

Chapter 3 - Wendelin-sensei

"Hm—m, even when pressing my ear against it, I can't hear anything like the heartbeat of the infant..."

"Dear, you won't hear anything until my belly becomes bigger."

"Is that so...?"

"Yes, indeed."

"How regrettable."

As usual, I went out today to do public works within my earldom while taking Lisa along, and then returned home. After taking a little break, I pressed an ear against Elise's belly.

In TV dramas there are scenes where the actor would now hear the infant kicking inside the belly, but unfortunately I couldn't hear anything.

"Even the gender will be determined after the belly becomes a lot bigger."

"That's fine after the child is born. I want to have something to look forward to."

The retainers around Roderich, Elise's home around Cardinal Hohenheim, and even many of the high-ranking nobles starting with His Majesty put pressure on Elise to give birth to a boy.

It's not that they are telling her directly, but I guess you could call it a silent pressure.

They probably believe that it will become troublesome in regards to the succession if Elise gives birth to a girl while Ina and Luise give birth to boys.

In Katharina's case it won't be a problem for her to have a boy since he would inherit the Associate Baron Waigel House.

"You can determine the gender?"

"It's a kind of Holy magic, so a person, who can use it, would be able to tell you if you ask. As magic to determine the gender of an infant enters a fairly special magic category, there's even less practitioners than healers," Elise says.

"It's not always said that an advanced Holy magic practitioner can use it either. It's the same with Baron Rembrandt-sama's 『Relocate』. I can't use it either." (Elise)

For Elise to not be able to use it means that it must be quite special.

The few practitioners seem to be very busy with determining the gender of infants.

"I hear that they are especially busy due to the requests from nobles and big merchants."

Just like the old Japan, this world attaches a lot of importance to lineage.

As it's essential for a family head to produce an heir, they will naturally make a request if it's possible to know the gender before the child is born.

"Hee, I see."

"Dear, you're not curious?"

"Not really. We will know once it's born. However, I want the child to be born healthily."

In my previous life, my mother told me that such a way of thinking still exists in the rural areas of Japan, but I will be very happy if the child is born safely, no matter whether it's a boy or a girl.

"Even if the first child were to be a girl, the next one or the one after that will be a boy, no?"

In reality it looks like there are people who give birth to only girls or boys, but if I were to worry about such things, it would take no end anyway.

Rather than that, what I have to do now is to hear the infant's heartbeat.

"That's where this 『Hearing』 spell comes in handy!"

It's a spell of the wind attribute and has a function similar to that of a stethoscope.

When I heard that I had impregnated my wives, I quickly read the book of Master and learned it. However, I wonder what Master planned to do by learning such a spell?

"If it's this spell!"

After casting 『Hearing』 on myself, I press my ear against Elise's belly once more. Once I did, I could hear a regular heartbeat.

"Alright!"

"Wend, I'm sorry to tell you, but that's Elise's heartbeat."

"Wha-!?"

"The baby hasn't grown so much yet, you know?"

Certainly, it's just as Ina says.

The four are still in the early stage of pregnancy. It's at a stage where they don't look like pregnant women at all.

"What a bummer..."

Just in case, I tried to press my ear against Ina's and then Luise's belly with 『Hearing』 active, but I couldn't hear anything besides their heartbeats.

No, I could hear a stomach growling from one of them.

It was Luise.

"I've become really hungry ever since I got pregnant...right now I'm eating five times a day."
(Luise)

"Is it alright for you to eat so much?" (Wendelin)

I look at Luise once more, but she doesn't seem chubby to me.
Although she's saying that she's pregnant, I feel like there are many people who don't believe her.

"I'm sure my child will become strong if it's a boy or attractive if it's a girl." (Luise)

Luise is dreaming, but I cannot help feeling that she will give birth to a small, cute girl resembling herself.

"However, I had expected that you'd try to learn the magic to distinguish the gender of an infant, Wend."

"I tried to do so, just in case, but..."

It seems to be the truth that it's a special magic. Just like 『Relocate』, I couldn't acquire it.
But, even if I had managed to learn it, I had planned to not use it on Elise and the others.

"Why won't you use it?"

"It's because I want to have the fun of looking forward to it after it's born. Well, in the end I can't use it anyway. But, I don't plan to request a gender determination of the infants either." (Wendelin)

"Is that so?"

Ina looks perplexed.

It's probably because she has expected me to hope for an heir since I'm an Earl.

"As long as many children are born, there will be at least one boy among them. Let's tackle it with such an easygoing feeling."

I deliberately say this in a light tone to not pile stress on the pressure by the surroundings for Elise and the others to give birth to boys.

"Wendelin-san." (Katharina)

"What is it, Katharina?"

"I still don't feel the baby moving either, but it would be fine for you to check, just for caution's sake."

"Yes..."

I tried pressing my ear against Elise's, Ina's and Luise's bellies, but I haven't done the same with Katharina yet.

She might have considered that to be unfair.

In contrast to her appearance, Katharina has such cute parts to her, too.

"Of course I will do so. Maybe I will be able to hear something."

I press my ear against Katharina's belly at the end, but as expected, I can't hear anything. Even after using 『Hearing』, nothing but her heartbeat is audible.

"The way to use that spell is difficult..."

"I want to learn it, too."

Leaving Katharina aside, it might be a useful spell for Elise who possesses basic medical knowledge while being a healer. Given that it will be fine for her to not move to learn the spell, she probably won't mind even if it takes some time to acquire it.

"Wendelin-san, did you hear anything?"

"It's still too early after all."

"We got pregnant around almost the same time."

I couldn't hear the baby's heartbeat, but I noticed that only Katharina was subtly different. Indeed, it was just a very small difference, but I ended up suddenly noticing when I pressed my ear against her belly.

And, seeing as I have learned of it, I couldn't keep quiet about it.

Why, you ask?

If there's a note saying 『Don't press!』 next to a button in front of you, anyone would feel the urge to press it, no?

It's something similar to that...although it's completely unrelated...

"Katharina, did you gain a bit of weight?"

"Wendelin-san——n!"

"Eh? You had me place my ear against your belly while wanting me to point that out, no?"

"As if!"

"Saying that you'll go on a diet from now on would be the usual routine?"

"You think I can go on a diet while pregnant!? It will have a bad influence on the baby in my belly!"

"Ah, that's true."

Being told by me that she gained weight, Katharina seethed with anger. Hence I ended up having big trouble to cheer her back up.



"Hubby, asking a woman whether she gained is a no go. Big Sis says so as well." (Katia)

Next to Katia who cautions me, Lisa grunts in agreement while nodding.

"Indeed. It's no exaggeration to say that it's a commonly shared rule between all women, unrelated to their social standing and lineage." (Therese)

Therese doesn't support me on this one either.

After I had cheered up Katharina, we went out to do public works again.

The members are Katia and Therese in addition to Lisa. For Therese it's about getting some real practice. Katia is following as a guard in Wilma's stead.

Wilma remained in the mansion to take care of Elise and the others. Erw joined the wild animal hunt of the guards.

The Savage Land is great for hunting wild animals as there's many of them, but with people living there, it's indispensable to exterminate the animals.

Given that it also serves as training, the guards go out regularly to exterminate wild animals.

"Yeah well, I mean it just slipped out of my mouth after I noticed it."

"That's not good, hubby. Katharina is pregnant, so you have to look out to not say such things." (Katia)

She doesn't look like it, but since Katia is older than me, I ended up being warned by her. She took drastic actions during the quarrel with her family, but usually she's unexpectedly straightforward.

Seemingly because she has many male aspects to her while being quite frank, she's surprisingly caring towards those of her sex.

"Katia, would you also mind it if you were to gain weight after getting pregnant?"

"I wonder? Actually I want to gain some weight... If possible, my chest..."

Katia, who's quite active and also a magician, probably had nothing to do with gaining weight so far. She says that she wants to put on some kilograms, but if you look at Katharina, it's obvious that it won't be so convenient as to just gaining weight at the chest, but I better don't voice that out.

"Rather than that, how about filling the bridge's foundation quickly?"

"You were here today as well, Arnest?"

"Sorry for interrupting your family time."

"No, look, aren't there construction workers around us as well...?"

As a matter of fact, Arnest has been participating in today's construction work, too.

It's because we're building a new bridge today.

We can somehow manage the structure roughly by using 『Relocate』, but the bridge's construction is extremely difficult.

『Even if you were to bring a bridge spanning over another river, it wouldn't be of much help.』

Baron Rembrandt stated that he had never relocated a bridge so far.

Since the river's width and the conditions of the foundation were completely different, it wouldn't be of any use even if we had relocated it.

It would be no laughing matter if it broke down or washed away the moment it got relocated.

Because of such reasons, the construction of a bridge takes time and costs a lot.

It's normal for things like 『Finally the bridge is completed, the dearest wish by three generations of the ○○ House』 to make it into the news.

Even in the Baumeister Earldom, we have only constructed one bridge on the way from Baulburg to the Demon Forest.

Because there are three big rivers flowing through the Baumeister Earldom, the construction of bridges is indispensable.

However, even if we rush and build some half-baked bridge, it will just be washed away right away.

Accordingly it's time for the special concrete, which had been used for the tunnel we discovered earlier, and the Extreme Limit Steel which I managed to recreate.

That means, we will build the bridge pier using those two, creating a sturdy bridge that won't be washed away from a bit of high water.

As long as I manage to finish the foundation of the bridge pier and so on, it should be possible to adequately deal with the upper parts through normal construction.

"So, how many bridges do you plan to construct?"

"Going by Roderich's plans, more than thirty."

"Oooh! Earl Baumeister, you are a hard worker." (Arnest)

"Are you praising me, Arnest?"

If you add the bridges for small rivers, it exceeds a hundred in count.

Moreover, depending on Roderich's plans, it's possible for that number to rise even further.

"It is probably the consequence of this. Bridges are too practical and thus archaeologically uninteresting."

"You're going to live for another ten thousand years. Do you plan to excavate bridges that turned into historic ruins?"

"No, not at all. I only thought that it is pitiful for my future juniors."

The bridge pier made out of special concrete and Extreme Limit Steel rebars has a simple design, only changing its size to match the river's width running beneath it.

Since I'm the only one who's making it, I'd be troubled if someone told me to use an elaborate design.

It's not like I'm an architecture designer.

"In exchange, you can mass produce them as long as you have enough mana."

It means, I will produce a great number of bridge parts, including the bridge pier, and those will be

assembled on-site.

If he wants fine ornaments, Roderich will probably request it separately.

"Is that the reason why three magicians are necessary?"

"Therese, give it your best."

"I got somewhat fed up with only training. Such real usage of my magic is more than welcome."
(Therese)

We have split up the work as follows.

First, I expose the riverbed to build the bridge pier.

Since a part of the river's water has to be held back for a long time at the upper stream, this is my task as I have the biggest capacity of mana.

"I suppose next is my turn." (Therese)

Therese creates holes to bury a part of the bridge pier's foundation in the riverbed.

At first it took some time because she wasn't accustomed to that kind of work, but gradually the time needed for her to dig holes has become shorter.

"..."

Lastly, Lisa moves the bridge pier with 『Telekinesis』, placing it into the holes dug into the riverbed.

Once the burying is finished, she also doesn't forget to harden the riverbed around the bridge pier.

It requires a precise workmanship so as to avoid the bridge sloping, but Lisa accomplished that with ease.

"All that's left is to construct bridge piers by repeating this, and place the bridges atop of the pier."

The upper bridge parts are also made out of Extreme Limit Steel and special concrete.

It's because the bridges are built with a big width while supporting a large weight so as to allow many carriages to cross them at the same time.

"I will leave the remaining, finer parts to you. Now then, I guess we will head over to the next bridge."

"Okay...the bridge has been mostly completed in one day..."

A retainer, who had been present at the construction site, feels dumbfounded after watching the foundations of the bridge being finished in no time.

If I remember correctly, he's a new retainer, and probably not used to magic yet.

"I'd say it's thanks to the advanced materials."

As expected, the Extreme Limit Steel and the special concrete are quite useful.

After all they allow us to easily build large, sturdy bridges.

"Amazing. For a bridge of this size to be built so easily..."

Previously it would have been impossible, but having obtained the creation method of Extreme Limit Steel has a big influence.

It was a big help that Arnest knew about the creation method for the special concrete. He possessed documents specifying the amount of rare metals to be mixed into it.

"Since Roderich will request the construction of additional bridges anyway, we should hurry with the construction as much as possible."

Like this close to a hundred similar bridges of various sizes were built in the Baumeister Earldom in less than one month.

The reason for their numbers having drastically grown from the initial thirty was owed to Roderich ordering additional ones, as I had expected.

『A territory will develop if the infrastructure such as roads, bridges and ports is perfect.』

In the end that's the reason for the nobles of this world to fail in the development of new territory. If you fail to establish the necessary infrastructure for transportation, it will remain an inaccessible area, the number of people won't grow, and the formation of cities will be impossible, too. We still have to build more roads from now on, but I feel like we completed the first stage with the building of ports for sea and air, the construction of bridges, and the preparation of soil. Just when I thought such...



"Milord, learning of the ease of move within the Baumeister Earldom, the number of immigration applicants has grown. Please hurry and construct the foundations at the places where we have planned to build towns and villages." (Roderich)

"Roderich, you've become skilled at putting your lord to work."

"Hubby, you're getting things done well even while complaining, aren't you?" (Katia)

"..."

Instead of Elise and the others, who can't use 『Teleport』 because of their pregnancy, Therese, Katia, and Lisa kept accompanying me on my public works jobs. However, so far Lisa hasn't reached the point of talking with me.

"Big Sis, you're in a good mood, aren't you?" (Katia)

And yet, since she has grown to the extent that she can smile at me, I decide to consider the rest to be a matter of time.



"Wend, our activity as 『Dragon Busters』 is in a difficult state." (Erwin)

"That has been true for quite some time now, though." (Wendelin)

It's this late in the game, but Erw is completely right.

The reason for us not functioning as 『Dragon Busters』 is the pregnancy of Elise and my other wives.

We used contraceptives while being newlywed and during the Empire's civil war, but we stopped doing so after returning.

Given that the Baumeister House is required to have many children, including an heir, the other nobles would have definitely tried to send over lovers and concubines if my wives didn't become pregnant at some point.

Therefore, it's an auspicious event for Elise, Ina, Luise, and Katharina to have safely conceived.

The retainers are overjoyed, too.

Moreover, I will become a father.

That doesn't feel bad.

Since I could even marry in my previous life, you might as well call this huge progress.

"Our combat power has dropped significantly with four of our members on maternity leave. I can't join all the time either."

Having studied commanding during the civil war, Erw is currently accumulating experience as guard within the territory.

Because of that he has mostly stopped coming along on requests as an adventurer.

Well, that's inevitable, though.

"I guess you'll get angry if I ask you to lend us Haruka?"

"No, I won't be angry, but it's..."

As if doing it on the fly, Erw reports that Haruka has become pregnant, too.

"It's an auspicious event, somehow I wonder, isn't it way fast?"

"I have a talent to shoot quickly."

"That's nothing to be proud of, when regarding it as adult talk."

Burkhart-san makes a weird interjection, but rather than him, we have a problem with party members.

"I said so before, I can't come along every time either, Earl-sama. Wilma, Katia, and...Therese-sama has to practise a bit more."

Leaving aside public works, being careful about combat is Burkhart-san's policy.

There's also the reason that it would develop into a huge scandal for the Baumeister House if something happened to Therese.

"Huh? Don't we have plenty of combat power then?" (Wendelin)

"Earl-sama, I'm sorry to say, but going to the Demon Forest with four or five people like before is banned."

"Eh? Banned by who?"

"My master or His Majesty. It's because of what Kimbley did when I wasn't with you. Luckily you haven't been injured, Earl-sama, but they have not adopted the cautious approach of forbidding you to enter a monster domain unless you have more combat forces with you." (Burkhart)

If I'm told something like that, it makes me completely give up hope.
I guess that's the reason for doing only public works every day most recently.

『Milord, you're going to become a father. Let's expand the Baumeister Earldom much more for the sake of our children!』

Roderich, whose child had been just born as well, reeled me cleverly in and advanced the public works within the territory at a quick pace.

『Including the reward from the Empire, the funds of the Baumeister House have grown even further. It's become possible to develop the territory quickly and efficiently, using those assets. It's something that's impossible for other noble houses.』

Any noble house would rather get started on development than just planning it.

What always turns into a problem at that point is money, or in other words, funds. As we have those, we can be a bit unreasonable.

Since I finish the public works, which take the most time and money, with magic, we can start as many development projects as we want.

And, given that people gather in the Baumeister Earldom where the money is circulating, Roderich accelerates the development by using those people.

Reclamation, soil preparation, river shoreline stabilization, and construction of ports.

Because the first construction phase finished a lot faster than planned according to Roderich, we seem to be in the middle of the second construction phase right now.

Well, talks about a third construction phase are going to pop up soon anyway.

The construction of the main roads extending to the east, west, north, and south from Baulburg, and branch roads stretching out like a spider web has been completely finished. Right now we're in the process of building smaller roads connecting those bigger roads. Also, because we also have the goal to stabilize the rivers flowing close to Baulburg, we have begun working on embankments at the rivers streaming east and west.

Since we were put to work in order to finish the construction of the requested main bridges for the time being, I hear that only small bridges will be put up as necessary afterwards.

Once a petition by the local residents reaches us, Roderich will judge the level of necessity, and we will actually build it then.

It's possible that in the future there will appear local residents claiming that the place is covered all over with bridges, but I think Roderich will take this into consideration, too.

"Isn't it fine to work as an adventurer after the children are born?"

Erw says that it's okay to continue after the maternity leave.

"Ah, but..."

Once I look in Lisa's direction, she happily nods her head all of a sudden. It looks like she will help as a new member of my party.

"...But, Wendelin-san, I'd like you to take proper responsibility, she says."

Katharina tells us Risa's hope as interpreter.

Is it because I saw her naked...and also know that she doesn't grow any hair below? The women of this world are troublesome in this aspect.

"Such things follow after we get to know each other a little better..."

Because there were some quite messy parts in the case with Katia, I'm slightly more cautious this time around.

Or rather, if I'm not, the number of my wives will just keep growing.

What is even more problematic is the fact that my surroundings will be actually overjoyed by that.

"...At the beginning is fine like this, she says."

However, Katharina interprets faithfully.

She precisely passes on Lisa's words.

Katharina might actually possess a very caring character.

"I guess it will work out somehow with this?"

"It'll be fine as long as Doushi comes."

Erw seems to expect Doushi to come over as a helper for our adventuring.

"Erwin, Doushi is no good."

"Eh? Why, Burkhart-san?"

"Doushi is busy with giving speeches."

"Eh? He's still at it?"

Even though almost three months since the end of the civil war have passed, it looks like there are still people who want to hear his stories.

There's a lot less entertainment in this world than I had expected.

"As for this, at first he went around the territories belonging directly to the royal family, and now there's requests from nobles. Rather, I hear he will be busy visiting all the noble territories from now on."

It kind of feels like he first gave speeches in the cities, and now is giving speeches in the countryside?

Since it's impossible for Burkhart-san and me in regards to our schedules and social positions, it looks like requests are flooding Doushi who's an appointed noble and has little to do as Royal Head Wizard.

"Doushi won't decline His Majesty's request after all."

Doushi is His Majesty's childhood friend and a faithful retainer. Usually he's more self-centered than anyone, and he has been abusing us to his liking, too.

"It means His Majesty can also consider him as a noble who listens well to what His Majesty says."

"Wend, are Doushi's tales interesting?"

I feel like I want to make sure, but if I go to his speeches, I might get dragged in by Doushi and be forced to talk about something.

Let's give up on that since it doesn't suit me either.

"I guess you won't be going to monster domains for a while then. Besides, you seem to be gathering monster materials and harvest even without going out to hunt, Earl-sama. It means you don't have to move by yourself any longer."

Currently, several dozens villages and towns have been built around the Demon Forest. Many adventurers are going hunting with those places as their bases. It's not necessary for us to force ourselves to keep going at it.

"Wend, what about that person? I mean, Arnest."

"No, he is..."

Right now Arnest is concentrating on writing up a report inside his room without showing up in front of us all that often.

『Considering it from the common practice of archeology, it takes more time to write up a thesis to reference on what you investigated than it takes time to excavate a historic ruin.』

Arnest, who had investigated the tunnel so minutely that he exceeded the schedule by two weeks, has locked himself up in his own room and is writing his thesis into a thick bundle of papers.

He analyzed after investigating and put it all together into one thesis.

He's a genuine archaeologist.

As he seems to be quite focused on it, he doesn't leave his room except for taking his meal three times a day and entering the bath once a day.

『This place is nice. Duke Nürnberg was troublesome as he always told me to hurry with the excavation.』

It looks like that part of his papers has been left behind, but he has also added the details of the historic ruins in my territory.

Right now Arnest doesn't separate from his desk.

Of course his monitoring continues, but the retainer in charge apparently is totally relaxed since he has so much free time, according to Roderich's report.

"In the eyes of a scholar, it must be the ideal research environment, huh?"

Since he's a demon possessing this much mana, leaving him to his own devices would be dangerous.

Having him live in the Baumeister Earldom while baiting him with underground ruins is a lot easier.

"Sooner or later he will likely start talking about new ruins."

There are many completely untouched underground ruins within the Baumeister Earldom.

Especially the Demon Forest seems to have many of those, but to search that place, we need combat forces.

But then again, with Elise and the others on maternity leave, there's no need to try the unreasonable.

"So we have to wait for Therese to finish up her training in the end?"

"I think that would make sense, but there's actually a work request for you, Earl-sama." (Burkhart)

"Work? Some dragon? Or a mysterious, big underground ruin?"

"No, no, it's nothing so exaggerated." (Burkhart)

Burkhart-san denies, but I can't really trust him unless I hear the details.

After all I have been only plunged into such absurd situations so far.

"It's about being a temporary teacher in the capital's adventurer prep school."

"Temporary teacher, you say...? Before that, we never went to the capital's adventurer prep school, did we?"

"Now that you mention it..."

Based on the documents we have been affiliated to that place and graduated there, but we never showed up there.

After all we carried out all the necessary training outside.

"If it comes to the capital's adventurer prep school, there's quite a few magicians there."

There exists a fixed number of magicians who deliberately travel to the capital to study there since it's the place at the forefront of magic research without enrolling at their local adventurer prep schools.

You won't find almost any proper magic teachers in the countryside. Even in a big city like Breitburg, it's reality for renown magicians to be rare.

They are probably thinking that they might learn magic from an excellent teacher if they are going to study it anyway.

"Well, the capital's adventurer prep school's sales point is its good teachers. It also happens that famous magicians give short-term courses and lectures as temporary teachers. It's something I have done many times myself, too." (Burkhart)

It appears that Burkhart-san taught Lisa magic at one of those occasions.

"This is also one of the duties of a magician. Earl-sama, you have become famous. You will get a daily pay, but it's really insignificant. Please consider it as voluntary activity. I guess you can also call it the obligation of the chosen ones."

"Got it."

I decided to take up that request.

