

His only muse.

It was a rather unfortunate night for Ari himself. First of all, he woke up from his nap much later than expected, and he didn't even notice how hungry he was when it's time to work. Obviously he couldn't really work much on the commission he's supposed to work on by a pretty close deadline. Art-blocked by the nature of a human being and their need to eat, to be said.

And then he collapsed. He realized how hungry he was by that moment before he collapsed where he started seeing his charcoal as a bar of quick food, but it was too late.

But Sampo wasn't quite late. In fact, he came just in time to spot Ari lying on the floor.

"Oh, my pal Ari. What have you become?" In his usual tone that would've annoyed loads of people in Belobog, Sampo had declared as he approached him, putting him on his arms. However, to the downed Ari, his voice felt like salvation. Though Ari couldn't do too many things at the moment, he called out his name.

"Sampo..."

"Are you okay? What happened—" Sampo's question is immediately answered by the loud rumbling of Ari's stomach. Thankfully, Ari wasn't in the right mind to feel embarrassment over such trivial things. "Aah, I see now. It's a good thing that this Sampo Koski brought you food."

Ari nodded, as Sampo helped him to raise himself in a seating position. The food that Sampo brought was not that extravagant— it was just a plain set of boxed meals they'd sell everywhere, anytime in Upper Belobog, but it was quite enough for Ari who didn't eat that much the whole day.

For a while, Sampo lets him eat in silence, but he does feel bored by it. When colors started popping back on Ari's hungry face, he spoke up.

"You really have to take better care of your eating habits. What would you do if I wasn't around~?"

"Wait until you come back."

His sudden retort of words were just like the gestures of a loyal puppy that even Sampo had raised his eyebrows for a moment.

"I'm pleased to hear your trust in me~" Sampo chuckled. "But eating is necessary for your work, no?"

"No, it's having ideas to draw. And draw them."

"You cannot achieve those without taking care of yourself, pal."

Sampo carefully patted Ari's back, softly so he wouldn't spill his currently munched food. As soon as Ari swallowed, he turned to Sampo and said in full honesty.

"But you took good care of me regardless." Ari said, rather innocently, with how his eyes that aren't covered by eyepatch sparkled despite it all. It's rather adorable to Sampo's eyes. "It's like, you're my muse."

"A muse?"

"Yeah. It's like when an artist has someone that always inspires them." Ari explained, finishing his meals in between. "You always took good care of me and in some ways you've become my inspiration. So Sampo, you're my muse."

"I'm flattered to have such a grandiose title from you, my pal."

Oh well, it wouldn't hurt Sampo to pay a little more visit to him from time to time as his 'muse', whether it was for profit or not.