

Beloved Dog 871

Chapter 871

I talked to the people who worked in the field

As I talked with Ms. Delia and watched the fields close up, one man who was carrying a basket called out to Ms. Delia.

He appeared to be in his thirties. And so Ms. Delia introduced us to him.

“I see, I see. When I returned to the village yesterday, they said you had already returned to the house, so I could not see you. Still, why are you showing them the fields, Delia?”

“Because they said that they wanted to see it.”

“Huh... Indeed. But there really is nothing interesting here. You people sure are strange.”

“Hey, that is rude to our guests!”

“Haha...”

Even if it was not very interesting for people in this world, it was interesting for me.

In the place I used to live, there were no fields that stretched out as far as they did here.

After that, we went around to the other fields, and talked with the other villagers.

Apparently, it was rare for outsiders to come here and watch the fields...

Besides, Ms. Delia was with us, and so people were eager to talk.

I noticed how they smiled and laughed when they saw her. And it was clear how she was well loved in the village.

“...Well, we received a lot of food again. Even though it wasn’t why we came out here...”

“They were just happy to see some new people. Especially since you took an interest in their work. They must be very pleased.”

“I received a lot too. Even though I was just tagging along...”

By the time we were finished seeing the fields, Nicholas, Ms. Delia and I had our arms filled with vegetables.

We still had stuff left from yesterday, and I was worried if we would be able to eat all of it...

“Delia, are these the young men who are interested in the fields?”

“Ah, Mr. Peter.”

As we carried the food and made our way back to the house, an old man called out to us while sitting on a chair.

He had not been among the old people who surrounded us yesterday, so perhaps he was always here.

“Hello. I am Takumi.”

“And I am Nicholas.”

“Aye. I am Peter. Just a petty, senile old man.”

“Senile! But Mr. Peter, it was your knowledge that allowed these fields to grow and expand as much as they have.”

“Ah, but that was some time ago, when I was young. Back when I could work in the fields as well. I cannot even swing a hoe now. All I do is sit here and watch.”

In spite of what he said, he did not appear to be senile.

Even his posture was straight.

“What knowledge was that?”

“Oh, nothing difficult. Just things the village had not started to do back in those days.”

“Mr. Peter suggested they use horses, which allowed them to plough larger fields.”

“It would have been done eventually even without me. Because they were doing it in other villages.”

“It was Mr. Peter’s idea to use horses who could not run much. Because they are often difficult to care for, especially in a village.”

“Ah... I see.”

If a horse could not run, and there was no other use for it, it might be put down.

A wealthy person might look after it until the end, but that was not common.

While I felt bad, the villagers had to do what they could in order to live.

Chapter 872

Mr. Peter knew a lot about farming

“Healthy horses can carry things, and there is plenty of work to do. But if they are old or injured...”

“And so Mr. Peter suggested they attach some special tools to them so they could plough the fields. Well, that is what I heard.”

“If they work, they will live longer. And the bigger the fields, the more produce, and people will be able to afford to take care of them. Of course, it was being done in other villages. So it is not as if I got the idea on my own.”

“Still, you helped many horses, Mr. Peter. I am sure they are all very thankful to you!”

“I don’t know if horses would feel that... Well, you are a beastkin, Delia. So perhaps you can talk to them.”

“Yes, Ms. Delia knows a lot about horses.”

Liza was like that as well. So she probably understood the emotions of horses more than humans.

“Aside from that, Mr. Peter also made other suggestions regarding the soil, and ways to help the crops grow better. And everyone is indebted to him!”

“I merely suggested that they let the soil rest, and also mix soil and dead leaves from the forest. That was also knowledge I got from other villages...”

Mr. Peter looked embarrassed as Ms. Delia continued to praise him. He was a humble person.

But even if it was done in other villages, being the one to suggest it here first, and succeeding was quite an achievement.

“Obviously, the first person to think of it is impressive... But putting it into action here is also very commendable.”

“Oh, now the visitor is siding with Delia...”

“His name is Takumi.”

“Oh, Takumi. Yes.”

After that, we spent some time there, talking to Mr. Peter.

As he was old now, he was not as involved with the field work, but he still liked to sit here and watch.

Aside from the soil of the fields, he also knew a lot about different growing methods, and was like a farming expert.

If he wanted to, perhaps it might be a good idea to invite him to Range village... They would not have many people there who were as knowledgeable about farming. I could hire someone, but they may not know as much as Mr. Peter.

In any case, I would think about whether I should ask him or not.

Besides, I would have to tell him about myself and the duke before any of that.

In any case, we then left him there and returned to the village...

“Here, here. Eat more!”

“Eat as much as you can. Or you won’t grow.”

“It’s nice to drink during the day!”

“The grandmothers are usually strict about it, but we can drink without worry now, because there are guests.”

“Really, you are always looking for opportunities to drink... Mr. Takumi, I hope you do not come like these old geezers?”

“Ahaha... Thank you. I am eating a lot. But I don’t know if I can eat more...”

When we returned to the village, the grandmothers brought out some food they had prepared, and we had a lunch party in the plaza.

Some of the old men brought drinks, but as it was the same serpent wine, I politely declined.

Though, they tried to make me eat more instead, and I was already quite full... Besides, I was at the age where I would only grow horizontally...

Chapter 873

I ate as much as possible

“Oh, so you have a taste for it!”

“Haha! I can drink even more!”

“Phillip, I don’t know it...”

“It’s fine, Nicholas. I’m just pretending, and am not actually drinking that much.”

“Hah... If you say so. But if you cause any trouble to Mr. Takumi or the others, I will let Sebastian know.”

“Gah! We-well, I will keep it moderate.”

The old men were giving Phillip more wine to drink.

And while I was a little worried, I had to deal with all the food that the old women were trying to make me eat, so I just left him to Nicholas.

Even now, they were bringing more meat and vegetable dishes to the table.

I wasn’t a competitive eater, but the time may have come for me to test my own limits...

“Ugh...I reached my limit.”

“Are you alright, Mr. Takumi? I’m sorry that they kept feeding you...I was not able to stop them.”

“Haha. Don’t worry, they were just trying to be nice...”

I held my stomach as I returned to the house and sat down in the dining room. I was doing my best to keep it down.

I had not been able to eat everything... Did they just like fattening up any guests that came here? That is what I felt like.

“Takumi, perhaps you will feel better if you let it all out?”

“No, I couldn’t do that... Phew...”

Nicholas’s suggestion felt wasteful. I just needed to rest a little, and I would feel better.

I had many experiences feeling sick after drinking, and ended up throwing up. But just thinking about their faces as they brought the food, I could not treat it the same way.

“Throwing up wine is more wasteful! No matter how much you drink... Even if it affects my training tomorrow... I would never do that...”

“Phillip, you should rest too.”

Phillip protested while getting up from his chair. But he was so unstable that he quickly sat back down.

While I wouldn’t say that he had drunk too much, it would still be best for him to rest for now.

“I would have liked to see more of the village, but it seems that a short break is in order.”

“Yes. You wouldn’t want to press yourself too hard. I have to go and meet the children soon... But I could do that some other time?”

“No, it’s fine. It’s not as if we require any looking after. We will be fine soon enough. Still, the children?”

“It is almost time for them to be finished with their studies. The old men and women take care of them while the others are working.”

According to Ms. Delia, after the parents went out to work, the children were gathered together so that they could study. That was how they learned to read and write. It had been the same for Ms. Delia when she was young.

They would take a break for lunch and then study again. After that, they would all play in the plaza.

While not every day, Ms. Delia tried to go there and play with them when she could.

Chapter 874

There were a lot of energetic children

“Recently, a lot of them grab my tail, which is quite troublesome...”

Ms. Delia said with a laugh. It was clear that she enjoyed playing with them.

Children could be like that. I remember that I used to have to warn them to be gentle when touching Leo’s tail.

“Well, while I don’t think Phillip can, I might go and have a look later on. It’s in the central plaza?”

“Yes, I’ll be waiting for you. I’m sure they will be happy as well!”

“Haha. They might be wary of a stranger. So you’ll have to introduce me.”

“I’m sure they won’t be frightened of someone like you... But I will do what I can then.”

I still did not feel comfortable moving, but I should be fine soon.

In the meantime, Nicholas brought some water for Phillip to drink.

He had it pretty hard too...

In any case, I would do my best so that he could rest later, since it was my turn to prepare dinner.

“Oh, they sure are energetic.”

After I had rested enough, I went to see Ms. Delia and the children.

Several of them were chasing after Ms. Delia’s tail as she ran around.

But no matter how they pounced and came from different directions, she was always able to dodge them with ease.

“Hmm... It looks like it could be an effective way to train. Observe Ms. Delia and try to predict how she will move. And with some cooperation, capture the target..”

“Nicholas. Why are you always thinking about training?”

“You say that, but is that not very similar to how you train? When you are trying to hit Leo with your sword?”

“Ah... Well, I suppose it is quite similar.”

Now that he mentioned it, it was kind of similar to how Tilura and I trained, where we would see if we could hit Leo.

Of course, carefully coordinating our movements to try and strike something with a sword was not really the same as chasing a tail.

“Ah!”

“Hmm? They seem to have noticed us.”

“It looks like it... But why is she grabbing the children?”

I thought that she would run to us after we arrived, but instead, she began to grab the children and gather them together.

What was she going to do? I had a bad feeling about it...

“Alright now. All of you, charge at that man!”

“Ah, old man!”

“Charge!”

“Hey, wai...”

“Takumi, I’ll leave them to you... I will watch the area. It is my duty as a guard.”

“Hey, Nicholas... Ah!”

Ms. Delia had pointed at me and given the order.

And then about ten children came running towards me at top speed...

I tried to run after Nicholas, but the children quickly jumped on me, grabbing my legs so that I couldn’t move.

After that, Ms. Delia forced me to participate in their games.

“Hah...hah...pew...”

“Good work, Mr. Takumi.”

“Hah... They really seem to never run out of energy. Phew...”

I answered Ms. Delia while trying to catch my breath.

As Leo played with Tilura and Liza, as well as other children, I had known it...but it still surprised me.

Aside from being chased around, they also wanted me to pick them up, and I had to move with all of my strength from beginning to end.

Had I not been trained, I don't know if I would have been able to survive that...

Chapter 875

The children were rather curious

“They are so full of energy after their studies. And since they have grown so much, they are starting to get so much faster, that I am in danger of being caught.”

“Hah...hah... Do you think they are getting stronger because they chase after your tail so much?”

Even if they were doing it as a game, they probably put some thought into coordination and how they move. So it might be effective as training.

“Here, Mr. Takumi.”

“Thank you.”

“Hey, old man!”

“...Uh, as I said before, how about ‘mister’?”

After I caught my breath, Ms. Delia gave me a cup of water. As I drank, one of the girls called to me.

“Uh, mister. I’m sorry.”

“Well, it’s fine. So, what is it?”

“Are you married to Delia?”

“What!?”

“Wh-wh-what are you talking about! Me and Mr. Takumi... As if that would ever...”

The girl was younger than Liza, and seemed like she didn’t quite understand what she was saying.

Regardless, Ms. Delia was even more surprised than me by what she said.

“My papa and mama are close, just like you and Delia! So I thought...”

“Uhh... Well... Yes, Ms. Delia and I get along well. But we are not married.”

“Really?”

She looked at us doubtfully.

“It’s true. Mr. Takumi has someone who is a much better match for him. Yes, he seems much happier when he is with her.”

“Huh?”

“What?”

I looked at her in surprise, and then she looked at me with a puzzled expression.

I suppose she was talking about Claire. Regardless, before I dealt with that, I had to convince the little girl first.

“Anyway, Ms. Delia and I are not like that.”

“Yes. We are not married. That’s completely wrong!”

“I see!”

The girl was finally convinced and then went away and returned to playing with the others.

I sighed with relief, as did Ms. Delia. We then looked at each other and nodded, as we were both thinking about the same thing.

It was time to gather the children together and find the next target... I mean, villains to be punished.

“Look over there. Those old men who are just standing there. Charge!”

“Hey, hey, Takumi!?”

“Wait! We didn’t do...!”

“We were just watching because Delia finally found a nice man!”

“Don’t listen to them children. Let’s go!”

“They want to play with you!”

“Yaaay!!”

Chapter 876

The Attack was a Success

After Ms. Delia and I gave the order, the children ran towards Nicholas and the elders.

And while they were making some excuses, the children ignored them.

“...Evil really should be destroyed.”

“Hah... Hah...! Sending the children to attack us like that. Have you no shame, Takumi?”

“No, it was you who abandoned me first, Nicholas. Regardless, you are the only target who is not old. So you better stop resting and go back to play with them. As you said before, it will be effective training.”

After he managed to escape the children, Nicholas made his objections while trying to catch his breath.

However, I quickly sent him back into the ring of children.

“By the way, Ms. Delia.”

“Climb that man over there! Yes, hold onto his hair, and then you won’t fall! Oh, what is it, Mr. Takumi?”

“Uh, I don’t think they should be pulling people’s hair. Hey! Don’t do that! It will hurt!”

“Okay!”

Ms. Delia was still busy with giving out orders, but she then turned to look at me with a puzzled expression.

“Ms. Delia, when you talk about how there was another girl...”

“Oh, that was nothing. I wasn’t really thinking...”

After that, the children finally calmed down a little, and so I talked with the older men and rested.

And seeing his opportunity, Nicholas glared at me angrily as he began to protest again.

“...That was really terrible of you, Takumi.”

“You deserved it for what you did. Also, I just thought it was unfair for me to play with the children and exclude you. Besides, you looked like you wanted to do some training...”

“After experiencing that, I know I was right to compare it to training. However, it wasn’t so much fun as just exhausting...”

Indeed, I had meant it as a form of revenge, as Nicholas had run away first.

However, I wasn’t lying when I said that I wanted him to enjoy playing with the children.

But it did not seem like he enjoyed it that much. Perhaps it was different with me, because I was used to playing with Liza and Tilura.

Well, even then, it was Leo who did most of the running and playing.

“Still, why didn’t you just dodge them like Ms. Delia does?”

He was a well-trained guard. Compared to his fights with Mr. Ekenhart, it should be easy to step out of the way of charging children.

“Ms. Delia has abnormal reflexes. Besides, children are less predictable. And I am not used to dealing with them.”

“I see...”

Ms. Delia was a beastkin, and her reaction speed was definitely impressive.

Also, she knew the children well, so she could probably read them better.

I suppose that was why Nicholas was at a disadvantage.

“I really have some ways to go...”

“Why don’t you train with them some more then?”

“I...don’t think I will. I cannot concentrate well, which will make it less effective.”

Apparently, freedom and lack of rules were not good for his pace.

“Mr. Takumi!”

“What is it, Ms. Delia?”

As we were talking, Ms. Delia shouted while running towards me.

“It’s the chief. Preparations are made. So it will be sent to your house now.”

“Prepared? What is?”

Had I forgotten about something?

I don’t remember making any requests...

Chapter 877

Konjac Negotiation

“He said it was about the konjac. Were you two talking about that?”

“Ah...I see. Yes, we did talk about that. Since we are here, I thought that I might as well buy some before I leave.”

“So that is why. Uh, did the others like it too then?”

“The women liked it. Also it is easy to add it to other dishes.”

“Oh, is that so? While I do like it myself, it is nice to hear that people in other places appreciate it as well!”

It was something they made in this village, after all.

As someone who made herbs, I had an idea of what that was like.

“So, it’s the house that we are staying in?”

“Yes. Well, the chief cannot move yet, so someone will be there in his stead. In any case, you should go, as they will arrive soon.”

“I see. But since you only just heard it, perhaps there is a little time.”

“Yes. You could go around the time that dinner is being prepared.”

“Very well. So, Ms. Delia and Nicholas...let’s go!”

“Uh? Me too! But it’s usually Phillip that does such things.”

I didn’t know who it was, but if they were sent by the chief, we should not be too late.

However, since we had a little time, and I saw that the children were starting to become bored, and so I called Nicholas and Ms. Delia, so that we could charge at them.

While Nicholas was resisting, I pulled him by the hand.

I suppose Phillip was lucky that he was resting from drinking too much...

“Excuse me. Oh, you’re all here... Even Delia.”

“Huh? Mr. Kanat?”

“Yes, I thought I would join Mr. Takumi and listen. Especially since I will be working for him in the future.”

“Ah, you did say something about that before.”

After playing with the children, we returned to the house and waited for our guest to arrive.

Just as the sun started to set, Mr. Kanat came to the house.

“But why are you here? I didn’t see you at all today, and thought that you wouldn’t come...”

“Well, I was sent by the chief, that is why. It’s about the konjac, right? And I am the one who goes to sell it in Ractos. Not only that, but I’m the one who managed to sell my whole stock. So I suppose I know more about it than anyone else here.”

“I see.”

“Well, most of it was bought by Takumi... And what I had left sold well too. I am not really good at negotiating, but if it is with Takumi, then it will be easier.”

“Indeed. I was thinking the same thing. You understand the situation, and the reason that we want it.”

“So, she liked it then? I was worried that she might not after buying so much. It might have a negative effect on the village... Not that I’m saying she would have done something to harm us.”

“Yes...it was well received. And I assure you, even if she was disappointed with it, she would not have blamed you.”

Mr. Kanat was relieved to hear this, and so I thought about getting to business immediately... But now that I think about it, if they mostly ate it here, and rarely sold it outside... Could they really prepare enough for me to buy?

Chapter 878

Konjac was used as emergency food

The potato fields in the village were small, and so I doubted they could produce that much to be eaten by outsiders.

If it was just one person, then it would not be a problem. But you would need a lot to feed all of the people at the mansion.

He had brought quite a lot to Ractos, but as for whether he could produce more than that...and regularly. I would have to ask about it.

“Do you really have enough to be selling it to outsiders?”

“Yes, I thought that you would be curious about that. Well, it was originally not meant to be sold outside. We keep it as emergency food. Along with the smoked meats.”

“It started as a way of dealing with times when the crops fail us. As they are able to be harvested more consistently.”

“I see...”

“The potatoes themselves can be stored for quite a long time, but there are still limits. Regardless, as it is for emergency, we do not care about the taste as much.”

“In other words, it does not taste too good by itself.”

“Aye. It does not taste as good as other potatoes. And so we usually don’t eat it.”

“And that is when they started to turn it into konjac. That is what I heard from the elders.”

“Yes, I heard that as well. It was a very long time ago.”

“I suppose they did not want the food to go to waste.

So the potatoes really did not taste good if you ate them as they were. I had heard something similar about the potatoes they used back on earth.

Though, I think it also had something to do with poison.

“It is very easy to make. You crush it and mix it with ash water so that it hardens. And then you boil it.”

“Ash?”

“Aye. I don’t know why, but that makes it harder. It was a method devised in this village.”

Well, they used different ingredients here. It was no wonder I thought that the taste was also quite different.

“Still, are you really allowed to tell me how to make it? The chief said that I would not be allowed to see it being made...”

“Bah, I don’t mind. The chief doesn’t know the situation with you. He thinks you are just an ordinary merchant. But you will not try to imitate it or do anything that will hurt this village.”

Well, I suppose it was because he saw me as someone related to the duke.

“Oh, back to the konjac. We have to negotiate. That being said, there is not a lot to talk about now...”

“Indeed. In any case, while we still have some konjac left, we have decided to purchase some more.”

“So the question is...the price.”

It wasn't that I absolutely had to buy it. But the people at the mansion might be expecting it, and so it was best to not disappoint them.

“Should I ask the grandmothers to make more of it?”

“No, there are not that many potatoes to begin with, so we will run out.”

“And we cannot use the ones that are being saved for an emergency...”

“Perhaps a little is fine. But it is being saved for a reason. Well, the fields will probably have to be expanded in the future. But for now, we should think about how much we can sell.”

Ms. Delia had suggested they just make more of it, but Mr. Kanat objected.

For a moment, I wondered if I could just use Weed Cultivation to help them grow more, but then I remembered that it was impossible to grow such crops.

...Besides, I would not want to take the jobs of the people who worked in the fields...

Chapter 879

We started to negotiate

“Indeed... The chief told me about the amount of potatoes and konjac remaining. Well, excluding the amount that is stored in each house. So, in terms of the amount and how much it would cost...”

The amount that Mr. Kanat then said was both more and cheaper than I was expecting.

I had seen the prices in Ractos, but it was even cheaper now. I wondered if it was because the duke was buying them...

“No, even if the duke’s opinion does matter to us. But as we do not have to deliver it to Ractos, it is only natural that it would be cheaper.”

I see...well, it was not strange that the price would change depending on location.

After all, he would have to carry to Ractos with a wagon. And that would not be cheap.

Hmm...he was going to be able to prepare twice as much as what Claire bought previously...it was more expensive than buying it in Japan, but considering that it was all made by hand, it was not expensive.

“So, one barrel is the same as what we saw in Ractos?”

“Ah, I didn’t tell you that part yet. Well, that was the first time we went to sell it outside of the village. But actually, it is a little different. A barrel here is slightly larger.”

“Mr. Takumi. I brought a barrel of it yesterday?”

“Ah, you’re right. I wasn’t thinking about negotiations, and didn’t really notice the size...”

“Takumi. This is the remaining konjac.”

“Thank you, Phillip. So, it is quite larger than the ones we bought in Ractos.”

“Aye. As it was the first time we were selling it, we did not bring too much. The barrels in this village are a little larger.”

Indeed, the konjac here was a little larger than my hand. So I suppose it was 1.5 times bigger... Definitely larger than what was sold in supermarkets.

“I see...this size for that price.”

I thought about what I should do.

I had to think about the amount that would be consumed at the mansion, as well as how long it could be stored.

That being said, the people there had eaten quite a lot, so I doubt it would go to waste.

“...Is there a problem?”

It was then that I noticed that the others were looking at me.

Especially Mr. Kanat and Ms. Delia.

“...You are usually smiling and so laid back, so I was a little surprised. Still, I am glad that you are thinking about it seriously.”

“Sorry, I was a little too focused.”

Usually, I tried to smile, so as to not give a bad impression to other people..

Also, there was the fact that I was in a new environment, and had a lot of fun... So unlike when I was in Japan, I had a lot of reasons to smile and look pleasant.

There were a lot of kind people here, and I simply enjoyed my time, especially because of Leo.

“Well, leaving my facial expressions aside...”

“Ah, are you blushing, Mr. Takumi?”

“What! No, nevermind that...”

I felt a little embarrassed to realize the others were focused on my expression, and so I forcefully changed the subject.

Even though Ms. Delica was wagging her tail and looking at me happily...

Chapter 880

We finished the negotiations

“For now...I would like to buy the same number of barrels as in Ractos. They don’t have to be cut.”

“I understand. That is quite a lot, but I’m not surprised after the last time.

“Yes, that was very sudden... Even I was surprised.”

Mr. Kanat nodded. Apparently, he was so surprised last time when Claire bought most of his stock, that this was nothing.

“Also, could we perhaps talk about the possibility of having more delivered to the mansion regularly?”

“Hmm... As for that, I would have to discuss it with the others. Selling it is not a problem, but delivering it regularly might be difficult. Ah, is that why you didn’t buy all of it at once?”

“Uh, yes. After all, we would not be able to eat all of it.”

Even though it kept quite well... I thought it would be better to buy it regularly in manageable quantities.

That would give them time to make more of it, and if it continued to sell well, they might consider expanding their fields as well.

“In any case, selling it regularly would result in a connection with the duke’s house. And that should help with future sales.”

“...You really have thought this through. The chief and I really have not thought that far ahead...”

If it had value as a product, it would be easier for the village to produce more of it. Also, it might help to improve the quality.

Not that I had any complaints about how it was now.

“Indeed...six barrels. That and the transportation feels...I suppose around five gold.”

“I understand, five gold... That seems rather cheap?”

I had expected it to cost more.

“You noticed... Well, I lowered it just a little, since you are buying that much. It is more than enough profit for the village.”

“If you say so.”

“Ah, as for the transportation, please take it to a store managed by a Mr. Kalis in Ractos. It is owned by the duke, so it should be easy to find.”

If he took it there, it could be delivered to the mansion quickly.

Sebastian would have already talked to them, and so Nick could deliver it whenever he came by.

“Alright. Well, that is all that needed to be discussed.”

Unlike normal negotiations, it seemed like we were trying to sell cheaply or buy more expensive.

“As for the regular deliveries, I will speak to the chief and the other villagers about it... But I doubt anyone will be against it. After all, it was not something we usually sell, so it will be extra profits. And it will give the old women something to do.”

“Yes, thank you.”

“I am the one who should be bowing my head. Everything is going to help the village.”

After that, I asked him questions about how to preserve the konjac after it was delivered.

They were put in barrels with clean water and covered by a lid, which was enough for some time. But he said that it was best to change the water after it arrived.

Also, Phillip realized that he would probably have to carry it again, and looked rather glum. But Nicholas told him that it served him right for not playing with the children...