

Beloved Dog 761

Chapter 761

The welcome feast in Range village

“Yes. I was very surprised when he attacked Leo, but I was even more surprised when I heard who he was. And then he apologized like that... This has been quite a day.”

“Haha. But no one was ever in any real danger, so it was rather fun, wasn't it?”

“Hmm... So you did not care at all that Leo was being assaulted?”

Ms. Claire said with an annoyed look.

“Of course, I don't want her to be attacked... But Leo can handle such things easily.”

“I suppose...”

According to Mr. Ekenhart and Ms. Lugretta, he was so weak without magic, that even a common soldier could beat him.

And if Mr. Ekenhart could not even touch Leo, then there was no danger of someone like Mr. Euto hurting her.

“Regardless, the two of you talk like you are friends now. That was also surprising. Even my father does not talk to him so casually...”

“Well...it's because he asked me to. Also, we seem to be similar in age...”

I was also able to talk with Mr. Ekenhart on very friendly terms. However, since he was much older, I still saw him more as a nice old man.

But then again...Euto was actually unaging, and over a thousand years old. However, that was hard to imagine or even believe. But he looked the same age as me, and so it was easier to treat him that way.

As for his rank... As he had founded the country, he should also be the king. But apparently he abdicated after the war ended. He could have just kept being king, but he decided to let his children take his place.

And so now he just traveled and enjoyed himself. He did show his royal crest in Range village after hearing the news about a Silver Fenrir. However, normally he would travel just like any other ordinary traveler.

“But I am also close to you in age. You don’t talk to me like that... When will you start treating me more like a close friend, Mr. Takumi?”

“Uhh...”

“Before...right after you and Leo saved me...you said that it would take time to get used to it. Why is it taking so long?”

Now that I thought about it, I did say something like that.

“I’m sorry, it might take a little longer... Uh, I’m too used to talking to you like this...”

“But how long will it take!? I suppose it’s not been that long, but...how much more will you make me wait!?”

“Uh...Ms. Claire?”

“After father returns to the house? Or when the house is completed in Range village? Or when the herb fields are created!? How long!?”

A fire seemed to have been lit inside of Ms. Claire, and she began to question me heatedly with her face getting redder and redder.

...Huh? Red face?

“Ah, Ms. Claire...you’ve drunk too much wine...”

“It had nothing to do with wine! Unless you are saying that we must drink the whole barrel before you can start acting like a normal person with me!”

“No...that’s not what I... In fact, we’ve both had enough. Let’s stop drinking, alright?”

Previously, she had gotten quite drunk with Ms. Anne, and regretted it later on. And though she had refused to drink for some time after that...she had lapsed.

After all, this was a welcoming feast, and so we could hardly refuse. And though we had been careful to only drink a little, something must have triggered her, and she drank more than she should.

The reason... Uh, I suppose that it was me...

Even if she was currently in a drunken state, the fact that she was pressing me so hard now suggested that it really had been bothering her. The way that I still treated her with formal politeness...

Chapter 762

I asked her to extend her stay

“In the first place, everyone is supposed to return home once the interview is over. Though some will likely stay in Ractos, most will leave. And we will notify them later if they are hired.”

“Yes. And so I was going to return to the village and help them with their work while I waited.”

“I see... Uh, would it be possible for you to stay for one day longer?”

“If it is just one day... I think I could manage... But why?”

“Because I want you to spend a little time with Liza and Leo. But I also think you should have plenty of time to rest, or you will be tired when you have to travel tomorrow.”

“Oh, then I don’t mind...”

“Indeed. Her village is not that far from Ractos, and there are usually no monsters on the road. Still, after everything that happened today, it would probably be best to take it easy...”

While everyone agreed that she should stay for an extra day, Ms. Delia still looked hesitant. Perhaps it was because she didn’t want to use more money.

Of course, I did not want to force her if she didn’t want to. However...

“I understand that you want to save on lodging fees. I was in a similar situation as well.”

“Mr. Takumi is too modest...”

“You saved Lady Claire, so it was nothing...”

“We-well...never mind that. In any case, since you are going to spend time with Liza, I will pay for your inn. Now, you may hesitate to accept, but since I’m the one making the request, I have to do that much, at least.”

“Not at all! We’re just going to talk a little...”

“Well, even putting aside the idea of teaching her. I want Liza to have acquaintances like you. Perhaps trying to solve things with money is a little questionable... But that’s all that I can do for now.”

“Hehe. If Liza knew about this, she would probably be worried about you, Mr. Takumi.”

“Or she would be angry. ‘You don’t have to think about that!’ So, Ms. Delia. Please don’t say anything about this to her.”

As both were beastkin, I had feeling that there would come a day when Ms. Delia and Liza would need each other.

After all, she was bound to have troubles living amongst humans that only someone like her could understand.

Even if she was fine now, I felt that she would feel better to have a beastkin friend.

And so considering all that, paying for a room was nothing

While this might come off as a little bold, Ms. Delia was so reserved that being insistent to a certain degree was probably for the best. At least, that's what I thought.

"Ve-very well. Um... I will not tell Lady Liza that you are so concerned about her."

"Thank you. Also, you can just call her Liza. That way, you won't feel so distant, and it should help her relax more. In fact, I wish Sebastian and the others would do the same..."

"Well, we think of you two as guests. So a degree of formality is important. Besides, it is best that the servants do not feel too relaxed. Hoho..."

A short while ago, he had been concerned that the servants seemed to be acting a little strange. They were too cheerful, or they were complaining about things...

Well, from their point of view, I suppose that talking to us in such a formal way helped to keep them focused, and not get too careless.

Chapter 763

A boy misunderstood

"Hey! What are you!"

"Hmm?"

“I’m sorry, I’m sorry!”

Suddenly, I heard someone shouting from behind. It was a child.

When I turned to look, I saw a boy that was slightly taller than Liza. He was glaring at me while holding a tree branch.

And then a woman who appeared to his mother began to apologize.

“Mother, stay away! You! Move away from her!”

“Her... Liza?”

“Me?”

“That’s right! If you’re trying to kidnap her, I won’t let you!”

“Uh...”

“I’m really sorry about my son...”

His mother looked horrified and continued to apologize. However, Claire and Sebastian were laughing...

“Papa isn’t kidnapping me! He’s nice!”

“Uh...papa...?”

“Well, that’s how it is. I wouldn’t do that, or anything she didn’t like.”

As I wondered what to do, Liza stepped forward and scolded the boy.

The boy finally realized what was happening and looked terrified. I was starting to feel sorry for him.

Well, Liza had a very visible tail now, so I suppose we didn't look like we were related.

“Wuff! Wou!”

“Hey...ah...ahahaha!”

“Leo?”

“Wuff-wuff.”

“I see. Thank you.”

As the boy stood there, red-faced with shame, Leo stepped forward and then used her paw to tickle him.

Even though she had sharp claws, she was very careful when controlling them. That was a Silver Fenrir for you.

When I asked Leo, she explained that things were getting awkward, and so she decided to tickle him.

I was amazed that Leo would even think like that... Still, if she kept tickling him, he might not be able to breathe...

Some time later, the boy and the other children all dispersed, and we had a simple lunch before leaving Mr. Kalis's store.

Ms. Delia had been hesitant to eat with us, but was persuaded by Liza, who insisted that it would be more fun to eat together.

“The orphanage?”

“Yes. I talked about it before, but we intend to hire from there as well. And so I have to talk about it. Though, I suppose Leo and Liza will also want to play with the children.”

“Wou...”

While walking to the orphanage, I explained my purpose to Ms. Deliaa.

Before we left, I had suggested that she ride on top of Leo with Liza, but she refused, saying that she was not worthy.

Regardless, Leo was in a good mood about going to the orphanage.

“Kyau...”

“Sherry? Are you still sulking?”

“Sherry, there are a lot of friends at the orphanage. You’ll be able to have fun playing there!”

“Kyu...kyuu...”

Sherry sighed while Tilura carried her.

As for why she was sulky, it had to do with playing with the children. Well, perhaps that was an exaggeration.

The curiosity of children cannot be measured... Last time when we went to Mr. Kalis’s store, Leo had been outside, and Sherry was inside, so there was no problem. But this time, they were together.

And so the children had been instantly interested in Sherry. As I had seen them pounce all over Leo before, I could imagine what had happened... Regardless, Sherry had probably gotten more than she bargained for, and so she was not in a very good mood now...

Ms. Delia took care of things

I suppose Sherry was grumpy because they had pulled her fur... Liza said that Sherry even barked angrily once. But then Leo told her to stop.

Sherry had been able to eat until she was full after that, but even as she was being carried by Tilura, she was still holding a grudge.

I just hoped she had not been traumatized.

But she had played at the orphanage with Leo before, and it wouldn't be as crowded as the store.

"Still, I did not expect to see a young fenrir..."

Muttered Ms. Delia.

I had explained it to her while we ate, but she was still astonished.

I also told her about the parents, but there was nothing about the story that was noteworthy for her. I suppose that was to be expected, since it was far away from the place where she had been found.

Was it a lost fenrir? Or from a different pack? Regardless, it was over twenty years ago, so it hardly mattered now.

Ms. Delia herself said that instead of caring about her past, she wanted to work to repay the villagers for their kindness.

I wondered why she didn't just work in the village then...but it was because she wanted to meet Leo and learn about the outside world as well.

Speaking of her age, she was found twenty-two years ago... So she was older than me...

"Hey! Wait!"

“Hmm?”

“What is happening?”

“Wuff?”

While we were walking, there was suddenly some shouting.

Ms. Delia, Leo, and Claire were also curious as they turned their heads.

We were on the main road, where there was a lot of traffic. However, I had never heard someone shouting like that before.

Up ahead, I saw the owner of a street stall chasing after another man.

As for the man, he appeared to be holding something.

“Thief! Someone! Catch him!”

...A thief? I suppose he must have stolen some product then.

Regardless, they were both running in our direction.

“Lady Claire and Lady Tilura, please move back.”

“Wuff!”

The man was pushing people out of the way, but he did not appear to have a knife. Still, Phillip and Nicholas moved ahead, as they determined that it could be dangerous.

Sebastian and Ms. Lyra were behind them, and then Claire and Tilura were farther back. While the rest of the guards stood around me and Liza.

And then Leo took a step forward. I guess she meant to take care of it. However...

“Leave this to me!”

“Huh? Ms. Delia?”

She suddenly shouted to my side. And in the next moment, she was gone.

Huh? And then I saw that she was rushing towards the two men.

“Get out of my way!”

“No! You stole something from him! Meow!”

“Gah!”

Ms. Delia shouted as she charged towards him. And then she suddenly stopped and turned around.

She was now facing us, while holding the man’s arm, and then she used the momentum to throw him to the ground.

“Ga...hhh...”

“This is what you deserve. Do you have any idea how much hard work went into making that...”

“Ms. Delia. Are you alright?”

“Wou!”

“That was such a surprise...”

“Kyau-kyau!”

“That was amazing, Ms. Delia!”

The man had been slammed onto his back, and could not move. While the man who had been chasing him stood there with a stunned expression.

And while Tilura and Liza seemed excited at what they had just witnessed, I might have to tell them to not copy it later...

Chapter 765

Ms. Delia could use beastkin magic

“Ah...I’m sorry. I just could not allow it... I suppose my body just moved on its own...”

“Phillip, go and call the guards. No, Ms. Delia, there is no reason for you to apologize. Still, it did look like you are used to doing this?”

“Sometimes, thieves would come to steal from the village fields... And there were times when I had to catch them. Also, orcs would come out of the forest. Of course, the villagers were also used to it and able to defend themselves. But I was always eager to help, and it naturally became my job...”

“I see...”

Still, judging by the way that she walked and moved, I felt like it wasn’t just because she was used to catching people. Being a beastkin must have something to do with it as well...

“Thank you. Ah, Lady Claire...so sorry for causing you trouble...”

“Oh, it is the thief who is wrong, not you. Besides, it is my family’s responsibility to keep this town safe. I should be apologizing...”

“No, not at all!”

As I was thinking about Ms. Delia’s beastly movements, Claire and the shop owner were talking.

He was selling vegetables, and Ms. Lyra handed him the ones that had been stolen.

“That was amazing!”

“Yes, I want to be able to move like that!”

“Oh...it was...”

“Hoho. She is quite popular now.”

“...Wou.”

“Now, now, Leo. Don’t be so sad because you lost an opportunity to show off. Just be glad that he was caught.”

“Wuff.”

Liza and Tilura were excitedly surrounding Ms. Delia and praising her.

And I had to console Leo in the meantime.

Later, we handed over the thief to the guards. Claire and Sebastian took care of matters, and then we continued on our way to the orphanage.

“Ms. Delia. Can you use magic?”

“...You could tell?”

“Well, kind of...”

While walking, I asked her what had been on my mind.

“I cannot use the kind of magic that the villagers used. However, and I don’t remember when...but I started to be able to do things... Like making my body lighter so I can move quicker. I do it without thinking, really.”

“...So, it is magic specific to beastkin?”

“They say that it is rare for beastkin to use magic. But when they do, it is usually magic related to their physical abilities.”

“Is there really magic specific to beastkin?”

“Huh? Uh...”

“There is magic used by humans and magic used by beastkin. And they cannot use the magic of the other.”

Apparently, Ms. Delia didn’t know that there was magic that she could only use because she was beastkin.

And so Sebastian was happy to explain it to her.

“So that is why I couldn’t use the same magic as the other villagers!”

“Indeed.”

“What a relief... It was not my fault then. I wanted to learn, so that I could help them. But I just couldn’t do it. They told me to not worry about it, but I couldn’t help but blame myself...”

Chapter 766

We arrived at the orphanage

Using magic to help at the orphanage... It was probably like starting fires and other things that were useful in daily life.

Water was one thing, but fire seemed like a bad match for beastkin... Their tails might catch on fire.

They say that animals were scared of fire. But then again, Leo and Sherry weren't like that.

"With magic, you are using your own unique energy. And so everyone has their strengths and weaknesses. I suppose the differences are just more extreme between humans and beastkin. Though, I have heard there are spells that both can use. But I don't know what they are..."

"Oh, I see..."

"Sebastian, I think that is enough. Ms. Delia is getting tired. Also, we are almost at the orphanage."

"Oh, please do excuse me. I forgot myself."

When Sebastian got carried away, Claire was the only one who could stop him...

"We're back here... When I first met papa, I was cleaned up here."

"That's right. It's been some time now."

Liza recalled that day as the church came into view.

"Excuse me, is Ms. Anna here?"

"Oh? Ah, Mr. Sebastian and Lady Claire! Yes, she is inside!"

"We have something to discuss with her. May we come in?"

"Of course! Please! ...Oh, good Leo..."

"Leo can stay in the garden and play with the children."

“Oh, welcome, Mr. Takumi. Yes, the children have just finished with their studies.”

“So it’s a good time. Did you hear that, Leo?”

“Wou!”

We talked to the woman who was sweeping in front of the entrance.

And so Claire, Sebastian, Ms. Lya and I went inside. It didn’t really matter what Ms. Delia did, but she decided to come with us instead of Leo.

Perhaps she was still nervous.

“Welcome, Lady Claire and Mr. Takumi. And who is this?”

“Hello.”

“Thank you for helping Liza last time. This is...”

“I am Delia. As you can see... I am a beastkin.”

“It seems like Mr. Takumi’s fate is linked with beastkin.”

“Haha. Perhaps.”

We were guided to a drawing room.

There was a large table in the center and several wooden chairs.

Perhaps it was more of a dining room...

Once we all sat down, Ms. Delia introduced herself.

“So, what brings you here today? Ah, before that...how is she?”

“Liza? She should be outside playing with Leo and the children. She is doing very well now.”

“That is good to hear. While I refused to shelter her here, perhaps it was for the best. She would probably not have been as happy here. Even though I still feel bad about it...”

“No, if there was no space, then it could not be helped. And now that she’s been with us for some time, I’m also glad that it worked out that way.”

“Hearing that eases the burden on my heart a little.”

As I saw her relieved expression, I felt bad for not giving her an update sooner.

“Hehe. Indeed, she is so fond of Mr. Takumi now that she calls him ‘papa.’”

“That is a good thing. I suppose it is because he is kind. Children are sensitive towards such things. Especially beastkin.”

Ms. Anna replied to Claire with a smile.

Chapter 767

I talked to Ms. Anna about hiring

“Uh...you seem to know a lot about bestkin, Ms. Anna.”

“No, not at all. It’s just that you hear things when working in this place for so long. Ah, sorry for getting side-tracked.”

“No, it’s fine. Uh, I know that not that much time has passed since we last visited. But are you still full here?”

“Well... A few of the older ones have finally left after finding jobs. But we are still quite full. Of course, there are also more children being sent here. We do our best to accommodate them, but...”

“Children come here?”

“Yes. They often come from the slums. ...Ah, thank you, Lyra. Yes, one day, I wish to see them all doing well, like you.”

“Oh, I have a long way to go. But I will work hard for Mr. Takumi and Liza.”

“Thank you... Yes, Ms. Lyra is doing very well with us.”

Ms. Lyra came and put tea on the table for everyone.

Ms. Anna looked at her with kind eyes. I suppose she was like a mother...

“Hmm, Lyra? But shouldn’t you say that you are working hard for Lady Claire? You are a servant of her house, after all.”

“As for that, it is fine. Lyra is now working for Mr. Takumi. Though...they are still living in the mansion.”

“Is that so?”

“Yes. We are going to be starting something new in Range village soon. And I asked Ms. Lyra to come with us.”

“I see...”

Ms. Anna smiled at the news.

I was surprised that she wasn’t a little more concerned about me being a reliable employer.

After all, working for Claire would probably be a big priority for most in that position.

Regardless, it did not mean much at the moment, because we were all still living in the same house.

“On that note... We were thinking about hiring a few people from here as well.”

“Hiring children?”

“No, not children. I assumed there were people here who are adults but have not been able to leave yet...”

“Yes. There are a few... Right now, they help keep the place running. Which is a big help, since there are so many children...”

“I see...”

So it might be rather difficult then.

“Well, you wouldn’t want them to leave then.”

“I am sorry. But...if it was just one or two...”

“I suppose that will have to be discussed carefully? Also, how do you feel about having a few children working as well?”

“Indeed...”

Ms. Anna thought with a serious expression.

“I understand that you would be concerned with the idea. However...”

“Mr. Takumi. It is not like the people here are strictly against it.”

“Is that so?”

It seemed like getting some of the older ones out in order to make room for new children would be preferable.

Sebastian then added his explanation.

“It is not very common within the duke’s lands. But it is more common in farming villages. Obviously, it is only light work, and nothing like what adults do.”

Chapter 768

We discussed hiring at the mansion

“I understand. Thank you for thinking about this orphanage.”

Ms. Anna said once we were finished.

“So, will it really be possible to hire one or two of the adults? Or do you still need them here?”

“No, it is fine. Normally, they are supposed to go out and find work by this time.”

“Yes, and we will eventually want to hire people to work at the mansion as well. You should have more space here eventually.”

“That is good.”

“After Mr. Takumi brought Milina in order to study at the mansion, Sebastian, father and I observed her carefully and discussed the matter. As long as they wish to come, and do not feel any pressure, we thought that it might be good to have children come to train. Also, we were thinking it might be nice to have someone younger, as Tilura will be alone once Mr. Takumi and I leave...”

“Ahh, that’s right..”

If she asked Mr. Ekenhart, Tilura might be able to go to Range village eventually. But for now, she was to stay at the house.

“Well, I suppose it is a good thing for them to go out and be independent. Of course, it is sad to see someone leave after caring for them for so many years. But I am glad that they can of use to Lady Claire and Mr. Takumi.”

“Ms. Anna...”

Depending on when they arrived, Ms. Anna might be taking care of a child for ten years or more.

So even if they needed to make space for more younger children, it was understandable that she would be a little sad to see them leave.

“Well, we will do our best to ensure that they can enjoy their life. Of course, I still wish that we could do more...”

“No, you would be doing enough. Besides, when it comes to them, there is only so much we can do. And there isn’t always a right answer.”

“What do you mean?”

“Well, they all have their own way of thinking or seeing things. And no matter what you do, you cannot guarantee that they will turn into an upright citizen. We can only do what we feel is the best for them. And in spite of how many years I’ve been here, I am always learning new things from them.”

“Is that so?”

I could tell from the way she talked that she was a kind person. And the children seemed to be very fond of her.

And she had been here long enough to be a veteran in my eyes. But apparently, she was still learning new things.

“Of course. You have to change the way that you praise each child. And rebuke them as well. And they have their own reasoning for things, and you cannot always force your way of thinking onto them...”

“Mr. Takumi, if only you saw her when she was angry. It was very scary. Though, I rarely got in trouble.”

“Well, Lyra was always very obedient. And she didn’t blame others for things. I suppose she was good at appearing to be good?”

“Even now, you see right through me...”

“Haha.”

In order to lighten the mood, Ms. Lyra talked about how scary her old mother superior had been. And Ms. Anna retaliated.

I couldn’t help but chuckle, and Claire and Sebastian also smiled as they looked at Ms. Lyra fondly.

Chapter 769

I was moved by Ms. Anna’s story

“In any case, even if we are not connected by blood, I see the children as family. And through spending some time with you, and seeing Leo and Liza, I believe that you are trustworthy.”

“Thank you.”

“Oh, there I go again... Getting carried away. Excuse me, Mr. Takumi. Sometimes people of my age tend to ramble.”

“No, I am glad to be able to hear what you think. And I will do my best.”

“Mr. Takumi...”

Claire and Ms. Lyra watched with warm expressions, and everyone there seemed to have been moved. Even Sebastian was nodding with a warm and knowing expression.

Ms. Delia was crying...

Even though she wasn't involved, I suppose Ms. Anna's words had been deeply felt.

It was just supposed to be a simple conversation, so how had it turned to this?

I decided to drink my tea and pretend like I didn't notice...

"Ah...that was a mistake..."

"Oh, is that so? I enjoyed being able to see a different side of you, Mr. Takumi."

"We didn't come to have a good time, Claire. Hah..."

"Lady Claire, men tend to want to hide such things. It's best to leave it alone."

"Really?"

"Sebastian, pointing that out just makes it more embarrassing..."

Once Ms. Anna left the room, I leaned forward against the table and sighed.

Apparently, Claire had enjoyed seeing me get a little emotional.

Well, she would have probably kept such thoughts to herself in the past. So I suppose that I should be happy for her.

And then Sebastian had to make matters worse...

“Sniff..”

“Ah, but there is someone here who is in an even worse condition...”

Ms. Delia wasn't even trying to hide the fact that she was crying as she sat next to me.

Ms. Lyra was about to offer a handkerchief, but then realized that it was not enough. And so she brought a towel and dried off Ms. Delia's face with it.

It would likely take her some time to calm down completely.

“Perhaps beastkin feel emotions more strongly. Well, Mr. Takumi was also nervous for most of the day. So that might have had an effect.”

“Ah, that is true. After hearing Ms. Anna, I felt a lot of relief... Though, I wish that I could have done better.”

“But you did well enough, Mr. Takumi. You were able to persuade her.”

“I don't think I persuaded her, as she would not likely object to begin with.”

The first interviews and talking with Mr. Soldan.

And then talking with Ms. Delia. And then coming to the orphanage. A lot had happened that kept my mind working full-time.

“Mr. Takumi. She agreed because she determined you could be trusted after talking to you. I think if you were too confident and made grand promises, she might have felt differently. She can be quite strict, after all.”

“Indeed. Anna would be able to see past empty boasting.”

“I-I see. Well, I prefer to be honest, and like to act confident in what I'm doing... I suppose it worked out for me this time?”

“It is sometimes best to be confident. But in this instance, being yourself was a good thing, Mr. Takumi.”

I supposed I should be happy...that being pitiful had worked better with this mother superior then.

But then again, I shouldn't be too happy, or then I would become truly pitiful...

Chapter 770

Leo and the others were playing

“Wuff!”

“Kya! Ahaha!”

“Leo is amazing!”

“Can Sherry do it too?”

“Kyau...kyau!”

“Woah, amazing!”

While feeling tired, I shrugged it off and went out into the garden in order to see what the others were doing.

Leo was lifting the children up by their sleeves, or jumping over their heads.

One kid asked Sherry if she could do the same, and so she dashed through them swiftly.

While they were different sizes, they were both able to have fun and play with the children.

“Are you alright, Ms. Delia?”

“Yes...sorry about earlier.”

Ms. Delia was still clutching the towel, but had regained her calm as we walked.

“Ah, papa! He’s back!

“Wou!”

“Ah. Were you having fun out here?”

“Wuff.”

Leo noticed us, and just like in front of Mr. Kalis’s store, she jumped off of Leo and landed in front of us.

And then Claire and I patted her on the head.

“Ms. Delia. How are you with children?”

“Uh, umm. I played with them a lot in the village. While I don’t like it when they grab my tail, I am used to being around them.”

“Alright... Then...do it, Leo!”

“Wou!”

Leo must have understood what I was thinking, as she quickly moved and picked up Ms. Delia by the sleeve.

“Huh? Ah! What!?”

“Yay! Just like Liza!”

“Hey! What? What are you...”

“Wuff. Wuff-wuff!”

“Very well...if it is Leo’s order!”

“Ms. Delia. You don’t need to be so tense. She is just playing!”

Ms. Delia was shocked by how sudden it was, but Liza was overjoyed.

“Mr. Takumi, you always do this when someone is afraid of Leo, yes? Like Father...Gelda...
Though, you made them ride on her.”

“Haha. Well, I want them to understand how cute Leo actually is. Besides, if Ms. Delia agrees to teach Liza, then she will have to get used to being around Leo. So we might as well get an early start...”

Leo also liked people, and so she would actively try to play with them.

“Mr. Takumi. Lady Claire. Preparations have been made.”

“Thank you, Lyra.”

“Thank you.”

As we watched the children play, Ms. Lyra prepared a table and chairs for us.

And then Ms. Anna came by. She had been talking with the others about what we had discussed.

“Mr. Takumi. We have decided that we will be able to send two people from the orphanage for now, as supervisors.”

A pair, a man and woman, bowed their heads several feet away.

“As for the children... That will have to wait. It is all so sudden, and they will need time to get used to the idea.”

“Yes, of course. We are still making preparations in Range village anyway.”

Now that I thought about it, we hadn't discussed when we would be hiring and moving... And so we couldn't take them now, even if they were ready to go.