



"I see..."

"It was truly terrible!"

When Burkhart-san, Erw, and I return to the inn after finishing the search on the second day, we fully grasp the effectiveness of the Hair God's fluid as we examine Doushi who has become a long-bearded mountain hermit. Well, the irrefutable proof is in front of our noses after all.

"The hair is definitely nice..."

Everyone agrees with Erw's opinion, but Doushi growing out beautiful blond hair like a woman can't be called anything but eerie. And as if to prove that, children cried in fear, adults ran home, and some elderly even fainted when they saw Doushi on our way back.

Usually I've regarded Doushi's hair style as rather strikingly eccentric, but now I get the feeling that it's actually been gentle in comparison. A blond long-haired Doushi is slightly scary, to be honest here. The unbalanced mountain hermit beard makes it even more frightening.

"Doushi, you're not going to cut your hair?"

"I'm going to wait until the search is over. After all, it's possible that I'll be showered with the fluid again!"

Such miraculous probability...seems possible if we're talking about Doushi, so we abstain from forcing him to cut his hair.

"You should at least trim them a bit, you know?"

Seemingly unable to let it pass despite Doushi's objection, my brother's wife arranges Doushi's hair with a scissor. Thanks to her, I think it might have become a bit less scary.

When she saw Doushi first, she was obviously startled.



But yep, she might be familiar with giving haircuts. Still, my nephews immediately start crying as soon as they see Doushi. I can only hope that it won't turn into a trauma for them.

"You cursed Hair God! Damn you for making innocent children cry!" Doushi is burning with hostility towards the Hair God all by himself, but I wonder...I don't think he's wrong, but isn't that a false accusation, somehow?

"Still, I managed to collect a tiny amount of the fluid!"

"Well done."

Although it's just a tiny amount, Doushi scooped up some of the fluid that fell on his body. As most of it went into growing his hair and beard, it's not much, but it's still unbelievably valuable.

Given that it's an amount that'd allow for the hair of one person to grow back, I'm sure a huge bidding war will start after this search is over.

"Something with an instantaneous effect, huh...? You'll be swarmed with potential buyers, definitely."

Even Erw has no choice but to admit that nobles and wealthy merchants are going to fight over this if it has that much of an effect. He's astonished while looking at Doushi.

"That means, if Doushi is going to play an active role tomorrow and beyond, we'll be able to obtain more of the Hair God's fluid."

"No, it's been truly coincidental that I managed to get my hands on it."

Doushi clearly signals to Erw that he'd be troubled if Erw expected him to pull off tomorrow the same as today.

"I didn't even have the time to consider catching it with magic."

Yep, no matter how much you prepare your spells, the Hair God has the nasty trait to run away outside any spell's range before you can even chant it. Tomorrow will also finish with being an alibi by performing a search.

"Earl Baumeister, it's a great help that His Majesty doesn't desire this medicine."

"No doubt..."

On that day we went to sleep early in preparation for tomorrow, but seeing Doushi in his long-haired, long-bearded version early in the morning was really bad for my heart. I had simply forgotten about his new appearance over the night.

My nephews start crying once again as soon as they see Doushi in the morning.

"Still, it's grown quite a bit overnight..."

His hair and beard should have gained more than 10 cm.

"It's terribly effective..."

"Since I didn't have any issues with my hair to begin with, it's just irritating!"

After breakfast, Doushi has my brother's wife trim his hair once more. But, is Doushi going to be alright at this rate?

I've heard that hair and beard hair contain proteins. In other words, won't Doushi's prided muscles decrease in proportion to the marvelously quick growth of his hair, resulting in him eventually becoming all skin and bones? The growth of Doushi's hair is so abnormal that I've begun to harbor such concerns.

Honestly speaking, I think it'd be good if I don't get showered by the Hair God's fluid.

"(But, it doesn't really look like Doushi's muscles are declining, does it...?)"

I've thought that the hair must come from somewhere, but maybe it ignores physical laws because it's a kind of magic potion? Though, Doushi is eating lots of meat, so the necessary proteins might come from there.

"I had planned to call it quits after today, but..."

It was a coincidence, but it's bad that Doushi ended up obtaining the fluid. The number of adventurers asking to stay at inns in my brother's territory is steadily growing...

『Milord, I think it might be better to prolong the search for a few more days at this point...』

I've received a call through the MHCD from Roderich. It looks like the high-ranking nobles have been applying pressure, asking us to extend the search. Still, for the Earl Baumeister Household to receive an unprecedented level of pressure over something like this...

Hair is truly terrifying.

"I wonder, should I shave my head if my hair starts to thin?"

"That's no good, is it? Considering your position as Earl Baumeister-sama."

Putting it like that, he's certainly right. At such times commoners have it much easier. But, I wonder what to think of always carrying a hat or using an obvious wig...

The pressure on me might be intense because the other nobles think the same, though...

"So, what are we going to do?"

"Keep our eyes open with perseverance!"

"No helping it, I suppose..."

In these last two days, Ottmar-san has mobilized all the fief residents with hair issues and planted a huge amount of nets and traps in the forest on brother's side of the territory. But then again, it's exactly because the Hair God doesn't fall for those traps that it's so difficult to catch in the first place...

"Increase the number of traps and nets! Tighten the watch, and don't miss even the faintest change!"

Ottmar-san is frantically trying to catch the Hair God, capitalizing on his experience and position as brother's Junior Commander.

"Umm...brother?" I call out to my brother who's sighing as he's watching Ottmar-san.

"That guy is truly desperate. He's instigating my residents with the prospect of striking it rich if they manage to obtain the Hair God's fluid. He's also told me that it'll help with the funds for the development..."

On the surface, those are logical reasons, but everyone knows that he's actually doing it for the sake of recovering his own hair. I think they don't point it out directly to him, although they're aware of it, because they sympathize with his situation.

"Only in regards to this case, I can't tell Ottmar anything. Somehow he's quite scary..." My brother looks like he's given up, accepting that he's got no choice but to wait for this Hair God Festival to come to an end.

"Though, all we're talking about here is just a hair restorer..." Erw comments, but his argumentation stems from us having no troubles with our hair. For those affected by hair loss it's a pressing problem. Also, I think it'd be better for Erw to watch what he says.

"Erwin! It's not just a hair restorer! It's a magic medicine that will absolutely restore one's hair! If we can obtain this, it'll lead to a great development for the Associate Baumeister Barony! After all, we'll be able to sell it for a hefty sum of money. Well...I plan to use a tiny bit to make sure of its effect, though...it's not good to sell it without making sure of its efficiency... Anyway, such a way of thinking is wrong for you, who might become a chief retainer of the Earl Baumeister House in the future!"

Erw gets detained by Ottmar-san, receiving a long-winded remonstrance.

* * *

"So, it's already been a full week..."

"Kinda feels long...and also short..."

It looks like Doushi has truly been blessed by Lady Luck. Ever since the second day, there haven't been eyewitness reports, resulting in everyone losing motivation.

Well, it makes sense. Everyone is just watching at the lookout positions assigned to them. Even among the adventurers a fairly big number has given up by now, and the number of those participating in the Hair God search is continuing to dwindle by the day.

"Sensei, we can't quite find it, huh?"

"It's boring."

"It's a pain since we can't do anything but stand watch."

Agnes, Betty, Cindy, and the other part-time working students are bored. You could say that they've done well to hold out so long despite their youthfulness, but I think they've now reached their limit.

"There are no new sighting reports either. Let's wrap it up here for today."

"I'm all for it!"

Once I announce the end of today's search, Burkhart-san is the very first to agree with it.

"Hasn't Margrave Breithilde said anything?"

"There's no way he could. Even if it's sighted, the fluid is obtained only once in ten sightings. My conservative master doesn't indulge in dreams. My dispatch is just an alibi anyway. Damn it, the folks at the capital should simply face reality."

It's a fairly cruel way of speaking, but our side is also wasting a lot of money on this. There's no way we can continue doing this endlessly. There's the pay for the students' part-time jobbing, lodging expenses, etc.

My brother has reduced the lodging prices a bit for us, but if I add up the expenses so far, it's already at an amount of money that'd cause a smaller noble to cry tears of blood. Then again, it only means that high-ranking nobles spend a lot of money on entertainment like this.

"I mean, even I don't have time to waste."

A magician at Burkhart-san's level has been assigned to only watch a creature where it's unclear whether it'll be possible to catch it. Although it's a necessary care of noble relationships, it means that Margrave Breithilde is also burdened quite a bit by his consideration towards the hairless nobles of the capital. I'm pretty sure, both actually want to get back to their usual jobs.

"I had expected that this might happen, so I tried to make something like this, just in case." I show a magic net with a very fine meshing to Burkhart-san.

"It's a fairly elaborate creation, but there's no magician who wouldn't think of such a method."

"Figures."

Catching the Hair God with a magic net...you could call this a fairly cliched method.

"It will be long gone before you can even cast that net."

"In that case, I guess there's no other option but to set up the net in advance...having said that, the probability for the Hair God to go close to the net is low, isn't it?"

And even before that, if I were to cast magic nets all over the place, I would never have enough mana to maintain all of them. The advantage of a magic net lies in its fine meshing when compared to a regular net. In my case, you can also add the point of it being almost invisible thanks to its transparency.

"I will make the meshing even finer."

"If it's this fine, even the Hair God won't be able to get out of it, I guess?"

"Eh? Why phrase it as a question?"

"No one has ever seen the true appearance of the Hair God. According to rumors, it can take on any shape, and also slip through nets, or something like that? Ultimately it's just rumors, the folklore-type at that."

It's capable of an ever-changing appearance, allowing it to slip through nets? If that's really true, I think that even magic won't be of much use here.

"Is this net no good as well? We're going to set it up overhead like this, and wait beneath with jars at hand in preparation for the Hair God to excrete its fluid after getting caught in the net." I show a large jar I'm holding in both hands after taking it out of my magic bag to Burkhart-san.

"That's quite the big jar you got there. Up until now, you'd call a share of fluid for ten people during one sighting a fairly decent result."

The amount Doushi was luckily able to collect is in the range of 20 ml - in other words, roughly the share of one person. The jar in my hands is one of those I've used for salt storage in the past. If it's completely filled, it can hold around 20 liters.

"You're way too greedy, Earl-sama."

"I just thought it'd be easier to collect the fluid when using a jar around this big..."

"The Hair God appeared!"

As we're having such a conversation, a report that the Hair God has appeared comes in from a slightly distant place. As I try to deal with it in a hurry, I feel how a gust of wind passes above my head.

"Again too late, huh!?"

Once I look up with that thought, a huge amount of fluid is raining down from above for some reason.

"Earl-sama!"

Even as I try to deal with it in panic, the fluid ends up completely falling into the jar in my hands. All of a sudden it feels quite heavy, but I prevent it from falling to the ground by strengthening my body with magic in a hurry.

"A sudden rainfall?"

"No, that's probably the Hair God's fluid. Today there's been no rain around this area."

I've ended up with a huge amount of Hair God fluid through an unexpected streak of luck.



"But, why this much?"

"I can only describe it as pure coincidence."

Since we've obtained a big amount of the fluid, the search has come to an end. We return to my brother's mansion for the moment, and check the amount of fluid in the jar.

"The instant it entered the jar, I thought I might drop it since it became so heavy."

"The jar is almost completely full."

It probably should be close to 20 liters of Hair God fluid. Since 20 liter equals 20,000 ml, and if we assume 20 ml are needed per person, this amount will cover 1,000 people.

"What a crazy amount!"

Doushi is also dumbfounded by the amount of fluid that fills the jar to the brim.

"However, how could you obtain this much of it?"

"It's just coincidence, no doubt about that."

Going by Burkhart-san's conjecture, the Hair God has accidentally passed through the area where I had deployed the magic net. The Hair God can freely change its shape, but as the meshing of my prototype net was too fine, it couldn't pass through it without discharging its body's moisture...in short, the fluid. Thus you might say that I have squeezed out a lot from it.

"I see. So, is this the real deal?"

"It is..."

"Yahooo——!"

Next to us, Ottmar-san rejoices grandly without minding our stares. When we tried to apply the fluid on Ottmar-san's head as an experiment...err, test, his hair became very lush, and the areas with thin hair disappeared completely. Since hair is even grown at the areas where the hair roots have died away, the effect of the Hair God's fluid is tremendous.

Because we couldn't confirm anything but a growth boost of the beard and head hair in Doushi's case, that part was still unclear.

"That means we weren't lucky."

The place where I obtained the fluid wasn't on my brother's side of the forest. Since he'd have a right to claim a share of 30% otherwise, it might really be unlucky for him.

"Oh well, whatever. We made some money as well." Although it's not been a gold rush, but a Hair God rush, brother has also earned a good amount of money through the lodging and dining of the adventurers who have gathered here. "Besides, holding onto something like this would just be a hassle for a petty noble like me."

