

11 - The Foundation for Despair

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

Translator:

Editor:

Timer:

QC:

(Please feel free to edit the speaker names if incomplete or inaccurate. Names are handled on a best-effort basis depending on the info on the source file. Dialogue is left as is.)

[01:12] nar

Even though victory is
in reach for Fake Akagi,

[01:14] nar

he lets it slip away at the last moment.

[01:17] nar

The wager is doubled from
16 million to 32 million.

[01:21] nar

Just as Akagi predicted,

[01:23] nar

Fake Akagi is pushed further and
further into the corner by Urabe.

SIGN Episode 11

SIGN The Foundation for Despair

[01:31] nar

East Hand 1, ninth turn.

[01:38] kaw

Can we call in the real Akagi?

[01:42] kaw

This man is no good.

[01:44] kaw

There's something he lacks.

[01:45] ish

Something Fake Akagi lacks?

[01:48] kaw

Yes. He's missing the most crucial
quality that gamblers must have.

[01:53] kaw

He doesn't have a sense of the moment.

[01:57] ish

A sense of the moment?

[02:03] fak

Pinfu, tsumo. 700, 400.

[02:08] kaw

What he believes in is the ideology known as probability.

[02:13] kaw

But when 32 million is riding on a single East-South match,

[02:16] kaw

you need something more than just probability.

[02:20] kaw

The ability to sniff out the tiles.

[02:22] kaw

At this point, he needs to be able to pick them with pinpoint accuracy.

[02:27] ish

But that's...

[02:28] kaw

He needs to be able to do that to be relevant.

[02:32] kaw

All he can do is make shallow calculations.

[02:36] kaw

He won't be able to win like that.

[02:41] nar

East Hand 2, 14th turn.

[02:44] nar

Fake Akagi is in tenpai.

[02:46] fak

If I go for a double pon wait on the 3 of bamboo and 7 of circles,

[02:49] fak

drawing it myself will get me a san ankou.

[02:51] fak

But considering that the 7 of circles is the dora,

[02:55] fak

a tanyao with two dora is enough.

[03:01] ura

A 3 of bamboo from his hand.

[03:02] ura

He's in tenpai.

[03:04] ura

But he still isn't declaring riichi.

[03:07] ura

I guess he concluded that it's not possible

[03:10] ura

given how few tiles are left.

[03:13] ura

That's weak, bro!

[03:15] ura

*If you have a good hand,
you've got to be greedy!*

[03:19] ura

With that sort of meticulous play style,

[03:21] ura

*you won't be able to put
pressure on your opponents*

[03:24] ura

or bring luck on your side.

[03:26] ura

Your play style is so timid.

[03:29] ura

I'm going to be much bolder than that.

[03:32] ura

Bro, do you accept opens?

[03:34] fak

Open?

[03:35] ura

The 2 han open riichi.

[03:39] kaw

We do in theory.

[03:42] ura

All right.

[03:43] ura

Riichi, open!

[03:49] fak

He actually did it!

[03:51] fak

*And a double pon wait on the
red dragon and the 3 of circles?*

[03:55] fak

*There are already two red
dragons in the discards.*

[03:57] fak

He's only got the 3 of circles to wait for.

[03:59] fak

He must be kidding.

[04:01] fak

*There's no way that my three-way
wait will lose to this!*

[04:06] fak

Damn it!

[04:08] ish

Urabe's play style is crazy.

[04:12] ish

He discarded the 5 of circles
and declared riichi,

[04:13] ish

which means that he could have
had a two-sided wait, too.

[04:17] kaw

If he had gone for the two-sided wait,
a tsumo would have netted him 7,800.

[04:21] kaw

But if he goes for the san ankou,
with a tsumo he'll get a proper mangan.

[04:26] kaw

And if he gets reverse dora
for any of his triplets,

[04:28] kaw

opening the riichi will boost
him to a dealer baiman.

[04:32] kaw

He could finish everything
with this one hand.

[04:36] kaw

Plus, he probably feels it.

[04:40] kaw

He can smell it...

[04:43] kaw

The winning tile.

[04:44] kaw

The premonition that he'll
draw the 3 of circles.

[04:48] ish

Could it be...

[04:49] fak

Don't draw it!

[04:59] nar

He didn't get the ippatsu,
but in the next turn...

[05:04] ura

Tsumo.

[05:06] ura

Open, tsumo, san ankou. Mangan.

[05:09] ura

Oh, wait, I got three reverse
dora, so it's a baiman.

[05:15] ura

Sorry, bro.

[05:18] fak

No way.

[05:19] fak

This is unbelievable!

[05:24] kaw

Ishikawa, it's no use.

[05:26] kaw

He's out of the question.

[05:28] kaw

Letting him continue to play
will only widen the wound.

[05:33] kaw

Call Akagi!

[05:35] kaw

We must fight a demon with a demon!

[05:43] ish

Akagi!

[05:44] ish

You need to come right now.

[05:45] ish

Our rep player is being torn apart.

[05:47] ish

We need your help.

[05:50] aka

Urabe started winning?

[05:51] ish

Yeah, that bastard got cocky
and kept raising the wager.

[05:55] ish

It's at 32 million now.

[05:57] ish

Please, Akagi!

[05:59] aka

I'm sorry, but I don't feel like it.

[06:02] ish

What are you talking about?

[06:04] ish

Nobody but you can do it!

[06:05] ish

Akagi!

[06:06] aka

What about Osamu?

[06:09] ish

You mean the kid with the freckles?

[06:11] aka

Yes, why don't you have him play?

[06:14] ish

That's not funny.

[06:15] ish

This isn't an opponent
an amateur can handle.

[06:18] aka

Ishikawa-san, keep the wager secret
from Osamu and let him play freely.

[06:23] aka

He might do quite well.

[06:24] ish

Quite well isn't enough, Akagi.

[06:27] aka

Do what you like.

[06:28] aka

If Osamu doesn't play, neither will I.

[06:31] ish

Akagi...

[06:34] ish

So you'll play after Osamu?

[06:37] ish

If he plays, you play?

[06:39] aka

Well, yeah.

[06:42] nar

It's East Hand 4.

[06:46] nar

Osamu has just become dealer.

[06:51] osa

*Is it really okay for
me to be playing here?*

[06:54] osa

*Didn't they say something
about the wager being 500,000?*

[06:59] osa

Five hundred grand, huh?

[07:03] nar

Osamu is in tenpai.

[07:05] osa

I'm in tenpai.

[07:07] osa

If I discard the 3 of circles,

[07:08] osa

I'll get a double pon wait for the
7 of bamboo and the north wind.

[07:10] osa

Should I just stick with
that since I'm the dealer?

[07:14] osa

But I'm 38,000 points behind first place.

[07:17] osa

*If I play too defensively,
I'll never take over the lead.*

[07:20] osa

Let's play it big.

[07:24] ---

Ah...

[07:25] kaw

Not bad.

[07:27] nar

Osamu dismantles his tenpai and goes for a tanyao, sanshoku hand.

[07:31] nar

Later, that proves to be a good call.

[07:34] nar

A few turns later...

[07:37] nar

Tenpai.

[07:38] nar

An ideal tanyao, pinfu, sanshoku.

[07:40] osa

Riichi!

[07:42] kaw

*Usually, people would buckle under
the pressure of a 32 million wager.*

[07:48] kaw

*Despite his appearance,
he plays quite calmly.*

[07:52] kaw

I heard he was a filler until Akagi comes,

[07:55] kaw

*but it looks like he's not
completely useless, either.*

[08:00] osa

Tsumo!

[08:01] osa

Menzen, pinfu, tsumo, sanshoku.
Mangan! 4,000 from all!

[08:06] nar

Osamu picks up momentum with this win.

[08:10] nar

Moving on to bonus hand 1,
he gets another tsumo.

[08:14] osa

2,700 from all.

[08:16] nar

Urabe, who was barely visible

before, is now almost in reach.

[08:21] nar

The distance is a mere 11,200.

[08:24] nar

A mangan or higher will cause an upset.

[08:30] guy

He's not bad.

[08:32] guy

Even though entering the game dead
last can be relaxing in a way,

[08:35] guy

it's like he's not affected by
the 32 million wager whatsoever.

[08:41] osa

Thirty-two million?!

[08:43] osa

Thirty-two million...

[08:49] osa

He kept quiet

[08:50] osa

*because he figured a wager that
high would make me nervous.*

[08:54] ---

Thirty-two million...

[08:56] osa

What's going to happen if I lose?

[08:58] osa

Debt?

[09:00] osa

But what if I win?

Even a 10% cut would be...

[09:04] osa

3.2 million.

[09:08] nar

Osamu's starting hand.

[09:11] osa

The 8 of circles is the dora.

[09:13] osa

*A tanyao with three dora will
be enough for an upset.*

[09:16] osa

I want to win with this hand.

[09:18] osa

If I win, I'll be in first place... if I win...

[09:23] osa

Chi!

[09:25] osa

Chi!

[09:27] ish

Not good.

[09:28] ish

His calm play style from before is gone.

[09:31] ish

You had luck on your side...

[09:32] ish

*You should have just have kept
playing like you have been.*

[09:36] nar

Osamu was in tenpai after just 6 turns...

[09:39] nar

But he can't draw this
closed wait 4 of circles.

[09:42] nar

He can't draw it.

[09:43] nar

He can't draw it.

[09:45] nar

And in the 10th turn, Urabe...

[09:47] ura

Riichi.

[09:50] nar

Two turns later...

[09:53] osa

Go through!

[09:54] ura

Ron!

[09:56] ura

Riichi, honitsu, one dora. Mangan.

[10:00] osa

He got me.

[10:01] osa

He used up all of my winning tiles.

[10:04] osa

That's why he declared the riichi.

[10:06] osa

*It's like he could see
through everything I did...*

[10:08] osa

I can't do this.

[10:11] aka

Want to switch, Osamu?

[10:13] osa

Akagi-san!

[10:24] osa

Urabe is 28,400 points ahead.

[10:28] osa

But are you sure about this?

[10:30] osa

There's 32 million riding on this match.

[10:33] osa

You'll be entering in the South round,
and almost 30,000 points behind.

[10:36] osa

There's no guarantee that you will win...

[10:38] aka

You're so stupid.

[10:40] aka

Is that what you were
worrying so much about?

[10:44] aka

None of that matters.

[10:46] aka

It's someone else's money.

[10:48] aka

We can be totally carefree.

[10:49] osa

Akagi-san, how could you say that?

[10:51] aka

It's simply the truth.

[10:53] aka

The ones who should be nervous
are the yakuza men behind us...

[10:57] aka

and Urabe.

[11:00] osa

Urabe?

[11:01] aka

Think about it.

[11:03] aka

Who's the one person who can stand
to lose this match the least?

[11:06] aka

Urabe's the one who raised the
stakes to this ridiculous level.

[11:10] aka

He won't get away with a

[11:12] aka

"Sorry, I screwed up in the
end, and lost 32 million."

[11:15] aka

He'll have to pay,

with cash or his blood.

[11:19] aka

The pressure he's feeling
right now must be immense.

[11:27] ish

I see.

[11:28] ish

Akagi's right.

[11:29] ish

I was too fixated on the point difference

[11:31] ish

*and had lost sight of the crucial piece,
the mental state of the opponent.*

[11:35] ish

It shows again that Akagi,

[11:38] ish

*Akagi Shigeru, is the only
one we can rely on.*

[11:40] nar

The game resumes.

[11:42] nar

South Hand 1.

[11:44] ish

All right, show me...

[11:46] ish

*My first sight of Akagi Shigeru
playing Mahjong in five years!*

[11:49] ish

How is he going to play?

[11:52] nar

But contrary to Ishikawa's expectations,
Akagi doesn't do anything special.

[11:59] nar

Ordinary hands.

[12:01] nar

Even his single han riichi is dodged by Urabe.

[12:04] ura

Tsumo.

[12:08] nar

And in South Hand 2,

[12:10] nar

just like before, Akagi immediately
declares riichi after getting into tenpai.

[12:16] ish

Why, Akagi? Why aren't you doing anything?

[12:20] ish

Shouldn't you have at least waited

for that hand to get better?

[12:27] ura

What's this kid planning?

[12:31] ura

*It seems like a tenpai
without any points behind it,*

[12:33] ura

*but I'll just have to play along
and keep an eye out for now.*

[12:36] ura

*At least until I can figure
out what he's doing.*

[12:41] ura

*The worst would be for him
to have the west wind dora.*

[12:44] ura

That'd be an instant mangan.

[12:48] ura

What the...

[12:49] ura

The dora passes?

[12:52] ura

That's the third west wind.

[12:54] ura

*The possibility that he's
got any dora is gone now.*

[12:57] ura

*So is he going for a
sanshoku with the lower tiles?*

[13:02] nar

*But that possibility also
disappears as all four*

[13:05] nar

*of the 4 of bamboo and 1 of
circles tiles appear in the discards.*

[13:09] ura

In that case...

[13:10] ish

There's his winning tile!

[13:12] ish

*If he gets lucky with the reverse
dora, it could go to 5,200.*

[13:16] ish

Why doesn't he declare his win?

[13:18] ish

It's a direct hit off the opponent!

[13:22] nar

In the 15th turn,
Urabe gets a tsumo win.

[13:27] ura

A win, huh?

[13:28] ura

*But with just pinfu, tsumo,
iipeikou, it's only 2,700.*

[13:32] ura

*Three more turns and
the hand ends in a draw.*

[13:34] ura

*Instead of taking this cheap win,
I'll take a look at what he has instead.*

[13:42] nar

Inexplicably, both Akagi and Urabe
ignore their winning tiles this hand.

[13:48] nar

It ends in a draw.

[13:49] ura

I'm in tenpai.

[13:53] ish

A 5 or 8 of bamboo wait?

[13:55] ish

Urabe could have won in the 15th turn.

[13:59] ish

*He ignored that on purpose just
to take a look at our hand!*

[14:03] ish

*He sensed what we would want to
avoid the most and came straight for it!*

[14:08] ura

All right, Akagi-han.

[14:10] ura

Let's see what your riichi was made of.

[14:13] ura

Show me your preemptive riichi.

[14:20] aka

Sorry, I wasn't in tenpai.

[14:24] ish

Akagi!

[14:25] ish

I understand that you
don't want to show it,

[14:27] ish

but the 8,000 point penalty
is too much right now!

[14:30] aka

It's cheap if you consider I'm buying something with these 8,000 points.

[14:34] aka

Urabe picked up the points and widened the lead for now.

[14:38] aka

I'm buying three turns in the future with these 8,000.

[14:42] ish

Three turns in the future?

[14:44] aka

Yes, at the very end,

[14:46] aka

the three turns that will decide the outcome of the match.

[14:49] aka

I will advance, and Urabe will retreat.

[14:53] aka

These 8,000 are an unavoidable expense

[14:55] aka

to arrange the time and place for victory.

[14:59] aka

The foundation.

[15:02] nar

But now the difference between Akagi and Urabe is 45,800.

[15:07] nar

This sort of gap could be called hopeless.

[15:11] ish

He won't be able to turn the tables with tsumo wins.

[15:13] ish

He'll need direct hits off the opponent.

[15:17] ish

But if someone of Urabe's caliber is playing defensively,

[15:20] ish

you'll never be able to get a direct hit.

[15:22] ish

In a normal match,

[15:24] ish

Akagi wouldn't have a chance to win.

[15:26] ish

Now all he can rely on is a tidal wave of luck,

[15:29] ish

*the kind that only comes once in
a hundred... no, a thousand years.*

[15:33] ish

A miracle surpassing all logic

[15:35] ish

that will give him baiman or yakuman hands.

[15:41] ish

What a boring starting hand.

[15:44] ish

It's lackluster.

[15:45] ish

No sign of any tidal wave.

[15:51] ish

That's the worst draw he could get.

[15:53] ish

*Getting three foreign
wind tiles is the worst.*

[15:56] nar

No.

[15:57] nar

That is not the case.

[15:59] nar

*Actually, drawing the
east wind was the sign.*

[16:01] nar

*A sign for the 100-year tidal wave
that would dwarf normal waves!*

[16:10] ish

I don't believe it.

[16:12] ish

With just three effective draws,

[16:14] ish

*he's already gotten so close
to a yakuman hand.*

[16:18] nar

Eighth turn.

[16:21] ish

San ankou.

[16:23] ish

*With him, I just can't
predict what will happen.*

[16:26] ish

He's far beyond the realm of ordinary men.

[16:29] ish

But now Urabe's the issue.

[16:32] ish

It looks like he's got a quick hand, too.

[16:33] ura

Pon!

[16:36] ish

He's probably in tenpai now.

[16:39] ish

Probably a chinitsu or honitsu of characters.

[16:41] ish

*And probably waiting on multiple
tiles in the lower end.*

[16:45] ish

*This is the moment of
truth for Akagi's hand.*

[16:48] ish

Suu ankou... Will it end as an illusion?

[16:51] ish

Or will it become reality and bear fruit?

[16:58] ish

He got it!

[17:00] ---

Suu ankou, tenpai...

[17:03] ish

*What's more, with this hand
he can get it from a ron, too!*

[17:07] ish

*It's a bit risky, but he should
discard the 4 of characters here*

[17:10] ish

and wait on the 5 of bamboo for now.

[17:12] ish

*Then he can switch to a more
ideal single wait later.*

[17:21] aka

Riichi.

[17:23] ish

No!

[17:24] ish

Unthinkable!

[17:26] ish

Why a riichi?

[17:27] ish

Why?!

[17:28] ish

And why the multi-sided wait?

[17:29] ish

*If anything, you'd have to go for
the guaranteed suu ankou single wait!*

[17:33] ish

*Why didn't you wait
for the 5 of bamboo?!*

[17:36] aka

Open.

[17:40] ish

*I have no idea what's
going on anymore.*

[17:45] kaw

There's nothing strange about this.

[17:47] kaw

This is Akagi's logic.

[17:49] ish

Akagi's logic?

[17:50] kaw

Akagi predicted that Urabe was waiting
for the 1, 4, and 7 of characters.

[17:55] kaw

So he can't discard the 4.

[17:58] kaw

If he can't discard it,
he can't change his hand,

[18:00] kaw

so declaring riichi isn't too strange.

[18:02] ish

Yes, but I don't think it
was necessary to open it.

[18:06] kaw

Akagi figured that nobody would
discard a 4 of characters.

[18:10] kaw

Look at the discards of
the player before him.

[18:13] kaw

He was out of the game early on.

[18:15] kaw

He won't discard any character tiles.

[18:17] kaw

If anybody were to do it,
it'd be the player after him.

[18:20] kaw

In the unlikely event
that he would discard it,

[18:22] kaw

Urabe would win because
of the head bump rule.

[18:25] kaw

Either way, there's no way
that Akagi could win

[18:28] kaw

with a ron on a 4 of characters.

[18:30] kaw

If he can only win with a tsumo,

[18:31] kaw

then it doesn't matter
if his hand is open or not.

[18:35] kaw

And that open riichi has another goal.

[18:39] ish

Another goal?

[18:40] kaw

The open suu ankou is a threat,

[18:44] kaw

in order to force Urabe to compromise.

[18:47] nar

Boss Kawada was half-right.

[18:50] nar

Urabe was indeed waiting for
the 1, 4, and 7 of characters.

[18:53] nar

Akagi had guessed correctly.

[18:55] uraw

Suu ankou, open riichi?!

[18:58] uraw

That's too crazy, you idiot!

[19:01] uraw

Damn it!

[19:02] uraw

*If Akagi gets the suu ankou,
he'll whip past me in one shot.*

[19:13] uraw

Don't tell me...

[19:23] uraw

My heart can't take this.

[19:26] uraw

At least he didn't get the ippatsu.

[19:28] uraw

*But there's no need for me
to overextend myself here.*

[19:30] uraw

Boss Kawada.

[19:32] uraw

You don't have the silly rule here
that dealing into an open riichi

[19:35] uraw

will turn it into a yakuman hand, right?

[19:38] kaw

No, we don't.

[19:40] ura

Then...

[19:42] ura

I'll deal into his hand!

[19:43] kaw

There it is.

[19:44] ish

Is this what Akagi was aiming for?

[19:46] ish

*A direct hit off his opponent
that we thought was impossible.*

[19:51] ish

*So the suu ankou was a threat to
force Urabe to discard this winning tile?*

[19:56] kaw

This gives him at least a mangan.

[19:58] kaw

*If he gets reverse dora,
it could go up to a baiman.*

[20:01] kaw

*While everybody is getting too
excited in this gambling room,*

[20:04] kaw

*he makes such a realistic
and bold prediction.*

[20:07] kaw

A calculated strategy.

[20:09] kaw

*He's the real deal,
without any shadow of a doubt.*

[20:15] ura

What's up?

[20:16] ura

Why aren't you checking
the reverse dora?

[20:18] aka

Stop dreaming.

[20:20] aka

We keep playing.

[20:21] aka

I have no intention of
picking up cheap points.

[20:27] ish

A-Akagi...

[20:29] aka

Urabe took his hand
apart to deal into mine.

[20:33] aka

He wrongly assumed that this deal
would work out and defanged his hand.

[20:39] aka

In other words, he doesn't have
a hand he can fight with.

[20:43] aka

Then let's advance.

[20:45] aka

I'll advance as much as he retreated.

[20:49] aka

I'll end him with this *suu ankou*.

[20:52] nar

Urabe's failed plan,

[20:54] nar

Akagi Shigeru's uncompromising fight,

[20:58] nar

and the foundation for
the next three turns...

[21:01] nar

Akagi closes in on Urabe,
slowly but surely.

[22:16] nar

Next time,
"The Magic of Coincidence."

SIGN Next Episode

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