Runesmith 349

Chapter 349: Tier 3 Evolution.

"Woof!"

"Hey, calm down, just give me a moment..."

"Awoooooo!"

Roland was looking at an over-excited ruby wolf that was jumping around his backyard. The moon was peeking out from behind some clouds and barely illuminating the night sky. Even with no natural light, the two could casually see everything. There was no need for runic lights thanks to easily produced spells that allowed for night vision.

Agni knew that today was the day that he would be allowed to turn into a new form. His owner just needed to choose the option and the transformation would take place automatically. Monsters did not have to go through tiresome trials to finalize their tier 3 ascension but their change was sometimes brutal. They could turn into entirely different creatures with different skeletal structures and sizes.

'He won't set the whole place ablaze after the change, right?'

After some deliberation and input from the Solarian church nun, he had decided to use the most unique evolutionary path from the four choices available. All of them had their pros and cons with the exception of the volcanic variant that seemed the weakest of them all. The Lesser Mystical Ruby Fenrir for instance would probably be quite powerful but also the largest one of the bunch.

A fully adult Fenrir was a tier 4 creature and it was larger than a wooly mammoth. Even the lesser version here was supposed to be comparable to an elephant. Then there was also the possibility of the mystical ruby variant becoming even larger as it was a rare variant. It would become quite hard to bring Agni in a Fenrir form into the city or even into the dungeon as he might become too large to fit through some of the tunnels.

Then there was the Orthrus which was a lesser form of the more known Cerberus. It only had two heads instead of the three the other legendary creature was known for. It was an evolution that belonged to the hellhounds and many of them ended up as a variant. While this was an interesting option, Roland almost instantly tossed it out after putting in some more research.

The biggest problem with this one was that Agni's personality would be split between the two heads. It would create a whole new being born out of one with none of the two heads being the original Agni. When advancing further into a Cerberus the process would somewhat repeat itself to a somewhat lesser extent but the main problem was still there. The main persona would be somehow divided into two and then three heads and that was not something that Roland wanted. After all he and Agni went through, he wished to keep his canine companion's brain intact.

The third option was the most basic one. It would just transform Agni into a finalized version of the Dire Ruby Wolf. Probably if it wasn't for the fourth option, Roland would have decided to pick this one. The size wasn't as huge as that of a Fenrir, nor were there any problems with him losing his identity. However, the Sunlight Wolf was something that could not be ignored, a divine beast form was something special.

'Sister Kassia confirmed it so it should be fine...'

His main gripe before consulting with the nun was the Solarian Church. He wasn't sure how those fanatics saw monsters related to their god. It wouldn't be strange for them to either want to capture all divine beasts or even to try to exterminate them. Perhaps a monster born of the sun would be seen as a blasphemy against Solaria.

Luckily this wasn't the case and they were seen more as something worth protecting instead. It was like a lucky charm for the church, some religious convocations would even flock to be near such a beast. They saw it as a blessed creature by their deity that could bring them good fortune.

'But not like I'll make it easy to identify his status.'

Roland nodded while bringing up the options screen. Thanks to his recent research into status screens and runes that could alter it, there was no problem in giving Agni a special evolution. Even if someone tried to identify him they would be given faulty information. If they got a sniff of divine energy he could easily deflect it. Constructing divine runes was not a problem and he could always claim that to be the source of the magical wavelength his wolf was using.

Name: **Mystical Ruby Dire Wolf** [L 150] [Ex 100%] Type: Fire/Earth/Beast HP 6150/6150 MP 7123/7123 SP 10287/10287 Strength 193 Agility 267 **Dexterity** 130

Vitality

220

Endurance

243

Intelligence

216

Willpower

202

Charisma

18

Luck

15

When Roland compared Agni's base stats to his own when he was at level hundred fifty, it wasn't that much off. He had received a big boost from getting his Runesmith Lord class but had lost a lot due to his scribe class. Now the big question was if it was possible for Agni to receive a larger multiplier as well. Considering that his Overlord class was somewhat rare, there was a possibility to apply to a divine beast.

"Agni, do you want to drink a potion for the pain?"

His wolf was quite intelligent and his stats showed it. This didn't mean that he was on the level of a regular human. The intelligence stat in this world worked differently on monster races and mostly reflected magical power. There seemed to be a hidden debuff depending on the being's race when this was taken into consideration. Yet, at least he was somewhat able to understand Roland's words and the meaning behind them.

"Worf!?"

"Is that a no then? Okay, if it gets too painful just tell me."

After shaking his head Agni gave a resounding no to the pain relief potion that Roland had prepared. The time to change was finally there and so he clicked the option on the screen. It didn't take long for the transformation to take place as Agni's body started changing. A glow resembling the rising sun engulfed his body and soon turned into wild flames.

'This is quite the light show...'

Roland stood to the side with a slight look of concern plastered over his face. While he knew that flames should not be able to damage a wolf born in a volcanic dungeon, it was heart-wrenching to see him burning up before him. It also didn't help that he could hear various whimpers that were preceded by crunching sounds of bones being shifted around.

'Why is it so bright... maybe I should have done it inside the workshop instead.'

His hand moved towards his magically enhanced eyes. He assumed that an evolution of this caliber could have been dangerous in an enclosed space. Records of monsters getting birth in an explosion of magical energies were out there. If Agni was turning into some sort of flame hound it was possible for his flames to damage all the runic equipment down there.

'Here come the flames, I need to contain them.'

A pillar of flames was starting to form and was shooting straight up. It engulfed Agni's entire body and illuminated his whole compound. To halt the advance of these magical flames he activated a shielding spell that he previously created. It created a dome of around fifteen meters in diameter around Agni. It also lowered the intensity of the light to not make it less suspicious.

This allowed for the flames to be contained and prevented all his wind turbines from catching fire. A blaze of flames was raging inside but he could tell that Agni wasn't suffering any damage. It was the reverse, his health points were going up just like everything else. He could see some of the stats ticking quickly up before settling on certain numbers. Finally, after a few minutes, the blaze started to subside and the next form of his canine companion was revealed.

"Agni, how do you feel?"

"....Wooof..."

The first bark was a bit weak but soon he could see him regain his composure. The pain of getting their body twisted and changed was probably not something for the faint of heart. He could only imagine what Agni had to go through. Some monsters were recorded to even pass out during their evolutions if they were too extreme.

"Awooo!"

A resounding howl filled the compound and it was accompanied by flames dancing. A large wolf with a flaming mane stood before him. Agni's size had increased, it was now comparable to an adult horse with his head reaching higher than that of his master. It would seem that riding on top of this flaming wolf was now a possibility, that is unless he received damage from the flaming parts.

'The flames are subsiding... he is starting to look more like a ruby wolf now?'

At first, he thought that Agni went through a full transformation. Instead of a wolf covered in rubies, he was more similar to a Flame Wolf which was another variation of a volcanic canine. His entire body was covered by flames which when examined by his mana sense exuded a strong divine wavelength. On the outside, they looked like regular old magical flames but were actually holy in nature. For a moment it looked like it would become a problem but soon after, his form reverted to one of rubies.

The ruby horn was still there and it was just more pronounced and a bit pointier than before. On the outside, he didn't look that much different than the old dire wolf form with just an increase in size. This was how he expected him to look if he ever went with the Alpha Mystical Dire Ruby Wolf variant.

"Are you feeling alright Agni?"

"Woof!"

"Good. Now, can you turn into that flaming form you had before?"

"Worf?..."

He tilted his head to the side before giving it a go. The evolution had been just reached now so his canine companion still had some problems grasping his skill. After a few moments, a change started taking place again. The red rubies started to shift into flames that covered his entire body. The inferno raged and Roland could feel the increase in temperature.

'Those flames are strong enough to turn the ground into glass, his stamina isn't going down and neither is his MP, this is like the books described, good he'll actually be able to switch between forms.'

His main worry when considering this class was hiding the divine energies. While the church considered creatures with them to be blessed, cultists didn't. Perhaps it wouldn't raise the ire of the Abyssal cultists but there were some necromancer groups that despised such energies. Sometimes they made it their problem to get rid of beings like Agni before they became a problem as they casually carried around their greatest weakness.

"Okay that's enough Agni, can you turn off that skill you are using?"

"Woof!"

In a few seconds, the flames subsided and his body was back to normal. Roland took a glance at Agni's status screen to see something interesting. There was a note by the class's name indicating the current form. Previously it showed 'Divine Form' but now it changed into 'Ruby Form'. It was a clear indication of the shifting ability and the good fortune coming his way.

Name:

Sunlight Wolf [Ruby Form]

[L 151] [Ex 0%]

Type:

Fire/Earth/Divine Beast

HP

25248/25248

MP

24152/24152

SP

37857/37857

Strength

203 [+10]

Agility

282 [+15]

Dexterity
140 [+10]
Vitality
230 [+10]
Endurance
253 [+10]
Intelligence
231 [+15]
Willpower
217 [+15]
Charisma
20 [+2]
Luck
18[+3]
Mystical Tier 3
Trait
Increases MP by 100%
Tier 3 (Divine Beast)
Trait
Adds a multiplier of 3.777 to all of the basic stats with the exception of luck and charisma
'That's an interesting multiplier, do gods in this world believe in lucky numbers?'
After glancing over the increased multiplier he started going through some of the other improvement

After glancing over the increased multiplier he started going through some of the other improvements, one of them was the divine element affinity. While Agni had been granted this affinity it didn't mean that he was capable of producing healing spells. Roland concluded that he would most likely only be capable of enhancing his flames with this new element. This would make it easy to contend with the undead creatures down in the dungeon and allow for a quick level-up experience.

Divine Element Affinity L1

Passive Skill

Allows the caster to infuse their spells with the given element. Increases the probability of learning divine elemental spells and lowers the failure rate of casting any divine spells.

Besides gaining a few more skills and the capability of producing divine spells, Agni's charisma and luck stat had gone up. Roland wondered if this was one of the reasons for the sun church believers seeing these types of monsters as lucky.

Advanced Destruction Magic - Fire/Earth L1

Passive Skill

Gives the user the knowledge to cast advanced destruction spells of the given element. This trait also allows the user to learn other spells from the given element. If the spell can be learned depends on the user's intelligence stat

To confirm his theory about Agni being more built for attacking spells he also saw the advanced destruction magic passive skill. It would allow him to produce better spells and perhaps infuse them with divine energy to produce some unique effects. However, this didn't mean that he wouldn't be able to learn any restoration spells that were usually locked behind priest classes. Devine monsters were different from human classes and the possibility was there, perhaps if he continued to level he would be able to unlock that spell tree as well.

"Woah slow down there..."

While he was looking over the stats, Agni started jumping around the whole compound. His body had increased in size and coupled with the increase in agility brought some downsides. He was clearly not used to the increase in his stats and after a few jumps collided with one of the wind turbines.

"Hey... stop moving!"

Before he could stop him from causing even more damage he saw him rocket into the air while in his divine form. He activated a strange skill that made his paws shine brightly. A magical circle appeared right under his hind legs which acted as a platform. He was able to actually push himself off it to jump higher where he created another magical ledge.

"He can do that?"

This started to remind him about his crash landing when he was trying to test out his levitation spell. Agni kept rising into the air while moving in one direction as if fascinated by the view. It was as if he was fascinated by the moon that had shown itself behind the clouds. Yet his wolf companion forgot about the rule of the world, what went up had to eventually come down.

"He's not looking at his mana at all..."

These platforms were not a skill, they were a magical spell. They all required a chunk of his mana that was getting drained rather quickly. Soon Agni would feel a sharp pain akin to having drunk a frozen beverage too fast. It would make him fumble the next magical platform to send him spiraling down toward the ground. The wolf had no experience in controlling this spell quite yet and found himself on a collision course with the nearby forest.

"You're lucky that I'm here..."

Roland's voice called out to Agni as his now enlarged form started to slow down. Before he could crash into the trees below he was caught in a levitation spell that lowered the speed of his descent. He was

then able to regain some of his balance to produce some of those platforms and finally land down on his own four legs. His owner had followed the zig-zag pattern that went in the direction of the forest.

"Hey, stop trying to lick me..."

After the danger was gone Roland found himself getting assaulted by a canine tongue. With the increase in size, Agni didn't even need to stand up on his hind legs anymore, he could just directly assault his face instead. Luckily, Roland still had the strength advantage in this case and was able to push his overzealous friend away.

"Bleh... Calm down, we need to get back before anyone notices... and remember, you are forbidden from showing that flaming form to anyone unless I tell you to, do you understand?"

"Woooo?!"

It didn't seem that Agni was too happy about having to hide his true form from others but after getting glared down by his master he lowered his head.

"Good... I think you've gotten too big to fit into the house now..."

Even though the size was not comparable to a Fenrir, a horse-sized wolf would not fit well into his home. Some of the rubies covering his mane had become sharper and so did his paw claws. The floor and walls would become scratched up if he let him roam around too much. Instead, he would need to have his own dog house which was big enough to contain his enlarged new form.

Chapter 350: New Master Craftsman In Town.

"How did it go, Mary?"

"I'm sorry Lord Arthur, I've failed..."

"Don't beat yourself over it, most fail the first time around, I'm sure that you'll make it next time..."

Arthur smiled at Mary who lowered her head. After reaching the maximum level that she could, her attempt at the tier 3 class had been a failure. This was quite normal but the maid wished to become her lord's sword for the future as fast as humanly possible. She knew that her liege also wished to level up faster and at least reach his second tier 2 class. This would be impossible unless she and the two knights that he could trust reached a high enough level to protect him inside the dungeon.

"If you have some time to spare, how about you take Sir Gareth and Sir Morien into the dungeon, their progress has also stagnated recently. Ah... I'm such a terrible lord..."

"My lord, what do you mean? That's preposterous."

"Heh, thank you but if I didn't have to rely so much on you three, then your future would have been bright."

A solemn expression crept onto Arthurs's handsome face. The knights that were around him had a lot of talent but due to his circumstances weren't able to use it. They felt obligated to stand guard over him at all times of the day and didn't trust the other soldiers to do a good enough job. Even now when the road was open for them to progress, his mere presence was holding them back.

"I have already been blessed, without the Lord's involvement, reaching tier 3 wouldn't have been so easy..."

"That we all owe to our friend Wayland..."

"But without the Lord's involvement, he would have to leave the city, and would have never had the time to unearth the secrets of the dungeon!"

"Hah... perhaps..."

Arthur wasn't that sure about his involvement counting too much. His new friend that was hiding his name seemed like someone capable of paving out his own future. Without him around he would not have been able to progress this far. The dungeon would have been taken away and his fate as a lackey of his older brother would have been sealed.

However now that he thought about it, the man he was working for had a past filled with many questions. Why was he running away from a reputable household like the Arden family? Perhaps just like his own Valerian family, they had a problem with younger siblings taking the limelight.

Then there was the issue with the Lich that to this day remained a mystery. Arthur decided to not pry into the issue as it was resolved by the man that also discovered the new dungeon. It was too much of a coincidence for him to not be involved in the issue in some way. That the Lich chose to attack his home before the city was also suspicious. The man he was working with was perhaps not as virtuous as he assumed. For the time being, they had an agreement but in the future, he needed to become self-sufficient.

"Yes, the Union would not have been as lenient and speaking about them... isn't it about time for that new Chief to arrive? Do we have some information about his identity?"

"We can't be sure sir, there were a few people that fit the description."

"Hm, was there perhaps a runesmith among them?"

"There were a few high-enchanters but some Master Runesmiths were on the list..."

Arthur's intelligence agency which was created by Mary still worked in a limited capacity. The best they could do was to get a list of potential craftsmen that could be sent into this region with the current dungeon rated at B. If it was an A-rank dungeon then probably someone experienced would be sent but at the lower ranking, it was less likely.

Even though his partner in crime didn't like the Dwarven Union their existence was required. They had all the connections and funds to help this city prosper. What he wished was for the two parties to squash their problems and work together. There was a lot of money to be made if they cooperated.

Pushing the established group of craftsmen out of his city would set him back. He would need to fund a new guild thereafter which would not be an easy task. While perhaps in the far future, this would bring him more funds and control over the city, there was no time. The more time was wasted, the further he got away from his goal. Regretfully he didn't see a way for the two parties to come together unless the dwarven side did something. The man named Roland was quite stubborn and he couldn't see him relenting in this situation.

"I wonder who it will be... Mary, find out this individual's name, we must get him on our side before his mind gets rotted away by the other dwarves. The Union isn't a monolith, the higher masters vary in their beliefs, maybe if we are lucky this one won't be as bad..."

Arthur felt somewhat useless lately, yet there were things that only he could do. One of them was trying to get the new magical craftsman on his side. This required some charisma and meditation skills that his friend somewhat lacked. Perhaps it wasn't too late for him to do something about it. With the allure of creating a city with many runic devices everywhere, perhaps even a dwarf could look past who it was created by. If he enticed them over to their side, the profits that they could create would be tremendous.

"Quickly Mary, we must prepare. Send out someone to receive the new dwarven master, bring them over here!"

"Ah? Of course, My Lord."

While Mary didn't know what happened to her lord, he looked to have been invigorated. After failing her tier 3 ascension trial she had some free time until it became unlocked to her again. Thus she rushed to the exit to inform the head butler and the maids about the arrangements. They needed to prepare for an important guest that belonged to the dwarven union and by the looks of it, they didn't have that much time.

Just as Mary and the staff were scrambling around, a similar scene was playing out at the dwarven union. A group containing the two leaders, Bamur and Dunan were making their way down the street. There were around fifteen other dwarven men right behind them which brought in curious gazes from people passing on the side.

"Wha do ye think they sent to us?"

"Ah dun know, it's strange, they didnae mention it directly, whit could this mean?"

Dunan nodded at Bamur, who had been previously their only magical craftsman. Usually, they just received wares from the main union headquarters just like any other branch and did some simple crafts here by themselves. Now a new boss was about to arrive along with others. It was a higher tier along with their own disciples and both of the dwarven men here were trying to earn that right here.

"Coud it be master, Thornyn? or perhaps Galtharn?"

"Ah hope it's one o thaim, if we can get on their good side then nothin' will be able to stand in our way, no e'en that human!"

"Ave."

The two recalled suffering many defeats at the hand of Wayland the Runesmith. Little did they know that he had been a high leveled knight in disguise. They didn't even know if he was a proper runesmith or if there was a hidden master within Arthur's estate. The City Lord also made things very hard for them since he arrived.

However, with a Master on their side, things would change. This person had a lot more pull than any of them and could make it hard for anyone to prosper inside this city. They could not see the nobles

leaving money out on the table, there was just too much to gain. Soon all of them arrived at the meeting place where the carriage would be.

The wait was boring but they needed to be here early to not miss their new boss. Dwarven craftsmen took their job very seriously and there was a clear status quo. A master was always the last person to arrive at the smithy and the first one to leave. Even if they had to wait for a whole day, they needed to be there to greet him.

"Ah, it's there!"

One of the men from the back shouted out while pointing at a large carriage. The symbol of the dwarven union was on the side and behind it, a few others of the same type were approaching. They were sure that it was their new leader and the other carriages contained their entourage. Now it was up to them to make a good first impression through which they hoped to get into his good graces.

"Git a move on and make way for the master craftsman!"

"Aye!"

The dwarves weren't tall but they made that up by being quite wide. They were all grizzled men with bulky arms and when they acted together, no one could stand in their way. Every person that was near the carriage section was pushed to the sides so that their boss could get out of his carriage. Some complained while others shouted out some profanities but after realizing that they belonged to the dwarven union, all of them quieted down.

Even adventurers didn't want to speak out about them. The weapons and enchanted gear were mostly created at their workshops. If they caught the ire of the union then perhaps they wouldn't even be able to sell the loot they received at the dungeon or get their weapons repaired. The lone runesmith in the city couldn't handle all cases which made them all reliant on these bearded bullies.

"Greetings..."

Bamur stepped forward to greet the new chief but before he could finish the sentence the carriage door slammed open. His aim was to open it up but instead, it collided with his face and sent him tumbling back. The other dwarves stood still as if they were frozen as the voice of the person that was coming out of the carriage sounded a bit off.

"Argh, why doesn't this shit ole' have a rune train, I just had to go an' get on da nerves of that ol' nook! Huh, what is this? What are ye bastards staring at?"

The group of dwarves was stunned by the look of the person that left the carriage. At first, they thought that perhaps their new leader was behind them but no one else was there. Then their gazes landed on the emblem on their clothes which confirmed that they were a higher-up member of the union and more than likely their new Chief.

.....

"Okay Agni, give it a shot."

"Awoo!"

Roland called out from the back while ordering his recently evolved wolf companion to activate one of his skills. Agni's mouth started producing some smoke before a surge of flames erupted forward. The dummy on the other end along with the reinforced wall started to quickly heat up.

"It's melting right through it... okay, stop!"

"Bworf."

What was left of the iron representation of a human was nothing more than red sludge. The flames of a tier 3 creature born inside a volcano were nothing to scoff at and basic metals could do nothing to stop them. This was not the end of the test as there was a similar untouched dummy on the other end.

"Now, transform and try doing it again."

Agni responded to the command by instantly shifting into his Sunlight Wolf form. The ruby horn that adorned his forehead turned into something made of red energy and so did his entire mane. In a sense, he looked like a being surrounded by flames coming from the sun. The attack was now aimed at the other dummy but there was a significant change.

First of all, there were no flames this time around. Roland could see energy particles being formed within Agni's muzzle that quickly started swirling into a larger more condensed form. A flaming circle appeared right before a beam of heated energy escaped forward to collide with the iron target. The intense heat caused the target to almost instantly melt before his eyes. It was a more focused shot that went right through it and collided with the wall on the other side.

"Woah... okay that's enough, turn back. Good boy."

"Woof!"

It was the next day after Agni had transformed. After some tests down in the training range he had an idea of what this special evolution was truly about. The Sunlight Wolf form could be accessed at any time and allowed Agni access to some unique abilities. He could freely change between this appearance and that of an Alpha Ruby Dire Wolf. It was something that he accounted for by doing some research and asking around. Thanks to this knowledge he was able to make the correct choice and now had himself a special canine companion.

'As long as he doesn't transform, no one will be able to tell that he is a Sunlight Wolf.'

For the time being it was better to keep his true capabilities in check. Agni's abilities needed to be enhanced by a few trips down into the dungeon where he could probably easily take care of the skeletal beings there. With his help, Roland expected to be able to level up even faster than before. Both of them were capable of destroying the undead and when it came to attacking spells with the divine attribute, Agni's last attack hit harder than the spells that Roland could produce.

'It's a proper tier 3 magical skill, the enhanced tier 2 spells that I created pale in comparison. I should be able to use it to enhance them even further now, the only problem now is...'

"Woof?"

"Are you worried about me?"

"Woo!'

Agni seemed to have become more attuned to his master after the recent transformation. It was obvious that Roland was getting stretched thin. He had to help show the construction team how to assemble the runic lamps and also help them place the cables. There was a lot more work to do around the city which was stifling his progress here. Instead of creating refrigerators and ovens for the commoners he wished to delve into the dungeon. There he wanted to hone his skills and perhaps discover new possibilities for the future.

'Will Arthur be able to procure those craftsmen?'

His only help was the city lord that too heavily relied on his help. He would rather just draw up some construction plans and have someone carry out the work for him. Craftsmen of his caliber were usually not relegated to grunt work. They had extensive businesses with multiple employees that they could work around. He was lacking in that department with Bernir being something similar to an apprentice.

'When his kid gets born he probably will need some time off with his wife and I'll be left with absolutely no help...'

Dyana was also part of his smithy but she was indisposed at the moment. There was clearly a need to expand his roster of employees but he still had a massive distrust for others. The only way of going around it would be by establishing a secondary workshop somewhere else so that people would not have direct access to his home and main workshop. Something like that would take time and he would rather invest into something else.

"I don't really have a choice though, unless some kind of miracle happens, expanding the city will take a while... but anyway, let's go Agni, I need to work on a few things."

After dousing out the flames he started heading back to his workbench. Before he could go there to perform some runsmithing on a few shop items he was interrupted by some buzzing. Not far from the bench was a small crystal ball that could receive various magical signals. With the help of some previous tinkering, he was able to configure some new uses. First was the vibrate option and second was red words that informed him about the identity of the caller.

"Arthur? What does he want?"

Bzzz

"Wayland, I'm glad that you are here."

"Greetings Lord Arthus, is there something?"

"I think you might want to come to the estate, I have someone here that wants to meet you..."

"Someone wants to meet me?"

"That's correct, please come, sooner than later... I'm not sure I can keep them away from the runic creations..."

"Keep them away?"

Roland wasn't sure what this was about but apparently, someone was trying to fiddle around with his runic creations. If they couldn't be stopped by a noble lord, then either they were someone important or crazy.

"Alright, I'll be there soon but who is it exactly?"

"Thank you but there is no time to explain!"

The conversation ended and he was left pondering about the issue. Was it another knight commander seeking trouble? Should he gear up fully or use his knight uniform instead?

"Hm... Agni, stay here and guard the house, I'll be back later."

"Woof!"

After a moment he decided to move it, from Arthur's tone he didn't interpret the situation as being dangerous but mostly something annoying. His interest was piqued, who could have intruded on a noble's house?