

Beloved Dog 851

Chapter 851

A guard's instincts

“I don’t really know about the regularity of monster encounters...”

“I have never been to Bleiyu village before, so I cannot say for certain. But I think we should have seen one, at least... Especially since this can barely be called a road.”

The ground had a beaten path, but it did not seem like it was used that regularly.

There was grass growing, which suggested that it had been some time before a wagon or carriage passed through.

“As this is our first trip, we are taking the most obvious route. But I don’t think people from Bleiyu village would usually pass through here.”

“Ah, so that is why...”

After leaving Ractos, we had gone down the east road and then turned to the south partway. But if you want to go the fastest way, it would have been better to travel diagonally, southeast.

That was likely the way that the villagers went.

“If there is less traffic, then there should be more monsters. As I’m sure the patrolling soldiers do not come here often..”

“Could it just be a coincidence that there are no monsters?”

“Of course, it is possible...but...”

“Is there something that is bothering you?”

“I do not know how to say it... But during our training, we learn about the traces that monsters leave. It’s easier to deal with them if you find them quickly.”

As they were guarding the duke, it made sense that they would be wary of monsters as well. Even if they usually did not come in contact with them, the danger would be there when traveling.

“And thanks to that training, I tend to be able to sense their presence. Well, it is not very clear. And so I cannot be sure.”

“And so your senses are telling you that there is a monster?”

“Something like that. Or perhaps one was here...”

“If that is the case, then it must have left because of some reason...”

“Well, it would mean that.”

In any case, if we could travel in peace, that was a good thing. So while it was strange, it did make things easier for us...

After that, as we let the horses rest, Nicholas and Phillip continued to talk about how odd it was.

I suppose it was just something that guards felt.

I didn’t know anything about monster traces...

“The ground is a lot softer around here.”

“That made things easier.”

The sun had started to set, and so we decided to stop and set up camp before it got too dark.

Unlike last time, there were more plants growing here, so the ground was softer. But even then, it was hard for me to hit the stakes for the tent, as I was not used to it.

“There are not many trees here, which means less branches... It is a good thing we brought some wood with us.”

“Well, we will reach the village tomorrow. Perhaps they will share some with us for the return trip.”

“Yes. The food will be poor if we don’t have a fire...”

Yesterday, there had been several trees nearby, but this time, there was only one. And not many dead leaves either.

“Now... How about putting into practice what Nicholas said yesterday, Mr. Takumi?”

“Huh? Me?”

“I think it will do you good. Knowing how to start a fire properly.”

“I see... Very well.”

Phillip brought the remaining firewood along with some branches and leaves, and then he told me to light them up.

I had wanted to test it... But I had not realized it would be so soon...

Chapter 852

I tried using new magic

“You’re starting to act like His Grace now, Phillip.”

“He will understand it better if he tries it for himself. It is not that dangerous. And if he fails, then we can do it for him.”

Indeed, I might need to do it one day. And I liked the idea of using new magic. Alright...I will do it.

“Uh... Flame Burn Up?”

“Yes. You don’t need to add Strong, like Phillip did yesterday. That will be too much.”

“Alright... Put your hand over it and gather the magic energy...”

I concentrated the energy in my body so that it went to my hand. And then I directed my right palm over the firewood and leaves. And then I released the energy while imagining the flames.

“...Fire Elemental Flame Burn Up!”

I felt the energy be converted as I chanted.

At the same time, the burning magic blew out from my hand.

“...Huh? It seems quite different from what I saw yesterday?”

“Hmm. Indeed. Perhaps you gathered too much magic. Sometimes, the force of it can change.”

“Still, it is also decided by the chant, so it shouldn’t be too different... Well, at least it is burning, so it is a success.”

After that Nicholas and Phillip showed me how to do it by burning different branches.

I see. I had gathered energy at full power. That was the reason... You had to restrain yourself and adjust it a little.

In any case, I had not burned anything else, so it was a success. Still...magic was hard.

“Oomph! Yes, I did it. I’m quite confident about this one.”

“Thank you. Though, you only fried it...”

“At least you had good ingredients...”

“Stop complaining. Or I won’t let you eat it, Nicholas.”

“...I didn’t say anything.”

After that, Phillip used a frying pan to cook over the fire.

It was mostly just vegetables that we had brought, which had been randomly chopped up. We then chatted lightly and ate dinner.

The taste was not bad, but it was nothing special if you had eaten Ms. Helena’s food.

“Ah, that’s right. Mr. Takumi.”

“Hmm? What is it, Phillip?”

“We will be arriving at the village tomorrow... Well, it is only a few hours away now.”

“Yes, that’s true.”

As we had meant to take two days on this trip without Leo, we would be right on schedule.

Things had gone smoothly because we did not encounter any monsters. Also, I had gotten used to riding quite quickly.

“Previously, we decided to act as friends in the village, so people would not be suspicious... But I think that as we are...we do not seem like friends.”

“Phillip, perhaps there are friends who are like this?”

“Nicholas, you have few friends, so your opinion is not wanted.”

“Tsk...”

“...”

Like Nicholas, I had thought that we looked relaxed enough and seemed like we were friends...

However, though Phillip’s sharp words were directed at Nicholas, I somehow felt the sting as well...

Chapter 853

I decided to talk more casually

Perhaps it was because Nicholas had a serious manner that was different from the others. And so it was harder for people to approach or befriend him. As for me...

Well, I would not think about the past now. I did not want to trouble my uncle, and so I moved out as soon as possible and worked hard. After that, I had Leo, so there was little time to make friends.

“I don’t know why Mr. Takumi is getting hit too, but... In any case, it’s not just me. Mr. Takumi is also talking quite politely.”

“Well, I try to be polite to everyone.”

“That’s why you have so few friends, Nicholas. I think people see it as you putting up walls.”

“I see...”

He seemed quite shocked by this. Well, I suppose it was true.

In any case, the problem was how the villagers would see us.

After all, it wasn't like we were going to go around and declare to everyone that we were friends. That would look more suspicious.

"So I think it would be more natural if we didn't talk so politely when we are inside of the village."

"...I see. I understand Nicholas's way of thinking...but it would look strange."

I agreed with Phillip, and decided that I would talk more casually from now on.

"So that's how it is... Hmm... This is going to take some getting used to..."

"It doesn't have to be all of us. If just one person, like Nicholas, is different, then it will be fine. It's just that it would look strange if all three of us were too polite."

"That's true. Very well, Nicholas...you stay as you are. I and Phillip will change instead."

"Yes, yes. That's good. I will be careful from now on."

Of course, as we had been talking like this for a long time, it would probably sound strange. However, we would hopefully get used to it before we arrived in the village.

After that, we cleaned up, and I continued to talk casually while training until it was time to sleep.

"There really aren't any monsters around here now. Even though there were before."

"Did you find traces?"

"Look... I was bored, so I looked around a little..."

"Yes, it does look like a monster passed through here."

The next morning, we talked while getting ready for the morning. Philip started to talk about monsters again.

He gestured for us to come. And then he pointed to an area where the grass had been bent, and something had been dragged through it.

The dragging lines curved towards the east direction...

“But it stops right here...”

“That is very strange. If it was a monster, the traces shouldn’t just stop...”

“Hmmm...”

It was clearly not a human or horse. Perhaps someone had dragged something through here. But the lines should be thicker.

Also, why did it stop close to where we were?

“Besides, what kind of monster would make lines like this?”

“There are several... Like serpents. They like to hide in the grass and target their prey. They have sharp fangs that are filled with poison, which makes them very dangerous. As for their size...around from here to there.”

“Poison, huh...”

According to Nicholas, they were about five meters long. Though, the part that concerned me was the poison.

“Well, that won’t be a problem. Because Mr. Takumi is here. And we can treat any bites with herbs.”

“But I don’t know what herbs are effective for serpent poison...”

“Just make the same herb used for the Cockatrice petrification. Mr. Sebastian told you, didn’t he? You just need to drink it.”

“Ah, that one... It should be fine then.”

Chapter 854

We would be fine against poison if we stayed together

While Phillips was relying on Weed Cultivation, I could not make what I did not know.

Well, I could sometimes make things while imagining the effect, but that was not guaranteed.

However, I was then told by Nicholas that I just needed to make the same herb that was used for Cockatrices.

“However, it should be fine, as there are three of us now. It’s more dangerous when you are alone. Because your body will start to become paralyzed.”

“That is horrifying...”

“Well, we should still be cautious. Thankfully, there do not seem to be any right now. Though, I am curious about where it went.”

“Yes. There is no point in worrying about that. Let’s hurry up and eat breakfast so that we can leave.”

Both Phillip and Nicholas were sure that it was not close by. But I couldn’t help but wonder if it was hiding somewhere. But I suppose it was too big to hide that easily.

As we cooked, Nicholas then explained it to me.

Apparently, the serpents were able to camouflage themselves. However, their eyes and mouth stayed the same color.

And the mouth and eyes were red.

“This is better than dried meat, but not very tasty...”

“Don’t complain. ...That being said, it is harder when you are used to the food at Ractos or back at the mansion.”

For breakfast, we made something with flour and water. As well as some boiled vegetables with salt and other spices.

“Nevermind the taste, as long as we are full. Now, we should go. Are you ready, Nicholas?”

“Yes. I have packed everything.”

“And I put out the fire.”

“Alright, then get onto the horse and...”

“...mi...sa...”

“Hmm?”

Just as we were about to leave, I thought I heard a voice.

“Did you hear anything just now?”

“It sounded like it was quite far away...”

“It’s hard to imagine anyone out here. But I did hear something.”

So the others had heard it as well.

We all looked at each other and then looked around. But there was no one else in sight...

“Ta...mi...”

“Why do I feel like it’s calling me...?”

“It sounds like a woman’s voice. And it must be calling for Mr. Takumi.”

I was not so tired that I would be hearing things... However, it seemed like Nicholas had better ears than me or Phillip.

He was able to tell that it was a woman. Perhaps he will be able to hear even more if he ate some sense enhancing herbs?

“Taku...ma...!”

“Hmm? Takumi. Nicholas, over there!”

“There is...someone?”

“She is running? And calling Mr. Takumi.”

As I was thinking about the herbs, the voice became even more clear. And then Phillip pointed in the direction of Bleiyu village.

Chapter 855

She saw the smoke from the fire

“Mr. Takumi!”

“Ah, that voice... Ms. Delia?”

“Ah, the beastkin lady. I could not tell from this distance...”

“Well, it is a woman. And considering she is coming from the village, it must be her.”

However, she seemed to be running very close to the ground, which seemed odd for a human.

Wait...was she running on all fours?

“Mr. Takumi!”

“Ah, it really is Ms. Delia. What is she doing out here? Hey!”

“I wonder as well. And that speed...”

“Well, beastkin are much faster than humans.”

“Perhaps we could run faster if we ran like her?”

“...That’s a bad idea. I doubt you could do it even if you tried.”

Now that I was sure that it was her, I called out and waved my arms. And then Ms. Delia seemed to run even faster.

At this point, it seemed like the same speed as a horse. I suppose it had something to do with how strong beastkin are.

“I came to gree...hmmph! Woah...you!”

Ms. Delia was running so fast that she was not able to stop, and ended up passing us.

However, she quickly stopped and then used her tail to balance herself so that she did not fall. And then she turned around and raised her arm.

“You knew that we would pass through here?”

“No... As I knew you would come, I was going around the village. I only realized it was from this direction because of the smoke yesterday.”

“Smoke... But wouldn’t it have been during the night?”

“Yes. It was already dark when we made the fire. I don’t think you would have been able to see the smoke at night...”

While we had told her when we were going, we did not tell her what route we would take. And we had not gone by the usual path.

As for her seeing the smoke at night, perhaps her ears were an explanation? They were cat-like, so maybe she could see well in the dark.

“Um...what are you holding? Or to be more accurate, dragging...”

There was something unfamiliar in her left hand.

It was not moving, but it was several meters long. And she had been dragging while running.

“Ah, this thing? I caught it before coming here. It’s a serpent!”

Ms. Delia looked rather proud as she thrust out her left hand, and pointed the serpent’s face towards us.

Well, it looked dead... However, as she had thrust it out suddenly, the tail whipped out and nearly hit me.

“Serpent... Phillip?”

“Well, while it could be dangerous to hunt it alone, it is not impossible. However, there is no weapon slash on it at all. That is surprising.”

“It is definitely a serpent... Normally, you would kill it with a weapon to avoid being bitten...”

“Oh, but it is much faster to give its neck a little squeeze?”

Chapter 856

Ms. Delia wanted to be praised

“As I knew you would be coming, I wanted to clear the area of monsters! Though, I’m sure it would not be a problem with Leo. Speaking of Leo... Where is she?”

“Well, due to certain reasons, she is staying home. I actually was going to come with her partway.”

“...So that is why we didn’t see any monsters here.”

“The mystery is solved then. It was Ms. Delia... I suppose she is used to dealing with monsters. I would like to train with her later.”

While she said it so casually, it would have been quite dangerous. And yet she still did it voluntarily.

I was grateful, but worried...

“Even without Leo, you really didn’t need to do all of that.”

“No, it was no trouble at all. I was able to get a nice jog around the village. Besides, I’m sure the others will be happy when they see this serpent.”

“Is it used for something?”

“The old men like to put it in liquor. Apparently, it adds a nice sting to your tongue. But I don’t like the stuff, and never drink it...”

“...”

“Uhh?”

“Mr. Takumi. Just do it.”

“We won’t watch, if that’s what you are worrying about.”

Ms. Delia was looking at me with expectant eyes. Clearly she wanted to be praised. It kind of reminded me of Leo.

“Uh.. Well done. Ms. Delia. Good, good...”

With no other choice, I reached out and patted her on the head.

“Woof. Kuun... Ah, excuse me! I just remembered when you did that to me the last time...”

“No...as long as you are happy...”

Ms. Delia had sounded just like a dog... Though, she had been like a cat when she caught the thief.

“In any case, let us go to Bleiyu village!”

“Yes. Uh, do you want to ride with us, Ms. Delia?”

“Not at all. Sometimes, I do ride on horses, to pretend like I am human. But I usually prefer to run. I ran by myself to Ractos before as well. Of course, I walked normally when on the main road.”

“Uh...well...I see...”

Regardless, we then packed our things on the horses and continued our journey to Bleiyu village.

But Ms. Delia intended to run again. And she crouched low and got ready to run.

Well, judging from what I had seen earlier, she was capable of running at the same speed as a horse. So perhaps it was better for her.

Maybe she was like Leo, and enjoyed running around.

Still, the fact that she could run like that, and also catch a serpent as if it was nothing... It really was amazing.

Perhaps if she ran without any restrictions, she could run even faster than a horse.

“By the way, Mr. Takumi. Compared to when we last met in Ractos... You seem to be acting a little different with these men...?”

Chapter 857

Ms. Delia learned the reason

We were at the point where Bleiyu village would come into view soon. And so we decided to let the horses rest.

I decided to take the opportunity to explain to Ms. Delia what was going on with me and the others.

“We decided to change the way we talk on the way here... Because we want to come off like we’re old friends. After all, wouldn’t it look more natural?”

“I see... The message did say that you wanted to hide your connections with Leo and the duke. It was very surprising...”

“That way, the villagers should be able to act more casually around me. After all, I want to see how they normally live.”

“Indeed... They would be very nervous if they knew that you were related to the duke. Yes, I think it is a good idea.”

I still didn’t know how well I would be able to fit in. But I wanted to stick out as little as possible. Ms. Delia nodded with satisfaction.

“I don’t know how things are in Ractos, but Bleiyu is a very small village... So it is rare for anyone important to visit it.”

“Haha. I suppose so. And so I think you should talk to me in a more casual way as well, Ms. Delia.”

“Ah, that’s right. So it will not look strange. Though, I must say that I’m a little disappointed that I could not see Leo and Liza again.”

“Since I want you to be her teacher, I feel the same way... But she could not come this time. But she is being looked after at the house.”

“Hmm... Well, I suppose it is that time then.”

“Huh?”

“Well, I don’t know any other beastkin, so I cannot be sure... But it was like that with me when I was younger. We grow a little faster than humans. Apparently, it is because we are a hunting tribe.”

“I see...”

I did not even know if humans were the same in this world as they were in my old one. Even though most looked similar.

In any case, I had heard about the beastkin being hunters. It was survival of the fittest for them.

Even someone like Ms. Delia was stronger and more athletic than many humans in their prime.

“But I was raised in a human village. So there is a lot that I don’t know... But I did seem to grow faster than the other children. So I suppose it was the same for Liza.”

“Well...uh...yes. I think so.”

“I see. I did wonder about that. Regardless, yes, it was good that you did not bring her with you then.”

Ms. Delia looked satisfied that she had been right.

Though, I was surprised that she would talk about it so straightforwardly.

Well, it's not that I thought she should be embarrassed or anything.

Besides, she was also a beastkin...

And at the end of the day, the important thing was that she was growing and that she was healthy...

Chapter 858

Even close villages were different

“The village had a little celebration at that time. I suppose you might do something for Liza as well.”

“Oh? You did? Everyone?”

“Yes. The elders were especially happy.”

“I see. But was it because you are related to fenrirs... And are a beastkin?”

“I don't think so. But then again, the villagers will use the smallest excuse to celebrate, because it means they can drink.”

“Uh, uhuh...”

I wondered if it was like that in Range village as well. But I didn't really feel comfortable asking.

“Mr. Takumi... The horses are rested up now. We should continue on to the village.”

“Very well... Oh, remember that you can’t talk to me too politely.”

“I will be careful.”

“We are really close now. This is the last stop!”

And so I climbed back onto the horse. As usual, behind Phillip...

“Hmm? That smoke...”

“It is white, so at least a house is not burning down....”

As we made our way to Bleiyu village, I saw a cluster of buildings in the distance.

We were almost there... As I thought this, I noticed that smoke was rising into the air.

I turned to Ms. Delia, but she was running on all fours at a great speed. And so I could not talk to her yet.

“Yes, here we are. I hope you aren’t too tired!”

“Haha. I would be more worried about you, Ms. Delia. I was just riding.”

And so we arrived at the entrance to the village.

While Ms. Delia was panting a little, she did not really look that tired. It was impressive.

The entrance to the village was very simple. There was just a wooden fence that surrounded the buildings. And one path that extended from the entrance.

I could see that there was a plaza near the center.

That was probably where they had gatherings and feasts, just like in Range village.

“Hmm... There might be more buildings here than in Range village?”

“As it is close to the forest, the fence is also a little higher.”

“Phillip, Nicholas... You seem to be noticing a lot...”

“It is part of our training. We always observe a new town or village when we arrive. After all, we might need to escape.”

“You can say we are always thinking about combat. It is hammered into you when becoming a guard.”

Now that I thought about it, Phillip had said something similar when I first went to Range village...

“So...Ms. Delia. What is that smoke over there?”

I had not seen smoke like that since coming to this world.

It felt like there was too much smoke for it to be for cooking.

“Ah, the old men are smoking some meat. They sometimes do it with orc meat in order to preserve it. It is quite delicious.”

“Smoked meat... Ah, of course.”

“Oh! That is much better than dried meat!”

Phillip reacted quite happily to Ms. Delia’s explanation.

I reunited with Mr. Kanat

“Phillip likes to have it while drinking. As it is more tasty than normal dried meat, it is quite popular as a portable food.”

“It is still hard though. We don’t have much salt in the village, so it’s easier to smoke it. But as it is marinated in different ingredients first, there is a little more flavor than just being salty.”

“Ah, I see.”

As these lands were not close to the sea, it was difficult for villages like this one to obtain salt.

Unlike Range village, which mainly made wine, this village made all kinds of things.

Yes, this was what I had wanted to see. It was a good thing that I chose this village.

“Oh, someone came out?”

“Hey, Delia!”

“That is Mr. Kanat. I told him everything already, so he understands, Mr. Takumi.”

As we were talking about smoked meat, I saw a man come out of one of the buildings in the back.

He turned towards us and then called Ms. Delia. Indeed...it was a familiar voice.

“Ah, just wait right here. I will go ahead!”

“Uh, Ms. Delia?”

“I wonder what it is?”

“It sounded like she will be back soon... What should we do with the horses?”

Ms. Delia looked like she suddenly remembered something, and told me to wait as she rushed into the village.

In the meantime, I gently petted the horse that had carried me here.

“Animals do seem to like you, Takumi. It’s rare to see a horse looking this pleased.”

“Uh...I don’t think it’s anything special... Uh, I suppose I have practice with petting Leo.

“Yes, perhaps there is a special method that animals like.”

Phillip said as he looked at me with suspicion.

Well, even if Silver Fenrirs were special beings, it wasn’t like you needed some kind of ability to pet them...

“Sorry to keep you waiting! Now, Mr. Kanat!”

“Uh, yes. Mr. Takumi... Uh, I will call you simply Takumi from now on. Is that alright?””

“Yes, Mr. Kanat.”

“I told him how to talk to you from now on!”

A short while later, Ms. Delia returned with Mr. Kanat.

She looked rather pleased with herself now, and wagging her tail expectantly.

“Well, Takumi. You better praise her.”

“Hah...good...good...?”

“Wuff.”

“Delia seems to be fond of you. Well, I suppose it’s no surprise, considering who you are with...”

Mr. Kanat seemed to be talking about Leo or the duke.

“Sorry to interrupt this, Delia. But that thing you are holding. Don’t you need to deliver it to someone?”

“Ah, that’s right! Yes... Mr. Takumi. I will see you later. Mr. Kanat will be your guide. You better do it properly, Mr. Kanat!”

“I know. Now, run along now.”

“I’ll be back soon!”

Chapter 860

We were taken to the place where we would be staying

After being reminded, Ms. Delia finally remembered that she was holding a serpent in her hands. And she ran off in order to deliver it to the old men of the village.

“Hah, how rowdy... I’m sorry, Mr... Takumi.”

“No, not at all. It’s nice to see her like this.”

“She is adored by everyone in the village. She cheers everyone up.”

“I can imagine that.”

It was not a bad thing to be a little rowdy. It was much louder in the mansion. Especially after Rahle and the Cockatrices arrived.

“Still, it is quite impressive.”

“What is?”

“That Delia wanted to be patted like that. She tends to not like having her ears touched.”

“I see...”

I was starting to wonder if Nicholas was right, and Leo had taught me the right way to pet her...

“Oh, we shouldn’t be standing around and talking here. Yes, you should take the horses to the stables. They will be looked after.”

“Thank you.”

“In any case... Normally, a guest would stay with the chief, but it so happens that there is an empty house right now. So you will stay there. We don’t have an inn, but it is kept clean so that we can receive people at any time.”

“Yes, thank you.”

And so Mr. Kanat guided us through the village.

First, we left the horses at the stables. At first, they said they would take care of them for us, but as we felt bad, it was decided that Nicholas would visit them a few times a day and take care of them.

As for where we would be staying, an important guest would likely stay in the spacious house of the chief. But as we were to be treated like ordinary travelers, we would stay in an empty house instead.

Aside from that, we would be able to buy ingredients to cook with.

I was happy that they weren't putting too much effort into welcoming us, and would leave us alone most of the time.

"At first, Delia wanted you to stay with her... But it would look odd, since she lives alone. Even if you might want it that way, Takumi."

"No, no. Not at all.."

"Well, I suppose you have someone else? In any case, we don't want any strange rumors to spread. So you will stay in the house."

"Regarding that... I heard that someone found Ms. Delia when she was a child. I thought that she would be living with them."

"Ah, the old woodsman. Yes, he did look after her, and they lived together...but he died a few years ago. He was old, after all. And he had no wife or children. But everyone helps each other here, and she is able to live alone."

"I see..."

Somehow, I was reminded of Liza's situation. Though, unlike Liza, she had the other villagers here. And it seemed like she lived happily and had everything she needed.

"In any case, please use this house freely. You can sleep upstairs and eat downstairs."

"Thank you."

The house that Mr. Kanat led us to had two floors.

It was carefully maintained, and there was no dirt anywhere... Or perhaps it had been cleaned by Ms. Delia and Mr. Kanat when they heard of our visit.

There was a kitchen on the first floor, and a table where we could eat.

There were five small rooms on the second floor, which had simple single size beds and chairs.