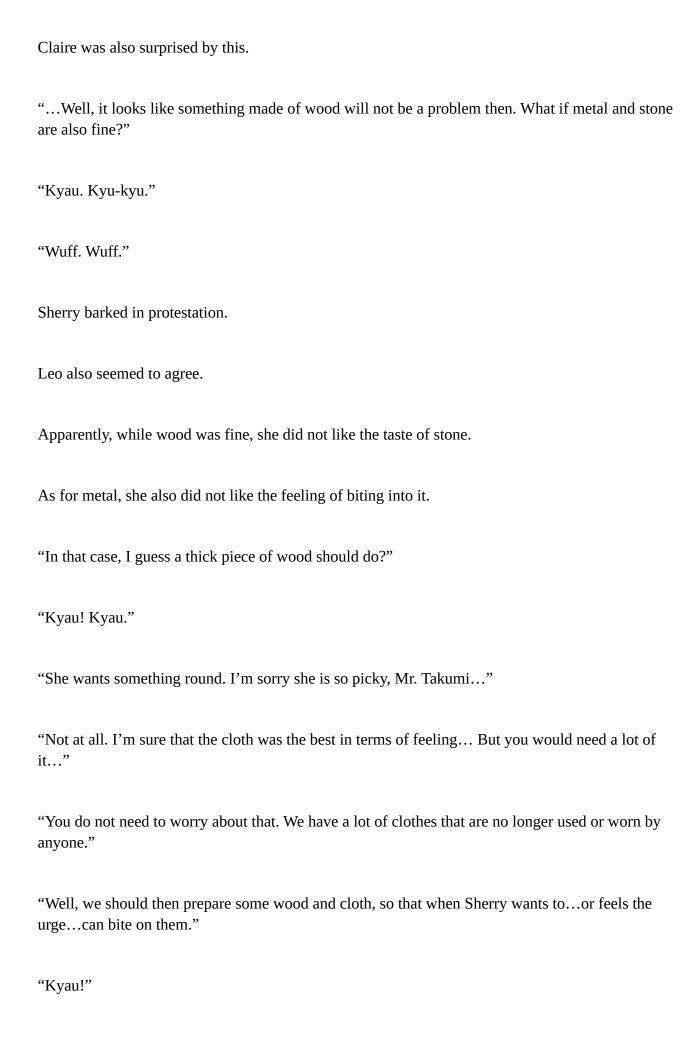
Beloved Dog 821





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"Yes. Thank you, Mr. Takumi."
"It's nothing... I only knew because Leo had experienced the same thing."
"Wuff."
While my knowledge seemed to have been useful, it really would be best to ask Fen and Riruru
about it next time.
Dogs and wolves...fenrirs. There would be many differences. And I was now curious to know what
the fenrirs did out in the wild.
Well, Claire was the one who would have to spend a lot of time around one of them. So she is the
one who should maybe talk to them...
Chapter 822
There were a lot of things that I wanted to know
"Uh, is this wood fine?"
"Kyau. Kyau."
"She says something wider would be better!"
"Wider, huh..."
"Mr. Takumi. I will have some wood purchased from Ractos tomorrow."
"Indeed... And it will have to be cut down so it won't be too big for Sherry."
We had picked up a branch in the garden, and washed and trimmed it a little, so that it could be
taken into the house.
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However, Sherry seemed to prefer flat and wide boards. So something like planks used in building would be better. And so Claire decided to buy some in Ractos. Regardless, after that issue was taken care of, we had dinner in the garden, and I trained. After I took a bath, I returned to the room and thought for some time. About the herb fields, to be precise. As I had met Claire as soon as I came to this world, and had lived with the duke's people, there was so much that I did not know. Some things I could just ask Ms. Lyra and Ms. Gelda, but I also thought it would be good to witness it for myself... "Papa? Are you thinking?" "Wuff?" "Ah, sorry." I had forgotten that I had been patting Leo and Liza. And so I recommenced, while returning to my thoughts. Thoughts of this world... As for life here, I had seen some of what it was like in Range village. But as I was like an honored guest, it was not really the same. I wanted to see people acting more naturally... Well, I suppose I would have to ask Sebastian about it tomorrow... "Hmm. You want to see how normal people live...?"

The next day, I talked to Sebastian about it after breakfast.

Liza and Leo were playing with the Cockatrices... while Tilura was still studying.

Apparently, she was interested in the Cockatrices who were eating the bugs again, as they were currently walking around the plants in the garden.

I was a little worried that she might try eating them as well. But Leo would probably stop her.

"Yes. Of course, I am quite happy here, where I am well taken care of. But it does mean that I know little of how other people live."

If I was going to start hiring people, I had to be able to build proper relationships with them... And they will not all be people like Ms. Lyra.

"Most nobles would think that it is not necessary to be able to understand your employees... But I see that you are more similar to His Grace in that way."

"Really? Well, he certainly doesn't care as much about differences in stations..."

When I was with Claire and Mr. Ekenhart, I sometimes forgot that they were nobles. Well, Claire definitely had the air of one, but she would sometimes say things that were rather strange.

"Nobles are people who stand above others. That is what most believe. But nevermind them. If you wish to know more... Why not visit Ractos and observe?"

"Hmm... That is fine. But it is a big, busy place. I am more curious about life in the villages."

Chapter 823

I talked with Sebastian

As I planned to live in Range village, it was better to see what life was like in a village, rather than a place like Ractos.

"Hmm, a village. What about Range village then? Since you are starting a business there."

"Yes, but they all know who I am... And so it will not be the same. Also, I would like to see the other villages."

Perhaps I was being difficult. But the fact was that I wanted to see something new.

Range village made wine, so the other villages probably made something else. And life would be different.

"Well, I am thinking of a place that I could go that I am not yet familiar with. I am sorry if this is a lot of trouble for you."

"No, not at all. Besides, I happen to think it is a good thing that you wish to learn."

I didn't want them to think that I didn't like Ractos or Range village. And I also didn't want to create more work for Sebastian.

But though he furrowed his brows, he did not seem to mind.

Indeed, he very much approved the idea of gaining knowledge.

"Yes... What about Bleiyu village? Since Ms. Delia is there."

"Ms. Delia's village... Yes, perhaps. But won't it be the same as Range village, if I know someone there?"

"You could contact Ms. Delia in advance. Indeed...have you decided to hire her already?"

"Yes. Liza seemed happy to see her. And so I mean to hire here, either as a teacher or to work with the herbs. Whichever she wants."

As I knew Ms. Delia and Mr. Kanat, I thought it would not be that different. But Sebastian had a plan.

"If you are decided, Mr. Takumi, then perhaps you could tell her directly? And say you want to confide in her about which position she will take."

"Well, that would be a good enough excuse to go... But I think the other villagers will realize our connection to the duke, and treat us differently."

I just wanted to see normal life in a village.

It was nice to be welcomed warmly...but it was not the same.

"When you contact Ms. Delia, you can tell her. That she should not tell the others who you are. And to tell that man who sold the konjac as well."

"I see... I suppose I could then pretend like a regular traveler."

"Though, they might get suspicious if they see you talking with Ms. Delia..."

"That's true..."

"In that case...you could say you met by coincidence in Ractos... For instance, when catching that thief."

"Thief... Ah, the thief that Ms. Delia caught."

When we were walking through the town, a man had stolen something from a store and tried to run away.

And then Ms. Delia had jumped out and caught him.

"Yes. It would not look unnatural if you were the one she happened to help that time. Also, you could say that you ate the konjac, and like it. So you came to see how it was made. That should please the villagers very much."

"I see... As long as Mr. Kanat cooperates, then it should work. Though, it would mean lying..."



Liza was also excited at the idea of going somewhere. Even though she did not really know what the purpose was. However, I had some bad news for them... "Sorry, but I think you will have to stay home this time, Leo..." "Wou!?" "Mama stays home?" Leo looked terribly shocked by this revelation. It was amusing to see her like this, but I could not laugh. "If you go, then I will have to explain to them why there is a Silver Fenrir. It's not exactly something that can be swept to the side." After all, Ms. Delia had been with a fenrir when she was found. "Mama isn't going?" "No... Maybe she could go halfway... But not into the village. Also, you must stay with her, Liza." "I do?!" Apparently, she had thought it was just Leo, and now it was her turn to look surprised. Liza was clearly a beastkin. Though, I suppose they would not be prejudiced against her, because of Ms. Delia.

Leo intended to carry me there, and was already wagging her tail with excitement.



"I agree with you, Mr. Takumi. And so I shall accompany you as well."

"...So, I suppose Mr. Takumi will not be visiting the village after all."

"Hey, Sebastian!?"

After speaking to Leo and Liza, I confided in the others around the dinner table.

Claire made her declaration then, and Sebastian rejected it immediately.

As Sebastian had been shaking his head with exasperation earlier, he must have been expecting her to say something like this.

It reminded me of how she declared she would go to the forest before.

"Uh...I don't know about that... I already talked to Leo and Liza..."

"Hoho. I was merely joking. Still, Lady Claire. You cannot just go with Mr. Takumi on a whim."

"It is...not a whim!"

So it was just a joke... Still, Claire had slowed down a little, so perhaps it was effective in a way.

"For the future, Mr. Takumi wishes to visit as an ordinary person, so he can see how they live. If you were to go...then it would ruin the whole thing."

After all, Claire was a very beautiful daughter of a duke. You could immediately tell that she was of noble birth.

"Besides, if you were to go, then there would have to be many guards as well..."

"Exactly. Not that Bleiyu village is a dangerous place, but we cannot take any chances. I hope you did not actually think that you could go without any guards?"





As for Phillip and Nicholas, they would guard me in the village while Leo was away... To be honest, that was also uncomfortable. But some precautions had to be taken. Though, I would do my best to be careful as well.

Phillip had been with me in Range village, and I had gone to the forest a few times with Nicholas. That was why they were chosen.

Since we were familiar, we could pretend to be fellow travelers, so they would not look like guards.

Ms. Lyra was also coming, so that she could ride Leo back to the mansion.

While it would be hard for her, I was glad that she would be with Liza.

As for how I would get around without Leo, I was to ride with Phillip or Nicholas.

This was because I could not ride on my own. It made me seriously think about taking lessons.

Also, I had to make herbs before the trip. So I would be quite busy...

And though I felt bad for Claire, she would just have to be satisfied with the stories I brought back.

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"Papa. Over here?"
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"Yes, that's right. Uh, and..."

"Mr. Takumi. Lady Liza. Over here."

"Thank you, Ms. Lyra."

"Thank you!"

"Wuff!"

Two days after my trip was decided. I was using the time before dinner to pack. But outside of my sword, it was just putting clothes into a bag. Leo was helping Liza by using her paws to hold the bag open. At first she tried to help her fold her clothes, but it was a little too difficult. Instead, Ms. Gelda folded them and handed them to Liza. Everything other than clothes would be prepared by the guards. "I'm sorry for asking you to come with us, Ms. Lyra. Especially after the forest and even Range village..." "Not at all. Even though it is rather tiring... But it is my job to help you. And that does not change when we are out of the house." While not every time, Ms. Lyra did seem to go out with us a lot. And while I was grateful, I was also a little concerned. She was not as tough as Phillip. And long travels would be taxing. "Though it is just on the way there, I am looking forward to your delicious cooking. Thank you." "Sister Lyra! Thank you!" "Wuff! Wou!" "It's nothing... I want to do it. There is no need to thank me..."



It seemed like she had everything that you would need. "Well...you use knives to cook. And fire. And when I cook, I always cut or burn myself..." "Gelda was always like this, even when she was teaching me to cook. Thankfully, she was never injured too badly... But even if that is fine at the orphanage, it is different if you want to be a real cook." "Uh... Yes, I can see how getting cut and burned all of the time would be a problem..." As Gelda was looking down sadly, Ms. Lyra explained. Was this also part of her being clumsy? It could not always be due to a lack of attention... Regardless, you were dealing with food. So it was not very sanitary to be injured. "...And so, well, I..." "Yes. If you are going to get hurt, I cannot ask you to make food." "I am sorry..." "It's nothing to be sorry about. But perhaps I can think of something." "Huh? You aren't going to ban me from ever cooking?"

"Haha. I would not say that. ... Well, maybe it is because of Ms. Helena..."

"Do you really think I could cook something that can be served to other people...?"

cook.

Ms. Gelda looked like she was full of regret, and had not fully given up the dream of becoming a

"There must be a way. That being said, I cannot think of it immediately..." "Wuff..." "Hehe. Thank you." I had said it rather by impulse, and regretted it a little. I even heard Leo sigh, but I ignored her. But thanks to my embarrassment, Ms. Gelda stopped looking so glum and smiled as she thanked me. Ms. Lyra also bowed her head. Yes, I would have to give the matter some serious thought. I could not think of anything that would make her less clumsy. But perhaps there were ways to keep things sanitary, by healing her cuts immediately. Or training so that she improves... Now that I thought about it, I had to find a cook for when we went to Range village as well... I decided this while looking at Ms. Gelda, who smiled and watched Liza folding her clothes. It must be hard to give up on a dream. And that might be one reason that Ms. Gelda lacked confidence...Chapter 828 Preparations for the herb fields were going smoothly The next day, I made more herbs than usual. Though, I had been doing that for the past few days. I then gave the herbs to Sebastian, to make sure that there was enough. "This should cover for the time that I am gone." "Indeed... While they have been selling very well at Mr. Kalis's store, this should still be enough. And if they run out..."

"Yes. You can use the herbs from the fields." "Also, the messenger I sent to Breiyu village has returned with Ms. Delia's answer. While she was surprised, she has also agreed to it." "I see. In that case, preparations for the journey are complete." Sebastian had sent out a messenger the day after our talk. And Ms. Delia had agreed to welcoming me as someone she had met by coincidence in Ractos. "Ah, and the others?" "I have told them as well. There is your Gift, and this involves the duke's house. And so they will keep it a secret when signing the contract." "Thank you." Aside from Ms. Delia, he had also contacted the people who I had decided to hire. I could not leave them hanging without saying anything... It would be very uncomfortable to wait for an answer. While they were told to abstain from talking about the Gift, they also did not even know that it was Weed Cultivation yet. I suppose I would tell them once they were all gathered together in Range village. "Also, there is one other thing, Mr. Takumi." "Yes?" "It is best that you decide on the butler soon. As you will be overwhelmed with work if you are alone."

During these past few days, I had spoken with Ms. Lyra for advice, and listening to the progress with the house... But I had also been feeling that it was a lot of work.

Besides, I wanted to be sure that I could spend time with Liza and Leo.

"Did you find someone promising?"

"Once the business starts, and things settle down, you will have to think about hiring more. But for now, a few of the butlers from the main house can help you."

"The main house... The duke's butlers? Can he spare them?"

"It will not be a problem. They are well trained, and with the best ability. And since you are involved with the duke, they will not object. Besides, His Grace seems to be enthusiastic about it."

I had never met any of them, but there were other butlers here, outside of Sebastian.

And it definitely looked like they had been trained well.

"Currently, they are preparing to make their way to this house. I think they will arrive after you return from Bleiyu village. And then you can meet them and make your decision."

"I don't like having to choose, but I understand. And the ones who are not chosen will be sent back?"

"No. After all, Lady Claire is going to Range village as well. Along with the butlers here, some will be going with her. But then again...if they are not chosen, it might be necessary for them to train again."

"No, no, no. I don't think... Not being chosen by me would not mean that they lacked any ability!"

"Hoho. I was merely joking."

If I could not hire all of them, then someone would be left. That was all. And so he should not be harsh on them.

In the first place, they were from the main house, so it was surely not necessary. But then again, Mr. Ekenhart might send some new ones too, just for his amusement.

I could hear him now, 'I can't wait to find out which one Mr. Takumi chooses'...

Chapter 829

I was relieved that Claire wasn't too sad

"Ah, by the way. How is Claire?"

"Are you worried about Lady Claire then?"

"No, well...I haven't talked to her since she was turned down..."

"Well, she is fine. She was feeling a little down at first. But she quickly returned to normal. I saw her talking happily with Lady Tilura and Sherry."

"I see. But then again, she didn't ask too strongly the other time I went to Range village with Leo. So I am sure it is fine."

"It is likely because of all the complaints she heard when going to the forest, that time she found Sherry. While it is not as dangerous this time, she will still not force her will."

"Haha, of course."

Back then, she had wanted to go such that she became angry with Sebastian and the others. But then he lectured her later, when I wasn't around.

And so she would not do the same thing again.

"Ah, do you think I could talk to Phillip now? I would like to say something to him before we go to Bleiyu village."



"Yes. And if we are not careful, we could look intimidating. That will put the villagers on their guard." "By the way, Nicholas. You really should relax more. That is probably why you are still single." "...You are one to talk, Phillip." "Oh? Are you unaware then? You know...I can't keep them off of me whenever I visit Ractos." "Uh. I have never seen anything like that..." Suddenly, the conversation had gone in a very different direction. While Nicholas glared at him, Phillip argued that he was quite popular. But I had never seen any proof of this. Well, he had well proportioned features which matched his long hair. And perhaps women would like a reliable, soldier type like him. You would think so, anyway. And yet, there were no hints every time we visited Ractos together... Chapter 830 I enjoyed some guy talk "What are you saying, Mr. Takumi? When I go to Ractos with you or Lady Claire, it is as a guard. Obviously, I would not be distracted by other women?" "Uh, I suppose..." If he did something like that, he would not be the chief guard.

However, as Phillip said, if he really had so many women fawning over him, surely there would have been some small sign of it in town.

Anything from loving looks across the street, to a few exchanged words... But then again, with Claire and Sebastian there, perhaps it would not be easy.

Besides, I would not notice if someone was looking at Phillip like that.

Leo stuck out so much, that I hardly noticed anything else.

"Do not be fooled, Mr. Takumi. He has always been like this. Delusional. Ever since he was at the orphanage."

"Is that true?"

"What are you saying, Nicholass! Indeed, I was very young back at the orphanage. But ever since I trained and became a guard, things have been quite different, you know."

"...It's true that Phillip left first, and so I don't know much about that... But I still have my suspicions."

As for me, I thought Phillip had the right qualities, and so I wanted to believe him... But his friend did not look like he was lying.

"Perhaps I should ask Ms. Johanna, who is also working as a guard here..."

"He-hey, Mr. Takumi! Do not do that! While she is very skilled, she is very dedicated to Lady Claire. And rarely has a positive thing to say about men!"

"Uh, I have never seen anything like that...?"

Johanna was always very polite towards me.

When I rode with her in the carriage, she talked to me about Claire.

"As for Johanna, I agree with Phillip. She is only polite to you because you are a guest, and because of Leo." "Nicholas, it is not only that. ...It is because the master, as well as Lady Claire, hold him in high regard. After all, he did help her." Phillip must have seen the opportunity to shift the conversation, and he soon started to ask me questions about Claire. While Nicholas relaxed and sipped his tea. It could be rather fun to talk to men like this... "Wou..." Leo sighed next to me. But I pretended to not hear her. She clearly had no interest in this kind of small talk amongst males. In the end, nothing was confirmed about Phillip's claims. However, we might see some proof of it in Bleiyu village... "Now, since we will be headed out tomorrow... Are you two ready? Well, I did see you get packed already." "Yes! Sister Lyra also helped me!" "Wuff!" After my talk with Phillip and Nicholas...we had dinner, and I trained outside. Then I returned to my room in order to sleep.

"Leo. While we'll be going close to the village together, you'll have to look after Liza while I'm away. Alright? And the house and Sherry as well."

"Wou!"

I had not been away from Liza for a full day since her arrival, but I was sure that she would be fine with Leo. If anything, she would do a better job than me.

As for Sherry, her teeth were growing, so I thought we should be more watchful than usual.

Her teeth had fallen out in the past two days, and there were plenty of things for her to bite. So she would probably be fine.

As for the teeth, Claire was keeping them to remember Sherry's growth.

In Japan, there was a tradition of throwing them up on the roof, but things were obviously different here.