

Beloved Dog 951

Chapter 951

Beansprouts were discovered

According to Ms. Helena...some of them had grown sprouts due to being stored in a bad place.

She had considered throwing them out, but someone had accidentally mixed them with other food when frying them.

And since she was a cook, she decided to taste them. They were still small, and obviously didn't have much taste. Still, they did have a nice crunch to them.

"Do you know about them, Mr. Takumi?"

"Well, if it's what I think it is... It's just beansprouts."

"Beansprouts..."

"Of course, they are probably different in this place. But I had been wondering if we could make them."

"You have?"

"Yes. After all, there are people here who are interested in dieting."

"Are you saying that it is good for that?"

"Well, maybe not as good as the konjac, but it should be useful."

Of course, we would have to test it first.

“Then...what if the two were combined together...”

“Yes, it would not be very fattening.”

Though, it would not be very nutritious either. You should probably add some meat to it as well. You had to have a balance.

Regardless, I would leave Ms. Helena to think of something.

“If it’s like the stuff where I am from, it should taste good when fried with meat.”

“So it is just like any other vegetable. I see... Thank you. I just wanted to make sure it was not anything strange, or bad for you.”

“Ah, there is something that you could test...”

“Yes. What is it?”

“Could you try putting some in clean water? And in a place that is quite humid.”

“If we can eat it, I thought I might as well make more with the original method... But you should add water?”

“Yes. If I’m not wrong, that was how they did it... And so I wanted to know if it would work here. Besides, it might come out a little different compared to the accidental ones.”

“I see. Very well then.”

“Thank you. Though, perhaps I shouldn’t be asking you cooks to do this kind of thing, when you are already quite busy.”

“Not at all. This has helped to broaden my knowledge. Besides, this is not that much extra work for me. I just have to put it in some clean water, yes?”

“Uh, I think there is a little more to it than that...”

And so I told Ms. Helena what I knew regarding beansprouts.

In general, it was the same as when storing the beans. They were put in a cool and dark place, and you occasionally changed the water so that it remained clean.

However, it was easy for mold to grow in such conditions, so you had to be careful about that.

We could compare the differences between the two methods of growing them, and the one that yielded more, or grew larger, could be seen as the correct method.

Now, we just had to wait for a few days... I thought about the crunchy texture as I finished talking to Ms. Helena, and then returned to my room.

Leo and Liza were waiting for me, but were rather unhappy, and said that I was late in returning...

Well, at least Ms. Gelda was chuckling with amusement.

Chapter 952

The cockatrices were growing steadily

“Alright, that’s it for today. Thank you, Ms. Lyra and Milina. You were a great help.”

The next day, after finishing making some more herbs, I thanked the two for helping me.

I had made extra before leaving for Bleiyu village, and they had not run out. So while there was no rush, I decided to make a little anyway.

They were still selling quite well, but not too much. That meant there wasn’t a problem of a lot of people getting sick or injured.

“By the way, Ms. Lyra. I forgot to say it earlier. Thank you for washing and repairing my clothes in Bleiyu village.”

No, that was nothing. I was happy to be of help...”

In this world, buying new clothes could be quite expensive, and so many people had the skills to do repairs by themselves.

I suppose it was like how a lot of people could use weapons and fight as well.

“Wuff! Wuff!”

“Papa!”

“Ah, yes. I’m on my way! Excuse me.”

“Not at all. We’ll clean this up. Please go to them.”

As I had been away for some time, Leo and Liza wanted to play with me, along with Cokka and Trice.

Besides, I had promised that I would.

That being said, Tilura was currently studying, and Rahle was waiting for her on top of the roof. Sherry was with Claire, and the fenrirs were sunbathing.

“Oh, I see that Cokka and Trice can fly higher now.”

“Pi-pi!”

“They can go higher than mama’s head!”

“Wuff.”

The two cockatrices flapped their wings boastfully as they played.

Previously, they had only been able to go up around one meter. But now it was around three meters.

There were also some red feathers coming out of their heads.

Currently, they still looked like doves, but they would soon look more like chickens. It was a strange thing.

Eventually, they would be able to fly around with Rahle in the sky.

With such thoughts in my head, I ran around with Leo and Liza for some time.

Cokka and Trice seemed to get tired, and they soon stopped to rest on Liza and Leo's heads.

After playing with them, I met up with Nick, who came to pick up the herbs.

Sebastian had visited Mr. Kalis's store and told them of our return.

Well, we attracted attention with all of the fenrirs, so they would have heard of it anyway.

In any case, Nick wanted to meet me directly, and so I took a few minutes off to meet him in the drawing room.

Actually, I was rather out of breath from all of the running, so I was glad that Nick came.

Sometimes, playing with them was tougher than my training...

When I arrived in the drawing room, Nick greeted me and bowed.

"Here are the herbs. Since you haven't run out yet, I just made a little of every type."

"Thank you! I will deliver them to Mr. Kalis. Um...by the way. There was something I wanted to ask you..."

“Hmm? What is it?”

“It’s just that... They are starting the work of building a new road at Ractos.”

“Ah, yes. What about it?”

“I know that I have no right to ask you to do anything... But...couldn’t you do something about the people who live in the slums?”

“Do something... Like what?”

Chapter 953

Nick confided in me

“They are happy that there will be some new work for them to do. Many were not able to find work before... And since I was able to get out of that situation...they come to me to complain...I mean, for advice.”

“To you? That’s strange...”

“Because I have a serious job now. And so they wanted to know how I managed that. Of course, it was all thanks to you...”

“Well, that’s true. After all...you came at us with a knife...”

“I...I really am sorry about that! Honest! I will never threaten you again!”

“Uh... I didn’t mean it like that... I’ve made mistakes too...”

In any case, I did like it when he talked like some kind of fanatical follower.

“We’ll talk about that later. So, the slums...”

“Yes! I do not know what to do. Mr. Kalis is quite strict when it comes to hiring people. Also, the store would never make a profit if he hired so many employees. I understand why they want to get out of the slums, but I don’t know how I can help them.”

“I see. It’s not like you have your own business, or make enough to hire others.”

“Actually, you pay me enough that I probably could hire one or two people.”

“I do?”

Now that I think about it, his salary was a little on the high side.

That being said, even if he did hire someone, it would not be making much of a difference.

“You give me this much money... I will probably follow you for the rest of my life now!”

“Uh... Don’t think that far ahead... In any case, we will have to give the matter some thought. Of course, I can’t make any promises.”

“Oh, I’m sure you will think of a wonderful solution to this big problem!”

He said with great expectation showing in his eyes.

But I was not some genius who was capable of doing anything.

In any case, I told Nick that I would think about it, and had him return to Ractos.

“Wou?”

“Hmm. What is it, Leo?”

“Mr. Takumi. You seem to be eating less than usual... Is something the matter?” I think Leo is worried.”

“Ah... I was just thinking about something. Thank you for worrying about me, Leo.”

“Wuff.”

Damn it. Ms. Helena had prepared a delicious lunch for us, and yet I was hardly even eating it.

I smiled at Claire to reassure her and then thanked Leo.

“Could you tell me about it?”

“Yes, it was just something that Nick asked me about earlier...”

“Excuse me, Mr. Takumi. I have a message from the master.”

“For me?”

I was going to tell Claire, but was interrupted by Sebastian, who came out into the garden.

What could it be?

“There is one for Lady Claire as well. But I believe this one is about the butlers.”

“I see. Thank you. Ah, we can talk about that other thing later, Claire. As I said, it’s nothing for you to worry about.”

“Yes, very well. Besides, you should find out what my father has to say first...”

Chapter 954

A message from Mr. Ekenhart

As the message was waiting for me, I quickly finished the rest of my lunch.

It would be bad manners to read it while I was eating.

“Hmm... Hmm...”

“Mr. Takumi. What did my father say?”

“The butlers that I can hire were sent from the house. They should arrive within three days. Also, their names are written here.”

“I see... I was worried that he was going to ask you to do something reckless.”

“Hahaha. I don’t think he would... Well, maybe he would. But only if he was actually here. As he would want to watch.”

“That is true.”

Also, the boys that were with Deam when he was arrested. They had arrived safely at Mr. Ekenhart’s house.

Mark had gone ahead of them, and they would be trained to be soldiers. I suppose since I was involved, he decided to update me on that.

“Excuse me. Do you have a minute, Sebastian?”

“What is it?”

“I just learned that Mark and the others have started their training.”

“...It is a bad habit...”

“Um, are there any conditions to training with Mr. Ekenhart? Of course, I am not talking about vicious criminals...”

“Indeed... It really just depends on if he likes them or not. But as for soldiers, there are other places that are recruiting.”

“Uh, and you get trained to become guards?”

“Yes. Similar to Phillip. The other guards here receive that kind of training. Of course, it is very harsh, and not everyone is able to complete it.”

“I see. Well, this is just a suggestion, and will probably be rejected...”

“Oh? Have you thought of something interesting then?”

Sebastian asked with an amused smile.

Claire had finished reading her letter from Mr. Ekenhart, and she was not looking at me as well.

“I wouldn’t call it interesting... But it concerns the slums. And how there are many people there who want to find work.”

“Yes.”

“Nick confided in me about that earlier. So...I was wondering if maybe some of them could undergo Mr. Ekenhart’s training?”

“Hmm... I did not think of that. Turn those men into guards?”

“Obviously, you will have to do background checks on them. To see if they can be trusted. But I also think that Mr. Ekenhart’s training might also help them live honestly?”

Anyone who survives that training will surely come out a different person.

“In any case, I don’t know if they will really become soldiers or guards, as that is up to Mr. Ekenhart to decide after the training. But I think it would be a good chance for some of the people who want to leave the slums.”

“Hmm. Indeed. Once you live there, it is difficult to leave. Not many think about getting honest work. I was like that as well.”

I did not understand what it was like.

Because I had never experienced it before. But I’ve heard about it.

Apparently, Sebastian felt the same way that I was thinking.

You were too desperate to live day to day, that you did not think too far into the future.

According to Sebastian and Liza, just securing food was difficult...

Chapter 955

We thought of hiring soldiers

“Well, if we could decrease the number of people living in the slums, it would be a good thing.”

“Yes. This probably won’t do much, but it could also mean less people applying to work on the roads.”

“Indeed. Ractos does need more soldiers and guards. But it will have to be discussed with His Grace first.”

“Of course. We cannot decide on such things by ourselves.”

In the first place, I had no idea if there would be anyone who would volunteer for training to become a soldier.

I had no idea if this would be an effective idea. And I was starting to feel a little worried after saying it. Still, Sebastian nodded, and Claire also seemed to approve.

Well, it was better than doing nothing.

“This isn’t really related to the business of the herb fields. I’m probably acting rather presumptuous towards the duke right now... Ahaha...”

“Not at all. Up until now, nothing had been done regarding the slums that has had a lasting effect. People can only think of ideas that involve force. I suppose father and I just think like that... And so it is good to hear your opinion as well, Mr. Takumi.”

“Lady Claire is right. Besides, you always think of more interesting ideas, whether they are good or not. And so I always look forward to hearing from you. Indeed, I am glad that Nick confided in you on the matter.”

I was starting to feel a little regret, after being reminded that I was in the house of a duke, and making suggestions about how to do things.

However, the other two were not bothered at all. If anything, they said they were amused, and enjoyed hearing my opinion.

I suppose it meant that when it came to such problems, they cared less about appearances, and more about finding solutions.

It was proof that they actually cared about the people, and not just about their status or their pride.

“Zzzz...”

“Hmm...”

“Wuff...wuu...”

“Kii...”

“Haha. They seem to be sleeping comfortably.”

Perhaps I had been talking for a little too long. When I turned to look at the others, I saw that Liza and Tilura were leaning against Leo. And they seemed to have fallen asleep from boredom.

Liza was carrying Sherry, while Tilura was gently petting Rahle's wings. It was a very peaceful sight.

At first, they had been playing and listening to us... I think Liza had been interested at first, as she had lived in the slums.

Still, clearly the conversation could not hold her interest for long. In a different part of the garden, the fenrirs were also lying down after eating, along with Cokka and Trice. And some of the servants were petting them.

"Mr. Takumi's suggestion...it is different from what I was thinking of. My idea really was worthless."

"I thought that your idea could help in terms of keeping the peace... But there would be problems until it could be put into action. Of course, Mr. Takumi's idea has issues as well. But it is not too difficult. And I doubt anyone would be against it."

"Yes..."

Chapter 956

Claire had been thinking of something similar

As I watched Liza and Tilura, it seemed like Claire and Sebastian were having their own conversation.

Apparently, it was something they had been thinking about for quite some time now.

I wonder what her idea was?

"What was your idea, Claire?"

"...It is a lot less realistic than yours, Mr. Takumi... But I was thinking about having a building where they could live together. And food could be prepared."

“Ah, I see...”

“But there are several problems that would not be solved that way.”

“Problems?”

“With Lady Claire’s idea, it will help to make the town a safer place. However, it might increase the number of people who live in the slums. Also, there will be people who would not look kindly on it...”

“Because other people have to work hard in order to eat and have a place to sleep?”

“Yes. Of course, they would not be living as well as those who are working. But still, people might complain. Though, no one closely associated with the duke would think like that... But there are a lot of people in Ractos.”

“And they might spread rumors to other places.”

“Besides, it will cost money to provide food regularly. And the people may not agree that the duke or town should pay for it.”

“After all, that money could be used for the orphanage or other facilities.”

“I see. Like hiring more workers or preparing a larger building. That is important as well.”

If the orphanage was larger, there would be fewer children in the slums as well.

“I definitely think your idea is better, Mr. Takumi...”

“It’s not a competition. So I don’t think there is any need to compare?”

“Still, there are a lot of issues... And I don’t want a repeat of what happened to you and Leo before...”

“Ah...”

She was talking about when Nick attacked us.

It was not her fault, but I suppose she felt embarrassed, since she had taken us there.

That being said, the other men with Nick were actually outsiders, and were not really related to the slums...

“Kyau?”

“Huh? What is it Sherry?”

“Wuff?”

“Leo? Ah, you woke her up.”

Sherry had woken up and was now rubbing against Claire’s leg.

“Kyau, kyau...”

“Are you trying to console me?”

“I think it was because you looked sad. So Leo woke her up.”

“Is that so... Thank you, Leo. And you too, Sherry.”

“Wuff.”

“Kyau.”

“Hehe. It’s getting a little harder to pick you up, Sherry.”

Perhaps Sherry would not be able to sit on Claire's lap for much longer.

She was a fenrir, after all. So she would soon grow much larger, so that no one would be able to carry her like they do now...

Chapter 957

We all played together

"Kyu, kyu!"

"Now you want to play? Oh, well..."

Sherry was now wagging her tail excitedly. Apparently, she wanted to play again. Claire sighed with exasperation, but it was clear that she was happy.

"Haha. Sherry was able to cheer you up again. But really, please don't feel bad about it. I only thought about it because of Nick and Mr. Ekenhart."

"Really?"

"Yes. It could have just as easily been you."

"Well, if you say so. Then I will believe that you are right."

In any case, I was glad that she wasn't thinking about it too much, and was playing happily with Sherry now.

Sebastian and Ms. Lyra were also smiling as they watched.

"When it's time to play, everyone wakes up."

"Wuff, wuff."

Once we moved away from the table, Liza and Tilura got up as well. Perhaps they detected something.

“You’re going to play with us too, sister Claire?”

“Yes. Sherry wanted to play. Would you like to join us?”

“Okay. It’s more fun if everyone is together! Right, Tilura?”

Tilura was clearly happy about it as well, and Claire laughed.

“Mr. Takumi, how do you play?”

“Indeed... I don’t think you could run around with Leo and Sherry... Do you remember that time when I first came here, and Leo carried Tilura?”

“Uh... You were throwing a branch, and Leo would catch it?”

“Yes. That way, you could play with Leo too.”

When it was me or Tilura, running around was part of training. But I doubted Claire could keep up.

Surely even she could throw a branch without quickly becoming tired...

I hope...

In any case, Leo was looking at me with expectation now.

The fenrirs seemed confused. Perhaps they had never played fetch before.

“Uh...”

“Here, Mr. Takumi.”

“Ah, thank you, Ms. Lyra and Ms. Gelda.”

As we used the back garden a lot recently, there were no more fallen branches like there used to be.

I suppose the servants cleaned it, as we would eat here often.

However, when I thought of going out to find one, Ms. Lyra and Ms. Gelda brought me a pile of them.

“Claire, try and throw this as far as you can.”

“This... Very well!”

“Wuff...”

As Claire prepared to throw it, Leo prepared to run. The fenrirs still looked puzzled.

“Uh, are you going to run too, Liza?”

“Yes!”

“You can do it!”

“Well, if you want to... Leo and you others. Don’t crash into her, alright?”

“Wuff!”

Chapter 958

I had to teach her how to throw

“Mr. Takumi.”

“Yes.”

Claire called me with a serious expression as she prepared to throw the branch.

It really was not that serious. We were just playing... Still, I suppose she was like this because it was her first time.

“Here it goes! Hyah!”

Her form was terrible, but this was not a professional sport, so it was fine...

“W...uff?”

“Got! Here, sister Claire!”

“Uh... Thank you, Liza.”

“Umm...Claire?”

“Kyau...?”

The branch that Claire unleashed went flying through the air...and then it fell down right in front of her.

Everyone had been expecting it to fly in an arc, so it flying straight down to the ground was a little surprising.

Perhaps I should have given her some tips first.

“Mr. Takumi. I don’t understand it... Isn’t it supposed to fly across the garden? I copied you exactly, after all.”

“Well, you probably should start with letting go of the branch as you swing. Not a second after you stop.”

“Oh, but it’s so difficult.”

“Uh, I suppose you don’t throw things very often?”

“Ye...yes.”

“It cannot be helped. There is little reason to throw things normally.”

She had been raised carefully as the daughter of a duke. Though, they had told me that she was quite a tomboy early on... Still, she was not used to these kinds of things.

“Oh...how embarrassing... Perhaps I really am not suited for this.”

“I wouldn’t say that... Most people fail when it’s their first time doing something like this.”

“Is that so... But you made it look so easy.”

“Because I did it many times. Look, we’ll try it again. Here, hold it like this and bend your arm...”

Claire blushed as I held her hand, but she quickly focused on my directions.

I did not miss that Sebastian was grinning in the corner of my vision, but I decided to pay him no mind.

“Like this. Once you swing and your arm reaches here, let go of the branch.”

“I...I understand. Here...”

As long as she didn't get this part wrong, it should probably fly fine.

The rest, like her form, was not that important...

I doubted she could focus on all of that, and it wasn't like I was an expert about throwing anyway.

"Alright. Now, Leo and Sherry... And the rest of you. Liza too. Claire is going to throw it again."

"Wuff."

"Kyau!"

"Yes!"

"Ve-very well..."

And then I turned to Claire and gestured for her to throw it.

Chapter 959

Claire practiced with throwing the branch

"He-here it goes then! Hyah!"

With much enthusiasm, Claire swung her arm and threw the branch.

It went...

"...I think you were too slow again?"

"Uu..."

“Wuff...”

“Kyau...”

“Here, I got it for you, sister Claire.”

“...Thank you...Liza...”

This time, it fell about a meter in front of her.

As it was still an improvement, I suppose she should be commended. Though, it was still a failure.

“Mr. Takumi...”

“Hmm...”

Claire accepted the branch with a teary-eyed look.

While she clearly had the strength, it seemed like she still was not used to moving her body in this way.

“Alright, you can keep practicing until you are able to play with Leo and the others!”

“I should...?”

“It’ll be fine. You did better this time. You just need to try a few more times now.”

“You can do it, sister Claire!”

“Do your best...”

Somehow, it became less about playing in the garden, and more about us helping Claire practice her twig throwing...

“Here I go! There!”

“...”

After dozens of more attempts, she was finally able to throw it in a nice arc.

Though, she was so focused that she often lost her balance after letting go, and I had to support her so she didn't fall.

“Wuff!”

“Mama is so fast!”

“Kyau!”

As Leo was the fastest, she dashed out first and caught the branch and brought it back to us.

At this point, the fenrirs finally understood what we were doing, and were able to join in.

“Thank you, Mr. Takumi. For supporting me so many times...”

“Not at all... It was the least that I could do.”

“Ki, ki...!”

“You want to play too, Rahle?”

“Kii!”

“Very well! Sister, Mr. Takumi. Rahle wants to play with everyone too...”

“Rahle? What should we do, Mr. Takumi?”

“Hmm. Indeed...”

I suppose it looked like we were having fun together.

“Pipi!”

“Pii!”

“Hmm? You too, Cokka and Trice?”

“Pii!”

“Pii!”

While Rahle could fly, it was different on the ground. As I was thinking about it, Cokka and Trice started chirping as well.

“Hmm... I think it might be a little difficult. Rahle would have too much of an advantage while the branch is in the air. And then Leo would have the advantage when it's on the ground. Alright. Then I will play with Rahle and the cockatrices.”

Chapter 960

Rahle joined us

“Mr. Takumi? What are you going to do?”

“Where are you going papa?”

“Haha. I’m not going anywhere. I’m just going to be throwing branches in a different direction. I’ll be close by. Claire, you should continue in the same way.”

“I see. In different directions. Very well.”

As it would be difficult to do it with some in the air and some on the ground, I decided that we should play separately.

“Alright, I’ll start... Hyah!”

“Wuff!”

“Woah.”

“Thank you.”

“Not at all. Then me too... Rahle, Cokka, Trice. Here it goes! There!”

“Kii!”

“Pii!”

“Pii!”

Claire threw the branch, and then Liza and the others chased after it. I then supported her so that she didn’t fall.

After that, I threw the branch for Rahle and the others.

Unlike Claire’s branch, mine rotated in the air and flew in the air, but now too high. It was my attempt at imitating a sidearm.

Rahle immediately flew after it, and the cockatrices followed.

“Kii!”

“Pii! Pii!”

“Pii!”

“Woah. That’s a bird of prey for you, huh? Well, monster.”

“Kii!”

“Yes, thank you.”

Rahle caught it with its beak before it hit the ground. Then after rotating in the air, it returned and landed right in front of me.

The cockatrices followed after and seemed a little upset that they could not keep up.

“That was amazing, Rahle.”

“Kii!”

“Wuff...”

“Ahaha. You’re good too, Leo.”

Rahle cried proudly as I looked impressed.

However, Leo seemed a little jealous, and so I laughed and petted her.

They were just different...but compared to humans, they were both quite amazing.

“Pii! Pii-pii!”

“Hmm? Uh... Sorry. Liza?”

“Yes. Well...”

Apparently, they said it was unfair that Rahle was older and bigger and could fly.

They were not wrong.

“Ah, I know. Do you want to play too, Tilura?”

“Huh? But I can’t catch up with Leo or Rahle...”

“Well, what if you were to ride on top of Rahle?”

“Rahle...that’s true!”

“So...Liza with Leo... While it might not be much, it will be easier for the fenrirs to run if they don’t have to worry about Liza.”

I thought of doing something to slow down Leo and Rahle a little.

“Well, let’s see if this works. Uh, Sebastian...!”

“Yes. I am here. Is this what you need?”

“Uh...yes. That was fast.”

“I thought that you might want it, and so I prepared it in advance.”

“Hah... Alright then. Attach this to Rahle...”

We needed the saddle so that Tilura could ride on Rahle safely.

Apparently, Sebastian had already asked one of the butlers to bring it for us.

It was convenient for me...but also almost too fast?

Claire was used to having Sebastian move ahead of everyone, but even she looked surprised..

But I suppose butlers tended to observe their surroundings and things ahead....