

Beloved Dog 721

Chapter 721

We decided to ask the fenrirs at a later date

“Well, even with hamburgers, would they really want to leave the forest? We don’t want to force them, you know?”

“Wuff? Wou...”

“Even Leo does not know.”

If the fenrirs agreed to guard it, then of course we would prepare food for them. But who knew if they would agree to leave the forest.

“If it is a place to trade horses, then there will have to be more than one... So there would need to be a lot of fenrirs...”

“Wuff. Wuff-wuff.”

“She says we could gather them from other places. Well, if there are other fenrirs.”

“Well, even if it was just a few places, it would mean fewer soldiers. That will be a big help. Perhaps we should ask them next time they visit. Of course, we will ask them without Leo. The duke’s house will not ignore a Silver Fenrir’s opinion, but at the same time, we would not want to use any force. After all, even if they are monsters, we are able to communicate with them.”

While Sebastian and I thought it would be difficult, Claire seemed to be rather enthusiastic about it.

Perhaps she was imagining the fenrirs at each location.

It was definitely an amusing idea. And like Mr. Ekenhart, she tended to want to do things that sounded interesting.

Besides, I had also once told her that she should act as she wanted. So perhaps she was getting more bold. I was happy to see it.

Though, it didn't mean that it could all be done.

"In any case, as Lady Claire says, we will discuss the matter with the fenrirs next time."

Sebastian could also see that Claire was thinking positively about the plan.

He seemed to be pleased. Perhaps, as someone who had watched her for many years, he had also felt that she had a tendency to hold things in.

"Ah, also... If we really do build such a place, we should prepare extra horses. Even though it will cost more."

"Oh? Why is that, Mr. Takumi?"

"Well, since few people own horses to begin with, few people will want to trade them. After all, horses are expensive, aren't they?"

"Hmm, yes, now that you mention it. Obviously, nobles own horses, and every town and village has horses that people share. So not as many own their own personal horse. Though, merchants are a different matter."

"So that means fewer people using this service."

"Indeed. In small villages, you can usually borrow the horses for free, but it costs money in towns."

Horses cost a lot of money to buy, but you also had to pay a lot to keep them afterwards.

Maintenance fees...

I didn't know how much it cost to borrow a horse, but this was a world of monsters. Horses could get attacked or stolen. So the fee was likely not very low.

“It’s expensive to buy a horse, and expensive to keep one. So only merchants who care about fast travel, and rich nobles would use such a service. And so we should prepare more horses in advance.”

“Why? What do you mean?”

“Mr. Takumi. Are you saying we shouldn’t trade horses, but instead, rent them out? It certainly seems to be what you are suggesting.”

Chapter 722

I was able to speak my mind more

I told them what I had been thinking.

Sebastian was narrowing his eyebrows as if he found the idea very strange.

But Claire...had a more flexible mind, and seemed to understand.

“Yes, that’s right. If people do not own horses, then we should just let them borrow horses instead. We will be able to make more money that way. It should at least be enough to break even?”

“Borrowing... Similar to places where they share horses?”

“Similar, but not exactly the same. Say, if you are heading to Ractos from Range village. And there are post horses in each village and town. You can borrow a horse and go to Ractos, while also changing your horse along the way to save time.”

“I see.”

In reality, it won’t be every village and town. But we didn’t need to talk about that right now.

“When you arrive in Ractos, you can leave the horse with the place that is in charge. Now, sometimes the person may take the horse back to Range village, when it’s time to leave. But that won’t always be the case.”

“Hmm... Have extra horses in every location, and then the borrowed horse goes to a different town... And then the place you borrowed from will get a different horse?”

“Yes. If it all circulates well, that is... It will be necessary for someone to manage and adjust the number of horses.”

Kind of like a car rental service.

A rental horse service, if you will.

Only, this time, you didn’t have to return it to the original place, which made things more complicated.

“That being said, since it is something new, it will have to be managed carefully. And it could be expensive... The horses could also be attacked by monsters or stolen.”

“Well, there are certainly some issues with your idea. Still, it is a very interesting one. Hmm...”

“Yes, there are some issues. But if it was possible, then it would help with the development of this land, and increase the interactions between the towns. Isn’t that right, Sebastian?”

While I had thought of it on a whim, the two considered it seriously.

In my old job, whenever I made a suggestion, it would be shot down violently by my boss. But I knew these people would not do that.

Besides, the point was to give them advice that they could maybe use for other things.

“It’s too early to really say anything... But depending on how it is done, it could be profitable. For the duke’s house and all of the people. Mr. Takumi...this idea. Would you be against some changes to it?”

“Huh? It was merely a suggestion... You can do whatever you like with it. If there are other better ways, those should be pursued.”

“Thank you. We shall give it some thought. And then I will discuss it with His Grace...”

Apparently, Sebastian was looking at it positively.

This really was different from my old workplace...

“Z...zzz...”

“Huh?”

“This sound...”

“Oh?”

After we had finished talking, I heard the sounds of someone sleeping.

I looked at Claire and Sebastian, and then we turned our heads in the direction of the sound. Liza and Tilura were sleeping peacefully while leaning against Leo.

Leo had been sitting earlier, but she was not curled up as if to protect them from the cold.

“I suppose we have talked a little too long?”

“Yes. I was too focused, but now that I think about it, we are in the garden... This is no good.”

“The sun has already set. Even with Leo, they might be cold... Thank you, Leo.”

“Wuff.”

Chapter 723

Rahle still wanted to play

It seemed like we had been talking longer than I realized.

Tilura and Liza must have been so bored that they fell asleep.

After that, Ms Lyra gently picked Liza up and carried her to her room. While a different maid carried Tilura.

As Tilura was holding tightly onto Sherry, it was suggested by Claire that they could sleep together tonight.

Tilura would probably be happy to realize it in the morning. Though, Sherry might be surprised.

“Kii...”

“Rahle?”

“Kii...”

Rahle sounded a little sad as Tilura was carried away.

But as it was not my familiar, I didn’t know what it was saying...

Though, Leo sometimes acted like that, so I had an idea.

“Well, she wanted to sleep. You can play with her again in the morning.”

“Kii. Kii.”

“Mr. Takumi. You can understand what Rahle is saying?”

“No, I can’t. It just gives off a certain air... Right, Leo?”

“...Wou.”

“Leo?”

When Leo was small, she would give me a similar look whenever I would leave for work.

And since Rahle could not go inside of the house, it must feel like being separated from Tilura.

But when I asked Leo, she turned her nose away... Clearly she did remember it.

Well, she was probably embarrassed about it now.

And so I petted her apologetically.

I won’t let that happen again, Leo.

“In any case, Tilura will be well and want to play tomorrow. So you must wait.”

“Wuff!”

“Ki-kii!”

After having Leo chime in, Rhale raised one wing and bowed as if to show that it understood.

“Mr. Takumi. Please don’t stay up too late...”

“Yes, I won’t push myself too hard. You too.”

“Indeed, I will only check a few things tonight.”

“Are you sure?”

“Hahaha...”

After Liza and Tillura were taken away, I stayed in the garden with Leo in order to train.

“Wuff!”

“Ah, sorry. I should finish up so that I can go to bed.”

As Leo was rushing me on, I quickly started my sword swings.

Perhaps she was concerned about Liza...or she was simply tired.

In any case, after finishing the swings, I took Leo to the room, and then I went to take a bath.

When I returned, Leo stretched out comfortably on the floor.

I chuckled and then got into bed before it became cold.

Really, even though she is larger, Leo is still Leo...

—

The next day, after being woken up by Liza, I worked in the herb garden while the others played.

After making enough herbs, I gave them to Milina so that she could make medicine.

While I hadn't taken any to Range village, the servants had started to drink it recently, so we needed more than before. Milina was surprised when she realized how much she had to make, but then assured me that she would do it.

I wanted to help her, but she insisted that it would be good practice for her to do it alone.

Though, I would hire others eventually, so there was no need to try so hard...

Also, as we would take herbs to other places aside from Ractos, I made more of the best-selling herbs, so that we would have plenty in stock.

It would be too late if I only started after the fields were ready. And so once there was enough, Claire was going to see if they could be sold in other neighboring villages.

Well, with Weed Cultivation, the plants could be made at an incredible speed. So it was best to act as early as possible...

Chapter 724

Rahle took a short trip home

"Kii! Kii!"

"Are you sure?"

It was shortly before dinner, and I heard Tilura talking with Rahle. There was a mixture of worry and sadness in her voice.

The reason for this was that we had encountered monsters on the way to Range village.

On the road, trolls had come out of the forest. A lot of monsters had grown restless because Leo was nearby.

And since Rahle lived in the mountain next to the forest, Rahle decided to go and see how things were doing, and possibly advise the monsters to not come out...

Apparently, Rahle been thinking about this idea since yesterday. Perhaps it wanted to be useful in ways other than just flying.

Normally, it would probably be better for Leo to go, since she was the cause of the restlessness in the forest. But Rahle said that it might cause even more chaos.

Tilura had also offered to accompany Rahle, but it was apparently too dangerous.

Even though she could use a sword well enough to defeat ors, Rahle's movements would be quite limited in the forest, and there was no guarantee that it would be able to protect her.

"Rahle. Thank you. Be careful, alright? Not only are you Tilura's familiar, but you are like family to everyone here now. So you should run away if it becomes too dangerous."

"Kii!"

Claire said from behind Tilura. She was clearly quite worried as well.

Upon hearing her words, Sebastian and the other servants nodded in agreement.

They really were kind.

"Wuff. Wuff-wuff! Wuff!"

"Kii..."

"Grau!"

"Kii!"

Leo also raised her voice encouragingly. Well, she said that if it came to it, she would blow away the monsters and the whole forest.

“Kii!”

“Yes, I will do my best as well, Rahle!”

Sometimes, Rahle was like a guardian for Tilura. Well, given the difference in age and size, it made sense.

“Kii! Kii!”

“Rahle! I’ll be waiting for your return!”

Rahle beat its wings and rose into the sky. And for a moment, it circled above our heads and cried.

Tilura waved as she shouted at it.

And then Rahle flew off towards the mountain in the north.

I didn’t know how long it would take, but Rahle had left once before. So there shouldn’t be any problem.

“Will Rahle be alright?”

“Tilura. Rahle just flew away a moment ago. You are worrying too much. Rahle is not so weak as to be defeated by a random monster.”

Claire said with exasperation as we ate dinner in the dining hall.

Recently, they had spent so much time together, so she already missed it.

“That’s true, but... I still feel lonely.”

“I understand how you feel. But Rahle is doing its best. So you must do the same.”

“I know...”

“Wuff?”

“Kyau?”

“I’m here too, sister Tilura?”

“Ahaha! With Leo, Sherry and Liza, I cannot be too lonely!”

Tilura said with a laugh. She would surely be fine... Instead of trying to persuade her with logic it was best for her to be with friends in such times.

“...I am here too... Well, I suppose they are a better time than a noisy older sister.”

“Yes. Friends are often better than family when it comes to encouragement. Especially at that age. Still, I’m sure that your presence is important as well.”

“Ah... You were listening, Mr. Takumi. Sorry you had to see that...”

“Not at all. I know you were just trying to encourage Tilura.”

Chapter 725

It was lonely with fewer people around

“Well, compared to a short while ago, it is kind of lonely, isn’t it?”

“Indeed... Father and Anne were here. And they made so much noise... So the dinner table is a little quiet.”

“Just a little?”

“Oh, Mr. Takumi... I was trying to be nice.”

“Haha...”

While I did feel a little lonely, it wasn't like we wouldn't be able to meet them again. And so there was no need for me or Ms. Claire to think about it too much.

“Mr. Takumi. Recently, the servants seem to be very energetic...”

“Isn't that a good thing?”

“Yes, it is, but...”

A few days passed after Rahle left. I was making herbs in the garden when Sebastian started to talk to me. It almost sounded like a complaint.

Also, I wished he would not sneak up to me like that... But then again, maybe I was the one who should be more aware of his surroundings.

“The thing is, they are too energetic. And I feel like it is causing more mistakes.”

“Mistake? Oh, like Ms. Gelda?”

“No, no. Not that far...”

Sebastian knew all too well how clumsy Ms. Gelda could be.

Sometimes, she would trip and fall over nothing.

Yesterday, she had even slipped and fallen while bathing Leo.

“Small mistakes here and there... It is not a big problem yet, but I am worried that they might make a mistake during an important time. Perhaps I am just being paranoid.”

“Are they not being careful?”

“I wouldn’t say that, but... They are too eager. Like they have too much enthusiasm.”

“Enthusiasm... But why all of a sudden? Also, why are you talking to me about this?”

“Because I happened to see you here. Besides Lyra was not nearby today.”

He didn’t need to come and complain to me just because I was here... But maybe he also wanted to see how the herbs were doing.

As for Lyra and Gelda, they had taken Leo and Liza away to be washed, as the two had been playing in the mud.

I was going to scold Leo for getting carried away and making things even worse, but she was already sad over having to take a bath two days in a row.

Even Milina, who had been helping me pick the herbs, had gone to help them bathe.

“I think the reason is likely the herb fields that will be made in Range village.”

“Really? What does that have to do with the servants?”

It did not seem like it was related to them at all...

“On the list of potential employees that I gave you before. Some of the servants were on it. And some of them wish to be hired by you. In other words, they are hoping that you would notice how hard-working they are.”

“Uhh... Surely it’s much better to be working for a duke than someone like me.”

“Most would think so. But the servants live rather restricted lives here. They have days off, but the town is quite far away. While Range village is not very big, they would have more freedom.”

“I suppose you are right...”

“Especially the young servants. They want to go out more. It’s only when you get older that you would rather rest and take things easy on your day off.”

Chapter 726

I listened to Sebastian’s complaining

Apparently, wanting to be hired by me and leave the mansion was causing some problems.

Ractos was about an hour away by horse, but it would take most of the day if you walked.

And depending on how busy you were in town, it might be difficult to return on the same day.

But on the other hand, there were not that many people in Range village. And it was even more far away from Ractos. It did not seem very convenient to me.

Still, at least there would be people to talk to who were not the people that you worked with all day.

Also, perhaps it was more stressful, working in such an important household... Even though this family was not that strict when it came to such things.

“Also, it would be difficult if they ever wanted a family...or their own house.”

“Ah... I suppose there is little opportunity to meet people like that.”

In that case, even a small village meant there could be a chance that you would meet someone.

And if you decided to marry and have children, it would be easier to do that in the village.

“Another reason is Leo and Sherry. Liza as well.”

“Ah, I see. They are quite popular with the servants.”

Sometimes, when they had free time, the servants would come out in order to pet Leo.

“They like you too, Mr. Takumi. Some even wish they could help you more, instead of it just being Gelda and Lyra.”

“Me? I can’t imagine why...”

“Because you never ask for anything like it is an order. And you have Leo and the Gift. And though you are clearly Lady Claire’s favorite, you do not act self-important. I suppose they can see a stable future under you. Hohoho.”

It was good that when it came to work, they had that kind of trust in me.

Even if the pay was good, if they were made to work endlessly, like I had once done, they might get sick. And the effort would be for nothing.

There was no point in risking your health, even if it was a job that you enjoyed.

“I don’t really know if I am popular...”

“Well, I think most of them would feel more secure if you and Lady Claire were to be together...”

“What!? Ah...I suppose there might be rumors. Are you sure?”

From their point of view, perhaps watching us was like watching a drama unfold.

And while she was the daughter of a duke... Perhaps they still thought of such things...

“Servants are still human. Even I have my own expectations.”

Yes, you made that quite clear, along with Mr. Ekenhart! And I also made myself clear. So there is nothing to talk about.

“Hah... In any case, I understand what is happening now. But what can be done?”

“Nothing.”

“Huh? Then why did you ask me about it?”

“Ah, I just wanted to complain. You can ignore me if you like. As you said before, it’s good that they are motivated. I just have to make sure they are managed properly.”

“...I was going to give it some serious thought...”

“Hoho. It is just idle gossip from an old man.”

...So he was just here to kill some time then.

I didn’t mind just listening to him. However, he didn’t have to make it seem like he was confiding in me seriously...

Though, I suppose it was just my assumption, because he tended to do that.

He was laughing with amusement now. Did he have nothing better to do? The interviews were coming up... Perhaps he just liked making fun of young people to take his mind off of his work...

Chapter 727

I Received the list of potential employees

“Mr. Takumi, here is the additional list.”

“Thank you. But why are there two?”

After we finished eating dinner, Sebastian approached me and handed me two stacks of paper.

They were thicker than the list he gave me last time. One of them was almost the size of a book.

“One is a more detailed version of the previous list. And the other...the larger one, is a list of the people you will be interviewing. Of course, keep in mind that some people are on both lists. You don’t have to look through the entire thing, but I would appreciate it if you gave it a look before meeting them.”

When I looked through the pages, I saw that it contained some of the servants, like before. But there were also others as well. Also people who couldn’t come to the interview.

There seemed to be a hundred pages in all. And each page was filled with information on the person.

Though, things like their age and gender was one thing. But why did it have their height and weight as well? That did not seem necessary.

Was this normal in this world?

As I looked through the list and drank tea, Sebastian brought out another stack of papers.

“This one’s for you, Lady Claire.”

“Me?”

“Of course. As you and Mr. Takumi are in charge of different things, you will also be hiring different people. So you must also consider what kind of people to gather together.”

“I see. Thank you, Sebastian. Still...surely this is too much?”

Her list was even thicker than mine. I wondered where it had even come from. And then I saw that one of the butlers was rubbing his wrists. I suppose he had been holding it.

“And yet I have done my best to narrow it down. Still, when a duke decides to hire employees, it attracts a lot of attention.”

“While I have hired from the orphanage, I have never done anything like this before. It is quite refreshing.”

“As you will be negotiating, you should have people to help you. I think you should ask Mr. Kalis for advice later on.”

Claire was the duke’s daughter and had a good reputation, so it was no surprise that people would want to work for her.

It would probably pay well, and she was so pretty.

Wait... Speaking of pay...

“...Excuse me, Sebastian. I was wondering...how much should we be paying these people?”

“Hmm...I was thinking that you would decide that yourself, while discussing it with your butler. Still, I suppose I should explain it to you simply.”

“Yes. I already pay Nick and Milina, so I understand the system. But I am not sure how much would be best...”

Nick was working seriously at Mr. Kalis’s store, and even helping customers. And so I was paying him a little extra.

As for Milina, she was mainly working for Claire, but she also helped with the medicine as part of her training. And so I paid her a little as well.

Once she started her work officially at Range village, I would pay her a proper salary...

Sebastian said it was not necessary to pay an apprentice too much, since she had a free room and meals.

Still, when it came to hiring other people, I did not know how much to pay. There would be various jobs, some more demanding than others.

And I was going to have a butler too.

I did not want to be stingy, or act like a black company.

...They should not have to feel anxiety about being paid for overtime, or being worked at the expense of their health like I had...

Chapter 728

We talked about the wage market

“First, for butlers. They would be paid more than laborers who would work in the fields. As they will manage not just the herbs, but everything.”

“I see.”

That made sense.

They had to live in the house and view nearly everything their employer did, and had to manage it.

They were also on standby, nearly twenty-four seven. You confided in them, they dealt with guests, kept your finances in order... There was a lot to do.

They were similar to a secretary or attendant.

“We will choose someone for you, so you do not have to think about picking one from the list. Becoming a butler takes a lot of time, and so we want you to have someone with experience. Besides, since you have the Gift, there will be a lot of information that should not come out. There will be a confidentiality obligation.”

“I see... Well, thank you.”

If they were going to hire someone for me, then I would not have to think too hard about it right now.

It wasn't like I could train a butler. And I could trust whoever they chose.

"As for the salary, we can talk about that when the time comes."

"I understand. Uh...and what about the people that will work in the fields?"

"It will depend on the position. Those who oversee the fields and the concocting of the medicine will have to be paid more than those under them."

"Hmm..."

I didn't really like the idea of ranking them... But if there really was a difference in the amount of work they did, their pay should reflect that.

"As for the people working under them, one gold a few silvers would be the most usual."

I had once heard that a month's worth of food cost six silvers.

But considering all your other fees and taxes, would it really be enough?

I was paying Nick two silver and two gold. Once income taxes were deducted, it was about two gold.

"And the people above them would have several silvers added to that. On average, of course. It can go up and down depending on their job."

"I see. Are there any bonuses?"

"Indeed... In other countries, they sometimes pay more to those who have children. And also those who live at the place of their employment. The servants here are the same."

“I see...”

While different, it had some similarities to systems in Japan... Perhaps it was the result of someone who came from another world.

I didn't know of there being anyone here from Japan other than Mr. Euto, but there might be...

“The child assistance is paid to families who have children.”

“While it was set up to help those who were not able to raise their children...the orphanages are still filled. Though, sometimes it is due to parents being killed in accidents or monster attacks.”

“Well...there is no guarantee that all parents can raise their children. Sometimes due to illness...”

Claire added to Sebastian's explanation.

I had never married and had children, so I didn't know much about the cost. But it must be quite expensive.

“In that case, along with the house assistance...it can be two gold for normal workers, and three for managers. The house assistance is three silvers, and those with children will get three silvers per child.”

“Indeed... Two silvers is the average, so while a little high, it should be fine. But two gold and three silvers might be a little too much?”

As I did not know the cost of most things, it was hard to say. Things would have to be adjusted. Still, if one gold was worth a hundred thousand yen, then that means it was just two to three hundred thousand a month... That seemed a little low.

Though, the conditions were good with the house assistance...even after taxes.

While I wasn't trying to lure people in with money, I wanted them to be able to work without worry.

Furthermore, I also meant to raise the salary depending on how long they worked. Though, judging by Sebastian's expression, I probably shouldn't talk about that yet.

Also, there were other reasons why I wanted to pay more...

Chapter 729

The working conditions in this world were not very good

"If I am going to hire people to work in the fields, that means I have to tell them about the Gift, right? And so I think I will keep their salaries high, as an incentive to be quiet about it. That should decrease the possibility of people leaking the information..."

"Indeed... That would be effective. Hmm... In that case, you should add the Gift and Leo to the confidentiality obligations, as well as a bonus."

"Wuff?"

Leo looked puzzled when she was mentioned.

"Well, I don't think Leo needs to be included in that. It should just be the Gift."

"Yes...just the Gift. They could merely be advised to not spread any rumors about Leo."

"So, that should do it for now. The rest can be decided later... Oh, I just remembered something. What about the number of working days and holidays?"

"Indeed... Uh, what about making it the same as this house?"

"In general, there are no holidays. However, since we do not want them to be overworked, you can take one day off after working for fifteen days in a row. Though, there are exceptions..."

"When it comes to farm workers, smaller places have no days off, while larger ones have occasional days of rest. Of course, since you have the Gift, Mr. Takumi, you can do things differently. Also, some places give you one day off for every ten days of work."

“...So there is very little time off...”

Hmm... With servants, it probably depended on your employer, but I understood how it may be difficult to rest.

But I still thought they should be given more time off... Now that I thought about it, Ms. Lyra and the others rarely left.

Hmm... Once every ten days... There would be breaks during work, and as long as there was no overtime, it shouldn't be too bad.

At least not as bad as it was for me when I had to get up early in the morning and work until midnight. But even then, it seemed like too much.

It should be at least one day a week... Or two days a week.

There had been times when I wished that I had multiple days off so that I could travel with Leo.

“Uhh... This might sound forceful, but I want to consider a system when you can get two days off after five days of work. That should be the standard.”

“Oh!?”

“That is...I can understand, since you have the Gift...but you might run out of personnel.”

And so I made the suggestion.

Claire and Sebastian were surprised by this.

But due to past experiences, I wanted to create a nice work environment.

People should be able to spend time with their families without having to work so hard, or getting balance, both physically and mentally.

“Then we can hire more people. We will be making enough profits anyway, right?”

“That is true...thought, not as much as you could make.”

“Well, that’s fine. I already have more money than I can use right now...”

Before signing the contract with the duke, I had been told that I might make more profits if I sold the herbs myself. But I was making more than enough now.

Instead of carrying only about profits, I wanted to repay the debt that I owed them. I just needed enough to live comfortably with Leo and Liza.

And while our house would end up being much larger than I had first imagined, it was still fine.

There was no point in making money, if I had to worry about other things...

Chapter 730

The people of the duke’s house did not care too much

“I knew that you were not a greedy man, Mr. Takumi...”

“Indeed, he is not. How very unusual. But perhaps that is why good Leo decided to follow him.”

“A Silver Fenrir. The strongest monster... If a greedy person had one, the results...would be clear.”

“Wuff!”

“Uh, why are you so proud, Leo...? I didn’t even realize that you were listening.”

Was it because she heard her name?

“In any case...I don’t really know about that. But I just want to live a peaceful life with Leo and Liza.”

“Peaceful. It seems like a waste, but I suppose it is also fitting.”

“Yes. That is how Mr. Takumi is here... Except when he is doing his sword training.”

“Well, the sword training is quite fun for me now. Of course, it’s not as important as the time I spend with Liza and Leo. And the time I spend with you, Claire.”

“Wuff!”

“Haha. Since I wasn’t able to give you enough attention before.”

“Wou!”

While I had bought her toys, that was not enough... Yes, spending more time with her was a good decision.

Besides, Liza had been alone after Mr. Reyndorf passed away. But she had now stopped looking so lonely. And so I did not want her to go back to that.

Leo wagged her tail and barked happily, and so I petted her.

“Hehe. Leo seems so happy. Yes...when I look at father, I often think that he should pursue other hobbies instead of working so much.”

“I don’t agree. I think the master should work harder... But still, he does appear to be more youthful when around Mr. Takumi.”

“That is how fun it must be for him. Even though he is a duke, I don’t think he has many friends... Not many people he can talk with on equal footing.”

“Though he doesn’t care about formalities, other people do. But that is how Mr. Takumi is different.”

“I suppose...I am often acting rudely...”

“...”

“Wuff...”

“?”

It’s not like they taught me how to talk with nobles at school. Besides, customs were different here anyways.

However, Claire and Mr. Ekenhart said that they didn’t mind. And Mr. Ekenhart was never that polite with how he ate at the dinner table.

“Well... I will be careful...”

“No! It’s fine. Just do as you like, Mr. Takumi. It is more natural that way. Just continue as you have.”

“I-I see... If you insist...”

“Lady Anneliese had her complaints. But this is not her house, and she has no say in the matter.”

Tsk. She must have thought that I was a very rude person...

I couldn’t help but feel a little bad.

“Sebastian! I thought we all agreed that her being fond of him was not a good thing!”

“Oh, perhaps I shouldn’t have said that. I’m sorry, Mr. Takumi.”

“No...”

Well, there was no point in thinking about what had passed. I would switch gears and be careful to not say anything rude in the future.

Though...I didn't know if it was possible.

However, I did have experience working with clients, and could be polite. I just didn't know if it would be enough when dealing with nobles...