and who were happy to torment their people.

“You remind me of the Vice-shogun.”

“What’s that?”

“Uh, a historical drama. He went around and punished local governors for their misdeeds...”

“Ah! I remember that! Indeed. I suppose I could just show my crest to prove who I am... But I will also have to fight...”

“Fight, Your Excellency? I don’t think... Unless you use magic.”

“How dare you! When I am doing my best!”

## Chapter 693

They asked for seconds

“That was you doing your best, Your Excellency? You do not need to force it. You have your strengths. Just like I have this sword.”

“Uh... But I want to fight with a sword as well...”

Mr. Ekenhart had said that Mr. Euto was not talented though, so Ms. Lugretta was probably right to react as she did.

But even if he couldn’t match a Silver Fenrir, he had the Gift and magic. So he should be satisfied.

“Hey, Takumi. Don’t you agree? As a man, I want to fight by swinging around a sword!”

“Well, I understand the appeal... And I am training with Mr. Ekenhart. But it’s not because I want to look cool, but for protection.”

“Yes, you should have a way of protecting yourself. Even if you do have Leo.”

“You would have to be quite a fool to attack someone who has Leo... But I suppose such people exist.”

I would have to be careful to stick close to Leo.

But even if that was not possible, I would probably be quite safe if I had a guard, like Phillip with me.

But Claire could take Sherry anywhere... Well, until Sherry grew bigger, anyways.

She would be like Fen and Riruru one day.

“Wuff-wuff!”

“Hmm... What is it, Leo?”

As I was talking to Mr. Euto and Ms. Lugretta, Leo suddenly barked to get my attention.

When I turned around, she was holding a large plate and looking at me with expectation...and wagging her tail. So she wanted more.

“I guess you’re still hungry... But that was all we had. It was hard enough feeding everyone...”

“Wuff... Wuff! Kuun...”

“You can show your stomach, but it doesn’t change anything...”

“Haha! I am surprised to see a Silver Fenrir acting like this as well! Of course, knowing the situation, I suppose it makes sense.”

As she used to be a Maltese dog, Mr. Euto nodded with satisfaction, but Ms. Lugretta was surprised.

“Mr. Takumi, should I ask the villagers to make more?”

“Hmm... You could... But I don’t want to spoil her too much.”

“Papa, I will make it!”

“Wuff-wuff. Kuun...?”

“Well, I suppose if Liza wants to do it. But Leo, don’t eat too much, alright?”

“Wou!”

And so I asked Mr. Hannes, and we gathered more people and ingredients.

As everyone had done it once before, things went quite smoothly.

However, a problem arose once we started cooking them.

“I’m sorry, everyone. At first it was just for Leo, but now we have to make more...”

“No, it isn’t your fault, Mr. Takumi. It’s my husband’s fault.”

Once we started to cook the meat...people were lured in by the smell, and they asked us for seconds.

Well, Mr. Ekenhart, Mr. Euto and Phillip had been the first ones to do it.

I was glad that they liked it, but...

It was still hard work, and we had to do it twice in one day... I might have to eat some recovery herbs for fatigue later on...

Chapter 694



We thought of the field cycle

The next day, we returned to the land where the herbs would be planted, and then with Mr. Ekenhart, Claire, Mr. Hannes and Sebastian, we talked about how large the fields would be.

Like yesterday, Leo, Liza, Tilura and Rahle were playing by running or flying around. And Sherry and Ms. Anne were with them as well. She wanted to get some exercise after eating so much the previous day.

As for Mr. Euto and Ms. Lugretta, they were somewhere in the village, playing with the dogs.

“We are still testing back at the mansion...but the fields should be on the small side, and separated depending on what role.”

“Yes. A place for me to use Weed Cultivation to grow them. And then another place for them to multiply. And another place with soil with added nutrients, for the next batch.”

“Well, there will be plenty of space left in that case... Also, if the fields are too small, it will take a long time to make a lot of herbs.”

“However, if we make too much, then Mr. Takumi might faint.”

“Also, there won’t be much time in between if it is only three fields. They grow in just a few days, don’t they? But the soil might not be ready...”

“In that case, we should have a few extra fields prepared, and they can be used in order.”

We talked like this for some time, and it was decided that we would prepare ten fields.

Considering the nutrients in the soil, it might not be enough. But we would just have to wait and see... If it turned out to be no good, then we could just make more fields.

Unlike farmers who grew vegetables, we were making plants that were not very large. And so the fields should not have to be too big

“Also...it does not have to be too large, but... I want a personal field that I can use as well. I still want to experiment with Weed Cultivation, to see what other things I can make. And as Mr. Ekenhart suggested before, I want to have some herbs in stock.”

“Are you sure, Mr. Takumi? You might get overworked again...”

Claire looked at me with concern.

I had fainted before, so it was no wonder she was worried...

“It’s fine. I won’t push myself too hard. I’ve done a lot more work back at the mansion. So I should be fine.”

“If you say so... But do be careful.”

“I will. Thank you.”

If it turned out that I was overextending myself, then I would just do it on my days off.

I wanted to avoid situations like my previous job, where I was overworked. I wanted to take things easy with Liza and Leo.

Also, I wanted time to go to Ractos and speak with Ms. Isabelle or Mr. Kalis. I wanted to eat the food there...with Claire, if she had time.

Though, I kept that last part to myself, as I knew that Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian would immediately jump at the opportunity to make fun of me.

“Wou! Wou!”

“Woah! That’s amazing, mama!”

“Hmm? Is something happening with Leo?”

“They were running just a moment ago, but they have stopped now. Rahle and Tilura are with them as well... Anne is carrying Sherry. But they are a short distance away...”

“Ms. Anne is...still a little scared of Leo. Though, not nearly as scared as she was when they first met...”

“She should be thankful that she didn’t have to undergo the same kind of forceful treatment that I did. She would probably cry...”

After we had finished talking about the herb fields, we noticed that Leo and the others, who had been running around earlier, had not stopped and gathered together. And they seemed to be very excited about something.

Chapter 695

Leo was digging a hole

“Well, let’s go and see.”

“Yes. Since we already finished talking...”

“In that case, I shall move things along, as discussed.”

“Thank you, chief.”

“Yes, I will do my best for the village, and Mr. Takumi. In hopes that it will be a worthy contribution to the duke and all who live on his lands.”

“...Uh, you don’t need to be that serious about it... But I’m sure there won’t be any trouble. Claire will be here as well.”

Perhaps it was no surprise that Mr. Hannes would be so serious about it. But I agreed. Since Claire and Sebastian would also be helping, there was no need for him to feel wholly responsible.

“Wuff... Wou!”

“Woah...that’s so deep, mama!”

“Leo is amazing! Can Rahle dig like that?”

“Kii? Kii!”

“Flying is very different from digging.”

“Kyu?”

“Uh, you want to go inside too, Sherry? Go ahead. I...am too big to go in.”

“...Leo. What are you doing?”

“Wou? Wou! Wou-wou!”

With the others, I walked over to where Leo and the others were talking excitedly.

Leo then turned to me with a proud expression... Uh...she had dug a hole?

“A hole... Ah, so Liza is inside.”

“Papa! Mama said it’s okay to dig here, because there is a lot of space! Isn’t this amazing? Mama dug this so quickly!”

“Leo dug it without using any magic!”

“I see... Well, as long as you are having fun...”

“Wuff!?! Wou-wou!”

“No, I’m not mad. I’m sure it’s fine if you’re doing it in an open place like this... But you still have to fill it up later.”

There was a hole that was about a meter wide... As for how deep, it went up to her chest, so it was probably around a meter as well.

Both Liza and Tilura seemed happy about it. But what was the purpose of digging a hole?

I wondered and asked Leo. But Leo thought that I was upset, and so she shook her head and barked her excuses.

“Still... Now that I think about it, you haven’t dug at all since coming here. So you might as well have some fun for now.”

“Wou!”

Leo was happy after I gave my permission.

That being said, she could not dig them too deep. If Leo got carried away, she would probably start digging holes everywhere. And depending on how deep they were, it could get quite dangerous.

“Did good Leo always like to dig holes?”

“Well, it was a bit of a habit before.”

“I see. Sometimes, Sherry would look like she was trying to dig around her bed. And I wondered why.”

“Yes, Leo did that. I suppose it was when she was restless. Or it’s a way of making your sleeping place more comfortable? Though, she usually failed...”

“...Sherry will often look a little sulky afterwards. So you must be right that they have failed. Hehe...”

Claire laughed at the thought, and I remembered how Leo was when she was small.

She would often try to dig into cushions... I thought it was due to stress, but she would also do the same thing outside. I did some research, and read that it could be an attempt to make a nest.

Of course, it depended on the dog.

In any case, I was just glad that she did not use the same magic she had before. The magic she used to dig a hole when we had to bury that troll.

If she did that here, the hole would have been too big, and everyone would have fallen into it.

Chapter 696

The children enjoyed digging

“Wuff! Wuff!”

“I want to dig too!”

“Liza. Calm down. You wouldn’t want to hurt yourself.”

“Okay, papa!”

“Ah, I want to do it too.”

“Kii? Kii...”

“Tilura... Should the duke’s daughter really be doing something like that?”

“Well, Leo is doing it. And it is just for play. Having fun is what is important. Still, be careful, Tilura.”

“Yes, father!”

“Kyau!”

“You too, Sherry? Very well... Just do what Leo is doing then.”

As Leo started diffing another hole, Liza and Tilura started digging with their hands as well.

Unsurprisingly, Ms. Anne did not join them, but she laughed and watched.

She had started to act like an older sister around Liza and Tilura recently. I suppose it was due to being at the mansion and being close to Claire.

“Yes, yes. It’s good to have fun. There’s nothing like the sight of innocent children playing. It reminds me of when Claire was young. Though, she was also quite the troublemaker. One time, she put balls of mud on my dinner plate and tried to make me eat them... Compared to that, this is nothing.”

“Father! Must you bring up old memories like that? And in front of Mr. Yakumi...”

“Well, such things are hard to forget. Still, if only you had just wanted to show me them...”

“Father!”

I could easily imagine Claire serving her father dirt on a plate. It was no wonder he didn’t know what to do.

What if Liza did that to me? Even Leo wouldn’t eat that. So I would have to figure out a way to get out of doing it...

“Mr. Takumi. What are you thinking about?”

“Oh, I was just imagining if Liza did the same to me.”

“As if I would teach Liza to do that! You are making fun of me too, Mr. Takumi.”

“Haha. Well, your reactions are amusing.”

“Ah, Mr. Takumi. If you want to know what to do when that happens...”

“Father!”

“Oh, Claire is angry. We better drop the subject then.”

“Leo. Don’t dig too deep, alright?”

“Wou!”

After teasing Claire, we watched them playing for some time. Leo would sometimes get carried away, and so I would have to remind her.

One meter was dangerous enough, but if she were to dig deep enough that a human could not get out... It would be very bad if someone fell in and no one noticed.

“Still, Mr. Takumi. If Leo continues to dig holes and fill them up again, it will help to soften the soil.”

“Yes, that’s true. Though, I think that the soil was already quite soft to begin with.”

It had rained not long ago, so the ground was on the soft side. I didn’t know how much of a difference Leo’s efforts would make...but it was probably better than nothing. Well, I suppose I could praise her for it later.

...Even though she was likely not thinking about that.

—

The next day, after eating breakfast, it was time to see Mr. Ekenhart and the others off, as they would be returning to the main house.



It was Mr. Ekenhart, three guards, and Ms. Anne.

However, since a carriage was too slow and boring, they would only be traveling on horseback. I hoped that Ms. Anne would survive.

“Now, Mr. Takumi, Claire, Tilura, Leo... Goodbye for now.”

“Yes, be safe.”

“Please be careful, father.”

“Goodbye, father!”

“Yes. Next time... Yes, I shall visit when Mr. Takumi and Claire’s house is ready. And then we can celebrate.”

“Father!?”

Chapter 697

We saw them off

“I have to start thinking about my grandchildren. Haha! Farewell!”

“Safe travels, Lord Ekenhart!”

The last thing Mr. Ekenhart did before leaving, was to tease Claire...

The mention of grandchildren had made her very red in the face.

He looked like a villain, laughing as he rode away.

“Well, we will be going too, Takumi.”

“Mr. Euto. Goodbye.”

After Mr. Ekenhart’s departure, it was Mr. Euto.

Apparently, he was going to go around and visit the other nobles. It would surely be a long journey.

There were forests and mountains in the way, and so if you did not go through Ractos, then you would have to go around, so a normal journey back to the capital would take a long time anyway.

But according to what I heard yesterday, they would go through mountains and forests in order to arrive sooner. I felt bad for Ms. Lugretta... But with the Gift and magic, it should not be too bad for them.

“I was glad to meet someone from my old home after so long, Takumi.”

“As was I. Though, I never expected that someone from there would be a king here...”

As I had plenty of company with Leo and the others, I was not lonely. But it made me feel good, just knowing that there were others like me.

There was a sense of comfort with having something that I can share past memories with.

“While I’m sure you’ll be fine...be careful. I’ll be waiting for the day we meet again.”

“I’ll enjoy my journey and return eventually. Of course, I’ll be careful. Ah, by the way...”

“Hmm?”

As we laughed and shook hands, Mr. Euto seemed to suddenly remember something.

Had he forgotten to tell me something?

“Since Hart will be here at the same time, I’ll visit once your house is completed.”

“...Uh, are you sure?”

Somehow, I imagined that his journey would take longer than that...

“I’ll manage. I intend to take shortcuts, even if Lugretta doesn’t like it.”

“Hah... I’m used to it now, but I wish Your Excellency would learn to walk on proper roads...”

“Ahaha! But it’s so fun!”

“Climbing cliffs is not fun...”

Ms. Lugretta must have overheard us, as she now joined the conversation with a sigh.

It was one thing if you could walk, even when there wasn’t a path. But a cliff...I could not do that. His Gift and magic really were amazing.

“Well, see you later then, Takumi!”

“Farewell, Mr. Takumi, Lady Claire. And you people of Range village...”

“Yes. You two be careful!”

“Wou!”

Mr. Euto ran energetically, while Ms. Lugretta followed him on horseback.

“Well, I think things will be a lot quieter now?”

“Indeed. While I will not say they are loud...they did like to make a scene. Though, even you would join them in teasing me, Mr. Takumi.”

“Haha. Well, your reactions were cute, so I couldn’t help it.”

“Cute!? ...Oh, you cannot fool me with such words!”

She said as she glared at me. I was no good at lying. Though, I also wondered if she wasn’t used to it by now. Regardless, the part about her being cute was true

“Wuff! Wuff! Kyan!”

“Oh, I thought it was quiet until you showed up.”

“Wuff! Wuff!”

“Papa!”

“Oh! Haha. And now Leo and Liza are here to make things even less quiet.”

“Hehe... Everyone likes you, Mr. Takumi.”

I had heard something barking around my feet, and saw that it was the little Maltese dog. It wanted to be picked up.

As I carried and petted it, Leo sat down next to me, and then Liza came charging, and I nearly dropped the dog.

But after patting them both on the head, Leo and Liza seemed to be satisfied, and they ran off to the other children... How energetic.

The Maltese was still relaxed in my arms... It really did remind me of the old Leo...

## Chapter 698

The Maltese liked Claire as well

“Mr. Takumi, can I try holding it?”

“You, Claire? Hmm, I don’t mind. Uh, like this?”

“No, you can put it on the ground first. That way, it will get used to me.”

“Very well. Down you go...”

“Kuun...”

It had gotten mad at Claire before, when she had tried to touch it. And so she wanted to try picking it up off the ground this time.

“Uh...”

“You should squat down first. So you are as close to its level as possible.”

“Yes...down...”

Dogs would sometimes become cautious if something approached them from high up.

And so Claire bent down and then reached out so that her hand was nearly touching the ground.

It did not need to be that low... As long as it was lower than its nose. But I suppose she did not want to take any chances after last time.

As for the dog, it did not look scared... Well, last time, it was mostly just mad that Claire was interfering.

“Wuff? Sniff...sniff.”

After tilting its head to the side, the dog approached Claire and smelled her hand.

“Ah, Mr. Takumi...it let me touch it!”

“Yes. You should be able to hold it now. But don’t pick it up too suddenly. Pet its head first.”

“Yes... There, there. Very good. Now... Oh, it’s not as heavy as Sherry.”

“Well, it’s a small dog. Smaller than a fenrir pup. This one won’t be very big even as an adult.”

“I see... Hehe. It is very cute. It looks a little like Leo. And so soft...”

After slowly reaching out so that she did not surprise it, Claire succeeded in picking up the dog.

She then smiled as she petted it.

And the Maltese seemed to enjoy being as well...

“Kuunn...”

“Haha. I guess you like me now?”

“Licking a person’s face can have several meanings, but it usually is a sign of affection.”

“I see. Thank you.”

“Kuun.”

The Maltese now understood that Claire was a gentle person. Going slow really was the right way to do it.

“Kyau?”

“Sherry. Be nice, okay?”

After that, Claire took the Maltese to the lunch table, where it met with Sherry.

Unlike with Leo, the Maltese moved close to Sherry’s face and sniffed... They would have seen each other before, but this was their first proper meeting.

Sherry was larger than the Maltese, but closer to an ordinary dog compared to Leo. So it probably just saw Sherry was one of them.

“Wuff!”

“Kyau? Kyuu...”

“It seems to like Sherry. But Sherry doesn’t know what to do...”

“Haha. That was quick.”

After smelling her, the Maltese jumped out of Claire’s arms and onto Sherry’s chair. And then it pressed itself against her.

And while Sherry was a little confused, she did not seem angry. And Claire told them to be friends.

“Oh, what happened to Leo?”

“Ah, she’s digging with Liza and the others again. She really enjoys it.”

After lunch, I spoke with Mr. Hannes. He was curious about Leo’s absence.

Outside, Leo and Liza were almost always with me.

Apparently, they had heard the conversation about how it could help to soften the ground, and they were eager to contribute more.

Still, I had to warn them to not get carried away. They could not dig too deeply, and had to fill in the holes afterwards...

## Chapter 699

We talked about management in regards to the medicinal herbs

As for the digging I cared most about Leo and Liza having fun, and so I would not stop them.

Besides, there were few opportunities for them to relieve stress like this. And they would not be able to dig so freely once we started with the planting.

...But perhaps there would be other places.

“Now then, we should discuss the management of harvested herbs, as well as transportation and selling...”

Said Sebastian, as we sat down with Mr. Hannes and the others.

Though, Claire and I would mostly just be listening for now.

Obviously, they would be separated once harvested. But they would need a place to be stored and turned into medicine.

Right now, we only had Ramogi, which would be mixed with the wine, but we meant to sell other kinds of herbs later. And so a proper place to make the medicine had to be built.

I had imagined something like a small hut, but the others would probably want to prepare a larger building... Well, that was fine, since we also needed storage space as well.

Milina would probably be in charge of concocting...



Nick could be in charge of transportation to Ractos. But we would probably sell them in more places than just Mr. Kalis's store.

As they were talking as if there would be a great quantity of herbs, I was reminded of how much work it would all be.

That being said, the herbs grew at such an alarming speed at the mansion. So in the end, it was really just a matter of using Weed Cultivation.

"Hmmm... What do you think...?"

"Yes... In any case, we must search for people once we return to the mansion. People who know about the lands around Ractos and Range village would be best. Also, the other lands as well."

"Yes, certainly. We will recruit from surrounding villages and gather those who are good with geography."

"Thank you."

Transportation was one of the more difficult matters.

Of course, much of it would involve wagons.

Claire would be quite busy, and could not go every time. And I had to make herbs, and could not leave Range village for so many days.

If Nick was in charge of products going to Ractos, then we needed others to make deliveries to the other towns and villages.

Most people here lived in a small area and rarely traveled. And so it might be difficult to find the right personnel for the job.

"But there is no need to rush, as the fields have not been planted yet. We haven't even secured buyers yet. In any case, we will have to communicate regularly with you, Mr. Hannes, and share information."

“Yes. Of course. I will also be on the lookout. Though, we rarely see new people here.”

“The important thing now is to widen the market... Ractos is fine, but other villages are not used to having a steady supply of cheap herbs.”

“Indeed. They would either gather the herbs themselves, or go out to buy them.”

“Gathering herbs or leaving to other villages is such a hassle. And so they should sell well if we can supply them with it.”

There were hardly any medicine stores in the smaller villages.

And since they tended to be so busy, in most cases, they resorted to going out and picking the herbs themselves.

As for the herbs that had been transformed into an ideal state, most could be saved. And so it would be useful to have them in stock for emergencies.

It was the same with the medicine. Since they lasted a long time... Of course, I suggested that they not be sold for too high a price. Either comparable to other stores or even cheaper.

That way, they would not have to travel to other towns and villages, or spend too much money.

As Mr. Hannes knew what it was like, he was very happy and agreed with this suggestion.

It meant lower profits, but we would still sell enough so that we weren't losing money. And so Sebastian gave his approval as well.

At the same time, he muttered something about hurrying up and calling my butler from the main house, so that he could help to manage these matters...

Chapter 700

We departed for the mansion

“Lady Claire, Mr. Takumi. Good Leo. Please be careful...”

“Yes, thank you.”

“Thank you.”

“Wuff!”

Two days after Mr. Ekenhart and the others left, we said our goodbyes to Mr. Hannes at the gate of the village, as it was time for us to return.

The villagers had also come out to see us off.

“Kyun...kun.”

“Kyau. Kyu-kyu.”

The Maltese was pressing its nose against Sherry and looked very sad. Apparently, it could tell that we were leaving. How smart.

Sherry also barked as if to console it, and they rubbed their faces together.

It had really taken to Sherry for some reason, and the two had been inseparable for the past two days.

When Sherry would join Leo and Tilura with the digging, the Maltese had followed and ended up falling into the hole. And so Leo had to rescue it.

“Sherry. Let’s go.”

“Kyu... Kyau!”

“Kuuun. Wuff!”

“Kyau!”

Claire called to Sherry before she stepped into the carriage, and then Sherry and the Maltese said their goodbyes.

It seemed like Sherry was promising that she would return.

“Now, let us be off!”

“Wou!”

“Rahle, make sure to fly close to everyone!”

“Kii!”

And like that, the carriage moved forward. Just as before, Sebastian was in the driver’s seat.

Liza and I rode on Leo, while Tilura rode on Rahle.

This time, Tilura was the only passenger. Though, Rahle had carried others several times in the village, and we confirmed again that it was safe.

A few days later, we were somewhere between Ractos and the mansion.

As we camped outside and slept in tents...it was not exactly the most comfortable. But we still got enough rest.

“Hmm...?”

“Wuff?”

“What is it, papa and mama?”

As we got closer to the mansion, I saw a familiar figure near the gates in the distance.

It was getting dark, and so I could not see clearly, but...I was quite sure about it.

Awooooo!

The howling came from the gate. It echoed loudly, and the guards and horses suddenly stopped.

“Mr. Takumi. Is that...?”

“They seem to be welcoming us? At least, that is what Leo is saying...”

“I see. And is it...”

“Yes. I think it is. Leo?”

“Wou!”

It seemed like they knew that Leo was with us, and so they had howled...