

## **Chapter 7 - Memories and Reality**

"Milord, what shall we do?"

"Let's see. Eliseburg, Inaburg, Luisefurt, Wilmafurt, Katharinaberg..."

"Milord, you truly love your wives."

"(No, it's just that I couldn't come up with anything else...moreover, it's a naming limited to German-styled names...)"

"Milord, is something worrying you?"

"No, it's nothing."



The development of the Baumeister Earldom is proceeding smoothly.

With Baulburg in the middle, we have been freely constructing roads, bridges, towns, villages, farming fields, harbors, and so on. Since Roderich hasn't been stingy on handing out money either, many people have gathered.

Magic and manpower. With those two components the speed of the earldom's development has become astounding.

Seeing that I'm going to soon become a father, I must do my best so that my children won't be out in the cold.

With my salary back during my previous life I might have been in a pinch, but right now I'm a noble and a magician.

I have to strive to earn good money, and leave a Baumeister Earldom that had been developed to a certain degree behind for my children.

Given that the number of retainers and residents keeps growing as well, I can't do something as irresponsible as letting this end in one generation.

If it's Japan and other countries on Earth, nobles and royalty might have an image of arrogance, but an ordinary noble in this world has it tough as he has various responsibilities weighing on his shoulder, I'd say.

I'm fine since I have my magic, but...without it, the life of a salaryman would have definitely been the easygoing one.

"So, milord, any other?"

"Hmm...Katiaburg or such? Theresefurt, Lisadorf, Philineberg, Amalie...berg?"

"Milord, what else?"

"Baah! You think I can come up with so many all of a sudden!?"

I have run into a difficulty.

It's about the naming of the towns and villages, which are being constructed, in my territory. To begin with, my territory used to be an empty wasteland called Savage Lands, but nowadays dozens of villages and towns have been built, and it's scheduled for a huge number to join their ranks in the near future.

As the immigration is progressing, there are already a lot of towns and villages with many people inhabiting them.

There are also a lot of other things such as rivers, roads, harbors, forests, lakes, ponds, plains, etc. which have to be named.

It would be strange for people to live in nameless towns and villages, and thus it's my duty as the feudal lord to name them.

"Can't we have the residents decide with a poll or something?"

"No, that would be wrong."

Because it's a hassle to come up with many names, I suggest letting the residents living there decide by themselves, but Roderich shoots the idea down.

"Milord, you're the absolute ruler of this earldom. Allowing the residents to make decisions is something that mustn't be done by any means."

This part is a fundamental difference between a democracy and a feudal system.

"No matter how bad your naming sense might be, it's meaningless unless it is you who decides on the names, milord."

"Ugh...is that so...?"

I feel like Roderich dissed me there in passing, but no matter how uncool the names might be, it looks like I must be the one to decide the names.

"Now that it's come to this, Roderichburg..."

"Milord, it's not a good idea to use my name. I don't mind if it's your wives' names though..."

Nobles use the names of their beloved wives for the names of towns and villages.

This seems to be a common occurrence.

However, I think I should add that it's a matter of the past.

Since towns and such aren't founded as easily as in the past anymore, there are few opportunities to hand out new names.

In other words, it means the Baumeister Earldom will revive a mass-naming custom after a long time.

"Please allow me to do this as homework. I won't be able to think of this many names all of a sudden."

Given that it's been empty land until now, there aren't even any good hints to go with.

Because the naming standard is basically German names, the range of reuses is minuscule which gives me troubles.

"Very well. Please do it as soon as possible."

"I guess the towns can't wait."

"Correct."

Having said that, there's no way for me to come up with so many names on the spot. Since today is a day off for the first time in a while, I leave Roderich behind and exit the office.

\* \* \*

"For that reason I plan to leave the names of you and the others behind for the future. Can you accept my idea?"

Even in my own eyes this is a very hypocritical line, but if I don't get my wives to agree here, I will be at a loss since that will mean that even my first ten names will be rejected.

Yes, I have completely turned into Earl Baumeister, a refined man and high-ranking noble, who gives his beloved wives the present of leaving their names behind for eternity.

"Yes, it will be a pleasure."

Because Elise is basically a good girl, she happily accepts my present.

A rising noble uses the name of his beloved wives for the names of places in his developed territory.

In the noble society that's a present surpassing even jewelry, according to Roderich.

To me, it doesn't really make much sense, though.

"I feel like it'll be slightly embarrassing..." (Ina)

"However, it might be fun to leave my name behind for future generations." (Luise)

Ina and Luise aren't all that dissatisfied about it even though they look embarrassed.

"Wend-sama, thanks." (Wilma)

"Leaving my name behind; with this it definitely feels like I've become a noble." (Katharina)

It's wonderful that Wilma and Katharina appear to be happy about it as well.

Especially Katharina is someone fixated over her nobility.

Her way of speaking is the usual one, but she's smiling all over her face.

"Thanks, hubby. That's something impossible for my family's place...though they could use my name for the name of a field or something like that..." (Katia)

"Thank you very much." (Lisa)

Katharina and Lisa are delighted as well, but the problems start from here.

"I can understand Elise and thine other wives, but if thou consider our positions, I'm troubled to decide whether it's a good idea to accept." (Therese)

"True, I wonder whether it's a good idea for Therese and me." (Amalie)

Therese and Amalie-san, who aren't my official wives and aren't scheduled to become my wives, don't doubtful expressions.

Certainly, I think leaving the names of mistresses behind is a bit questionable.

However, if I can't use their names...it will lower the number of choices I have, won't it...?

After all you can't normally think up several dozens of town names all at once, right?

"(Elise, you don't particularly mind, do you?)"

"(I don't, and it's not like there aren't any precedents either.)"

Once I secretly ask Elise, she tells me that it's occasionally a pattern for high-ranking nobles to use female names, which the residents aren't overly familiar with, when opening a new town.

"(Since there are many big nobles handling it like that, there's no one who would criticize it too directly.)"

Given that they'd be troubled if the town remained nameless forever, the residents living in that town probably don't care as long as some name is attached to it.

In the eyes of the residents, the origin of the name isn't very interesting as long as it's not a name with a very bad taste.

"(Well, it's also high-ranking nobles who hold down any bad criticism in that areas. Besides, even if they were to be told that they named it by borrowing the name of another woman with the same name, any criticism would end then and there.)"

I see, in other words, it's an excuse allowing me to do as I please.

"It will be alright. I will limit it to the names of small towns and similar."

"I suppose those are the troubles thou are going to have when creating a high-ranking noble territory on a huge, empty land. Normally thou will have one new naming for villages and towns in a range from several years to several decades, at most." (Therese)

Therese says that she didn't experience any troubles with naming as she couldn't found new villages and towns in the Philip Dukedom that easily.

"It's an unforeseen circumstance even for me as a former high-ranking noble. Well, please refrain from using my name for big towns." (Therese)

"I think I will be also fine with a small village or such." (Amalie)

The remaining Philine is the daughter of that Margrave Breithilde, so it won't be a problem.

Even if I use her name for a somewhat large city, it will be interpreted as my consideration towards the Margrave Breithilde House which is our patron.  
For the huge daughter-pampering Margrave Breithilde it might be a very auspicious event.

"So, what are you going to do about the several dozen other names?"

"Erwinburg?"

"Why does my name come up there!?" (Erwin)

"It's because I've run out of material now."

I mean, if he asks why...if I borrow the names of my wives, I have no choice but to use the names of my children or meritorious retainers for the rest, right?

Since my children haven't been born yet, I will use their names in the distant future. Meaning, my only option is to go with the names of meritorious retainers for the rest.

Roderich had complained about it, but he's without a doubt one of the important retainers of the Baumeister House.

Therefore, it's unimaginable for me to not use his name.

Besides, I will run out of retainer names to use anyway, so I will use their names as long as they are retainers of a certain level.

It might also be a good idea to appoint their relatives and descendants as governors of those places.

"Or rather, it's too much at once..."

Thanks to our magic, the number of villages and towns is growing at an abnormal rate.

It takes time and effort to build houses, but more than one year since the founding of the Baumeister Earldom has already passed.

Baron Rembrandt has relocated a huge amount of used houses. And seeing how the Baumeister Earldom is in a good condition, carpenters gather here, constructing new homes at a quick pace.

There are areas in the kingdom where carpenters struggle because of recession, hence many of them move here or work away from home.

The Baumeister Earldom has as much work as they desire, after all.

Those hating to work away from home build a house at home, and then Baron Rembrandt relocates that house. There exists such an option as well. The lack of housing is...it's still far from enough, isn't it...?

Because it takes time to build slightly elaborate buildings as well, we're completely short of homes as of yet.

"Whatever, I still got time until the deadline."

"Naming, huh...? If you use your wives' names as material, how about also using the names of those girls?" (Erwin)

"Who do you mean with those girls, Erw?" (Wendelin)

"Obviously the female student trio you're really favoring, Wend."

So Erw is talking about Agnes, Cindy, and Betty.

"Agnes and the other two? They are my students. I can't use their names for something like this."  
(Wendelin)

I have to make a clear distinction in that area.

They are girls I'm particularly favoring among those I'm teaching magic for the first time, but those girls aren't part of the Baumeister House.

If I don't draw a clear line here, I will get scolded by Roderich.

"Eh? You won't take those girls as your wives in the future, Wend?"

"Erw, now listen..."

I end up flabbergasted by that absurdity.

Certainly, those three show promise, but that's ultimately as students.

"I have a duty. That is to turn all of my class' students, and not only those three girls, into fully-fledged magicians. There's no way that I will put shame to the name of my Master." (Wendelin)

"Eh? Love affairs have been out of the quotation from the very start?"

"Don't ask the obvious!"

Yes, as Master's sole pupil, I will properly raise my students. After all I need them to pass on the greatness and achievements of Master to future generations.

"It means that I'm not doing this for fun. So can I have you stop with the sleazy suspicions of ulterior motives, Erwin-kun!?"

"Whatever...if that's what you say, Wend, so be it..."

Erw looks like he's not completely convinced, but it's because any world has teachers who make a move on twelve to fourteen years old female students.

...Come to think of it, they were around in my previous life as well. After all I did occasionally see reports in the newspapers and TV news.

"Anyway, today is a day off."

That's the end of the talk about Agnes and the others.

Having said that, since Elise and my other wives are pregnant, we can't go out to a distant place.

Accordingly, we decide to hold something like a picnic in the courtyard of the Baumeister mansion.

At first, it was an empty courtyard, but in order to give it an appearance appropriate for an Earl, we have added suitable furnishings and employed a gardener.

Flowers and trees for the scenery have been planted. The gardener adequately takes care of those.

Employing an exclusive gardener is truly the act of a high-ranking noble.

Back at my family's home, mother, Amalie-san, and our servants were the ones planting flowers in the flower bed.

After a table and chairs have been set up in the middle of the courtyard, we spend some leisure time there while enjoying a light meal and tea.

"Somehow this isn't really for me..." (Katia)

Katia, who has more of a tendency to be frugal than me, appears to be bad with spending time leisurely like this.  
She's already restless.

"If you get pregnant, you will understand, Katia-san. After all it will become more difficult to move around."

She's saying all that, but Elise is as quick as ever in pouring new maté tea in empty cups. However, her opportunities to go out have definitely gone down. There's also the issue that Roderich and the others won't be happy if something happens to her or the others since they'll be troubled.

"I've been also told by Dominique to act carefully since the child I'm expecting is going to be the heir of the Baumeister House."

Well, it's likely because it'd be a disaster if something happened to Elise's body. If I'm not mistaken, the number of maids and guards around Elise has grown in number. As it'd become a question of responsibility if something were to happen to her now, the guards don't relax their tense expressions.

"It's something similar for me and Luise as well, but this might make it difficult for us to return to being adventurers after the birth."

"We might get pregnant again while trying to get our dull bodies back in shape."

"It looks like Roderich-san is wishing for that to happen."

Since I'm the founder of the Baumeister House, it means I can have as many children as I want for the establishment of branch families and influential retainer families. Ina and Luise complain that they've become unable to move their bodies as much as they want. Well, those two are similar to Katia in being bad at staying still.

"True. I wonder whether I will be able to return right away?"

Today Haruka is participating in the tea party on the courtyard together with Erw. I feel like it's been rather fast, but since she's pregnant as well, she's likewise taking a break from her swordsmanship training.

"So five babies will be born in succession? It'll get quite busy around here. By the way, Erwin."  
(Therese)

"What is it, Therese-sama?"

It looks like Therese has something she wants to ask Erw.

"Thou won't take any concubines? Thou have a fairly high position in the Baumeister House, and

thou have a good income as well. Thine surroundings won't agree with thou just having Haruka as wife." (Therese)

"Ugh..."

Erw is at a loss for words due to Therese's question. Certainly, various people around Erw might be naggy about him having one wife right now. I have also heard from Roderich that those kinds of approaches towards him are becoming persistent.

"Roderich-san has a single wife."

"At present thou mean, right? Also, won't he take in Minister Rückner's granddaughter after she has grown up? As anyone can see, it will be a completely political marriage, but that's how noble society works. Give it up."

"Is it okay for you to tell me that, Therese-sama?"

"I have left that world. However, I will at least provide advice to the Baumeister House that has been taking care of me. So, how about it?"

"Me, me! I'm here, Therese-sama!"

In response to Therese's question, the maid Lea, who has been waiting on us, raises her hand. She's Dominique's cousin, and secretly...no, boldly vying for the position as Erw's concubine. I and the other maids admire her for that bold approach, in a certain way. If Lea becomes Erw's concubine, it has the advantage that I will be able to have her keep working as Dominique's assistant in this mansion.

"(Erw, how about Lea?)"

"(She's a funny girl, for sure...)"

Erw's answer is questionable, but I actually know. Recently he has been regularly going on dates with Lea after being urged to do so by Haruka. Haruka is kind of originating from nobility, albeit low-ranking one. It's a nobility that equals samurai in rank, so she believes it to be only natural for a family head to have concubines.

"(Erw, your wife is the perfect super woman, isn't she...?)"

"(I think so as well...)"

Erw and I consider Haruka to be a high-spec wife that won't even lose out to Elise.