

"Ultimately it's just a precautionary measure. Hair God sightings are reported several dozen times per year, but the liquid is obtained roughly once in ten times. It's the very definition of an illusionary fluid. On one occasion I also joined the search for it, I recall. Back then I was still a newbie magician. Though I didn't even get to see its shadow."

"I hear there were many cases in the past where people couldn't find it even after mobilizing many magicians. To be blunt, it completely depends on luck...so go at it without straining yourself."

Burkhart-san has obviously no motivation. He might be more eager to get back home instead.

"Well, maybe Doushi needs it as well..."

Actually Doushi is also participating in our search today.

"Burkhart-dono, I'm shaving my head every day. The Armstrong family has only a few members with thin hair."

"Yeah, I know, I'm aware of that. You were requested to help by nobles related to you, weren't you?"

"It would be a lie if I denied that, but since no surefire method to obtain the liquid exists, I can't promise much either."

He was probably asked to do this by people with thin hair among the nobles of the military faction or something like that...but then again, since Doushi isn't a member of their faction to be precise, I think he has no obligation to accept their plea.

"I'm here because some people will more likely accept the outcome if they see that even my participation didn't change anything."

"Sorry for going out of your way for us."

"I don't mind. Even though a man's charm isn't just defined by his hair, so many adult men are kicking up a fuss over it. What truly shameful conduct!"

It's not that I don't feel the same, but Doushi sure is amazing for being able to state this without batting an eyelid. Since it'd be pointless to keep talking about this any longer, we also joined up with the Hair God search party.

"Sensei, I'm bored."

"I hear you, but make sure to not move from your assigned position. You won't become a decent adventurer, if you don't do your job properly when getting paid for it."

Anyway, there's the question of how we should go about looking for the Hair God. It's not like some ingenious method with a good prospect to find it has been established.

I deployed the hired students at the various spots in the forest where the Hair God has been seen. It was a simple measure to make sure that we'd be able to quickly react wherever it might show up.

But, after several hours of waiting, the students started to get tired of it since nothing was going on. After all, even I'd get bored to death if I were to be forbidden to hunt or gather materials because of the need to keep watching a certain location.

"Erw, do we have any likely responses?"

"No, it's not that I know what kind of response to await from the Hair God or whatever, but there's no response or presence indicating something remotely close."

Since the sun set a few hours later, we put a stop to today's search. The search this time around will last three days to cater to the wishes of the high-ranking nobles who are closely observing the whole endeavor.

Today all of us are going to stay over in brother's territory without returning to Baulburg.

"Wend, thanks for the business."

"..."

Several dozen people are going to lodge, eat and drink. That's an income which helps the Baumeister Associate Barony as it's still in the middle of its development.

Come to think of it, the ones earning the most during the gold rush on Earth in the past were the people doing business with the diggers, or so I heard. Still, necessary expenses are just that.

"Your place for lodging and dining has been prepared as well."

Erw, Burkhart-san, Doushi and I will stay over at my brother's mansion. Arterio-san apparently judged it unlikely for us to find the liquid, and thus returned to Baulburg, leaving one of his subordinates behind. Since he's swamped with work, he probably can't waste three days in a place like this.

My brother's mansion was built only recently, and is largely different from the previous mansion of my parents. It's not as big as my mansion, but since its comparison target would be that old shack from the past, it must feel terribly luxurious to my brother and his family.

"Brother, is such an extravagant mansion okay?"

"Well...don't compare it to our previous home, okay...? We've got visitors from outside, and it's supposed to last for a good while. Had we built it too small or skimped on the money, it'd just cost more later on because of all the reconstructions."

As we are guided into the mansion, I see several young women in maid clothes briskly doing various chores.

"Brother! You've got maids!"

For him to even have maids...I can't hide my surprise.

"I've just hired several women as commuting maids from within the territory. The maid clothes are loaned to them for their work here."

"Even so, it's still amazing!"

"Well, I know what you mean, but still..."

At our parents' home, the one closest to what you could call a maid was 『Meyd-san』  
[efn\_note]Another stupid pun. Her name is written as 冥途 (underworld, dark path) and spoken as めいと (meido). Regular katakana for maid is メイド (meido), so yeah, you see where we're heading with this.[/efn\_note], and she worked while wearing her normal clothes. Since my parents didn't have any servants that could be described as housekeepers, you can call the current situation a big level-up.

"Let's have dinner."

Even the dinner consisted of a fairly luxurious menu. Brother had the maids serve a full course, and a delicious cake rounded up the whole as a dessert.

Once again I become worried.

"Brother, is all of this really okay?"

"Wend, you're my patron, so I have to entertain you properly, and since we're also receiving payment for the dining and lodging from the other visitors, it's no problem. Besides, it'd be better for you to not worry so much. Else dad will sink beneath the table."

"Eh?"

Once I look in the direction of my father, he's sitting at the edge of the table with his head hanging and his shoulders slumping.

"I guess it's only natural for Wend to be worried...we didn't provide any decent meals during your childhood...if not for the food brought in by Wend, it'd have been hard for us to even provide anything besides bread and soup... Don't mind me. I know that I was a failure as lord..."

"Father, I'm sorry!"

After this I had to spend quite a bit of time on consoling my father.



"A secret medicine to recover lost hair, eh...? I suppose high-ranking nobles have it hard as well."

Since father has finally cheered up again, we resume our dinner as I explain the details of my current job. As for the disclosure of the information, father and brother are no problem since they're nobility as well. Having said that, it's already turned into large-scale search with people having been

hired, so I won't be able to avoid the adventurers learning of it, no matter what I do.

I have no idea for how long the Hair God remains at the same spot, but the number of adventurers booking an inn in brother's territory might increase for a while. Well, if it comes to a hair restorer that always works, high-ranking nobles and wealthy merchants will pay the asking price. It's very likely that people hoping for something like a gold rush will gather here, seeing as they might obtain a sum of money that would allow them to live the rest of their lives off the hog.

"I'll take it as a great chance for us to earn some money."

However, the probability for the searching adventurers to find the target is going to be extremely low. Nevertheless, it might develop into a plain gold rush for my brother and his fief's residents when they do business with the adventurers.

"If it comes to high-ranking nobles, they probably have many occasions where they need to appear in public. It might be better for their appearance to have hair on their head." Father says, but I actually wonder, what would the surroundings think if a noble suddenly grows hair on his bald head?

In my previous life they'd be suspected of hair transplantation or wearing a wig. But, since the increase of hair through the Hair God affects your own, natural hair, it's maybe not necessary to worry about such things?

While thinking about all this, my eyes suddenly end up clinging to my father's head. Then again, it's not like my father has any issues with hair loss. The white hair has increased in number again, but if he were to worry about that, he'd just need to dye them.

Even if the hair has become completely white, there's still a big difference between having and not having hair.

"Wendelin, you don't really need to give me that medicine..." Father says as if to alleviate my worries after having noticed my look. "There's few people who are troubled with hair loss in our Baumeister family. Although we're a family that has no redeeming traits, only that part is something we can be proud of."

Come to think of it, Erich has rich hair as well. But having such a family trait might be actually great.

Just because they've lost their hair, it's not like the nobles in this world can use a shaved head as some kind of deception. It's because nobles who shave their head will stick out like sore thumbs, or rather, it won't suit them, on top of being considered to have a lack of common sense.

Some among them use wigs, but with the crafting technologies of this world it's plain obvious that those are wigs. There's probably only a few nobles who would openly talk about it, but it looks like it is occasionally used as material to make fun of the wig-wearers behind their backs. I hear that it led to duels in the past after the nobles in question heard of those malicious rumors by coincidence.

The bitterness over hair is really frightening.

For that reason, wealthy nobles put in various efforts in their quest for hair recovery. Though some among them fall for scams involving weird medicines.

『It'd be best to be suspicious of anything involving medicines supposedly letting you grow taller, allowing you to become slim, boosting your sexual vitality, or letting breasts grow』 Elise taught me.

She said there's many people who pay big amounts of money once they're told about dream-like effects, even if the idea itself is clearly fishy.

"Before that, are you really going to find that Hair God?"

"Umm...who knows?" I end up lost for a reply to my father's question.

Given that mother joined us afterwards to talk about the recent situation with Elise and my other wives, we completely stopped talking about the Hair God. It allowed me to fully understand that people won't trust anything they haven't actually seen with their own eyes.



"Sensei, we haven't found it."

"I suppose even Cindy's good luck is of no help here..."

The search on the second day is already on the way, but there's still not a single trace of that Hair God. Even after using Cindy's girl power, also known as good luck, we haven't managed to grasp a single clue about its whereabouts.

"Earl-sama, it's nigh impossible to find it, isn't it?"

Burkhart-san is also in low spirits. Given that the chances to find it after its sighting are rather low, he probably feels like going back to his daughter as soon as possible.

"We have to look for it for at least three days, otherwise it won't work as an alibi."

"Pointless expenses...or I guess not...considering it's the noble society..."

Because I'm a high-ranking noble myself as well, I've got to take the nobles into consideration to some extent. Even if I don't manage to find it, I must show my sincerity by investing some time and effort into the search.

Of course some nobles will likely blame me for being worthless, either way.

"Wend, the students are clearly losing interest." Erw informs me as the one leading the prep school students I called over for a part-time job.

Since they're prohibited to hunt or gather, and are stuck watching their designated location all the

time, their concentration on the job has been waning, I'm sure.

"Please have them somehow endure until tomorrow."

"You're quite the slave-driver. I hope this will end soon..."

The instant Erw files such a complaint, the wind is suddenly whirled up, and I feel as if something has slipped past my cheek at a very high speed.

"Earl-sama?"

"Burkhart-san, did you feel it as well?"

"Yeah."

Right now we're in a place with no wind blowing. And yet we sensed a local breeze and the presence of something. In other words...

"The Hair God, huh?"

"Most likely."

Ultimately it's no more than an assumption, though. Moreover, currently I can't sense that Hair God-like presence anywhere anymore. It has apparently slipped past Burkhart-san and me at a tremendously high speed.

"Earl-sama, my 『Detect』 doesn't show any response either."

"Same here."

I finally comprehend why magicians don't readily succeed at the capture of the Hair God. Since it's way too fast, it moves out of the range of 『Detect』 before the skill triggers.

"How are we going to capture something like this?"

"Predict a place it'll pass, and plant a trap there?"

"Even though we don't know where it's right now?" Burkhart-san shoots down my plan to catch it with a trap.

He's right. We won't know for sure whether it'll pass the trap's location, and if we plant a magic trap, it'll cost mana to keep it up. Even the idea of planting traps in many places is physically impossible because the area is too big.

"In the first place, we don't know where it's right now, do we?"

"Well, yeah..."

As I'm thinking about Erw's reasonable input, I hear the voices of students from within the forest. It

looks like the Hair God has moved towards them.

"Let's go!"

"Earl-sama, won't it be too late even if we go now?"

After Burkhart-san points this out, I realize as well. Even if we head over to the place of the students that caused a ruckus just now, we won't make it in time.

"Honesty, just how are we supposed to catch it?"

As I'm starting to believe that it might be impossible, Doushi shows up.

"Earl Baumeister, it's just by coincidence, but I've felt a Hair God-like presence."

"You too, huh? We have also sensed its presence...eh!?"

The instant we see Doushi, all of us become speechless due to his extremely weird appearance.

"I tried to punch it by intuition, but I didn't hit it. But, it looks like I angered the Hair God! The outcome is just as you can see for yourself!"

The Hair God has apparently used its rumored fluid attack against Doushi. Hair is smoothly extending from his head, which is usually shaved, all the way down to his waist. At the same time it has apparently affected his beard as well. Now he's got a rich beard, making him completely look like a mountain hermit.

"Doushi, that's really eerie..."

"Damn, if this has caused hair to grow in places where it usually doesn't, it will become a major pain!"

After being showered by the Hair God's fluid, Doushi's beard and head hair has become fairly abundant, but as result of that, the precious fluid has been totally wasted.

