

17 - The Proof of Genius

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(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.)

[01:16] Nar

The monster of the
Showa Era, Washizu Iwao.

[01:20] Nar

He's amassed untold riches and power,

[01:23] Nar

and now he uses it to gamble on
young people's lives for his pleasure.

[01:28] Nar

In order to hunt down this monster,

[01:30] Nar

Akagi, the genius from the
darkness, stands up to him.

[01:33] Nar

Akagi will bet his very life's blood.

[01:37] Nar

Washizu will bet the
remainder of his fortune.

[01:40] Nar

The battle that may bring
either to ruin has begun.

SIGN Episode 17

SIGN The Proof of Genius

[01:52] Nar

Washizu's riichi misses its mark.

[01:55] Nar

Akagi takes the 1,000 points,
and the corresponding one million yen.

[02:07] Nar

East Hand 2.

[02:08] Nar

The dealer is Washizu.

[02:11] Nar

After losing the previous hand,
his opening hand isn't good.

[02:16] Nar

Compared to Washizu's bad starting hand and bad draws, Akagi is doing well.

[02:21] Nar

In only the fourth turn...

[02:23] Yasu

Good.

[02:25] Yasu

One away from tenpai.

[02:27] Nar

It's not an impressive hand,

[02:28] Nar

but winning it would mean bumping Washizu out of the dealer's spot.

[02:32] Nar

Then on the fifth turn...

[02:34] Nar

Yasuoka draws a red dragon.

[02:37] Yasu

If I make him call this red dragon,

[02:40] Yasu

Akagi will probably be in tenpai with a 2 or 5 of bamboo wait.

[02:43] Yasu

In that case...

[02:45] Yasu

All right, Akagi.

[02:47] Yasu

Call it.

[02:50] Aka

Pon.

[02:53] Yasu

Good.

[02:57] Nar

This game is between Akagi and Washizu alone.

[03:00] Nar

Since his own points don't matter,

[03:02] Nar

it makes sense that Yasuoka would try to help Akagi.

[03:05] Nar

In this instance, he lets Akagi call the red dragon to get him into tenpai.

[03:09] Nar

He then quickly deals into his hand.

[03:11] Aka

Ron.

[03:13] Aka

Red dragon, one dora. 2,000.

[03:20] Was

You trash...

[03:23] Was

You're not worth my time.

[03:25] Was

*Even if you wanted me
out of the dealer's spot,*

[03:29] Was

*your hand was ideal because
all you had to do was wait*

[03:32] Was

*for Yasuoka to deal into it
with the red dragon.*

[03:36] Was

*And you took that for nothing
but a quick 2,000 win.*

[03:41] Was

You're an idiotic coward.

[03:43] Was

*Since you're so slow,
let me teach you a lesson...*

[03:47] Was

*on the most effective way
to play Washizu Mahjong.*

[03:51] Was

The strongest weapon...

[03:54] Was

Riichi.

[03:59] Oug

This one's rough.

[04:01] Oug

He has so many black tiles.

[04:03] Oug

If he's going for a mentanpin,

[04:05] Oug

there are any number of possible waits.

[04:08] Oug

*In an extreme case,
he could even have a chiitoitsu.*

[04:17] Was

You moron.

[04:18] Was

You don't even have the
right to worry about it.

[04:23] Was

Hey.

[04:26] Was

Ron.

[04:28] Was

Riichi, ippatsu, tanyao.

[04:34] Was

And the reverse dora is...

[04:35] Was

I got one.

[04:37] Was

So it's a mangan.

[04:39] Was

Do you understand now?

[04:41] Was

The terror that is Washizu Mahjong?

[04:46] Nar

The riichi and the instant
deal of the winning tile is

[04:49] Nar

one of the most powerful ways
to team up in Washizu Mahjong.

[04:54] Nar

Even with the cheapest hand,
a riichi ippatsu is worth two han.

[04:58] Nar

If a reverse dora is added,
it instantly becomes a mangan.

[05:02] Was

I'm 100% certain you've got
no chance of winning

[05:06] Was

with that gutless playing style.

[05:08] Was

You may avoid direct hits from me,

[05:11] Was

but you can't keep me from outranking you.

[05:14] Was

Come on, boy.

[05:16] Was

Attack me, if you want to survive.

[05:20] Was

But if you're too scared,
just sit back and die.

[05:27] Was

Well, even if you decide to attack now,

[05:30] Was

that mangan put me
2,000 points ahead of you.

[05:36] Was

If you want to survive,

[05:38] Was

you have to attack, and attack,
and get ahead of me.

[05:41] Was

Discard the tile that will decide your fate.

[05:45] ---

Close the differential between us.

[05:48] Was

By making it through that carnage,
that danger, you will see

[05:54] Was

the faint light of your hope to survive.

[06:01] Nar

He is right. With this type of team play,

[06:03] Nar

it is impossible to stay ahead

[06:05] Nar

with defensive playing
or winning quick hands.

[06:09] Nar

That is to say, little tricks
are absolutely pointless.

[06:12] Nar

Since assisting each other is
allowed in this one-on-one battle,

[06:15] Nar

he will eventually lose.

[06:19] Nar

Declaring riichi and then having another
deal immediately into your hand

[06:23] Nar

is not only efficient,

[06:24] Nar

but one could say that it is standard.

[06:28] Nar

This strategy has no less
than three strong points.

[06:32] Nar

First, as demonstrated by Washizu,

[06:36] Nar

by adding 2 han with the
riichi ippatsu combo,

[06:39] Nar

one or two reverse dora will suffice
to make it an expensive mangan hand.

[06:43] Nar

The second is its speed.

[06:46] Nar

The time between a tenpai and
a win is completely eliminated.

[06:52] Nar

And so long as your teammate has
that tile, your wait can be anything.

[06:56] Nar

A side wait, a closed wait,
or even a single wait.

[07:01] Nar

All of them can lead to an ippatsu win.

[07:05] Nar

And most importantly,
that sense of safety.

[07:08] Nar

The moment you declare riichi,
the next player deals into your hand.

[07:12] Nar

In other words, you get the
benefits of declaring a riichi

[07:15] Nar

without the danger of having
to immediately discard anything

[07:18] Nar

that is not your own winning tile.

[07:20] Nar

Only the tile you discard when
declaring your riichi must pass.

[07:24] Nar

It's expensive, fast, and safe.

[07:27] Nar

In other words, the most effective strategy.

[07:32] Oug

*He's got no choice now
but to join him in the ring.*

[07:39] Oug

It has its dangers,

[07:43] Oug

but he has to play along with this duel.

[07:46] Oug

Akagi...

[07:51] Nar

Akagi is one tile from tenpai.

[07:56] Oug

The problem is what comes next.

[08:05] Oug

Is he in tenpai?

[08:07] Oug

If he's not declaring a riichi now,

[08:09] Oug

*it probably means his
underling doesn't have*

[08:11] Oug

his winning tile in his hand.

[08:14] Oug

*He can always do it once his
underling draws the tile he needs.*

[08:19] Oug

*But if Akagi plays into his hand
before that, he'll get a direct hit.*

[08:24] Oug

He'll just have to say "ron."

[08:26] Oug

It's a rock-solid strategy.

[08:29] Oug

*He should just assume that Washizu
is in tenpai and play safely.*

[08:33] Oug

From what I can see,

[08:35] Oug

*it looks like the 4 and 7
of bamboo are dangerous.*

[08:39] Nar

In this hand, the dora is the 6 of bamboo,

[08:41] Nar

*so with Washizu's 6 of bamboo,
his wait is most likely for the 4 and 7,*

[08:45] Nar

*or the 5 and 8, of bamboo.
These are the danger tiles.*

[08:49] Nar

*He may also possibly be using
two 6 of bamboo as his pair.*

[08:54] Nar

*There is another danger area
around the 6 of circles,*

[08:58] Nar

*implying a 4 and 7, or 5 and 8 wait,
making those tiles very risky.*

[09:06] Oug

He's in tenpai.

[09:08] Oug

Now he's got a 5 or 8 of characters wait.

[09:11] Oug

But of all things, he'll have
to discard the 7 of bamboo.

[09:15] Oug

That's the worst!

[09:18] Nar

It's an extremely risky tile, and
the exact tile he's waiting on.

[09:22] Oug

You've got to keep that tile, Akagi.

[09:31] Oug

That's crazy!

[09:33] Oug

That's the...

[09:39] Oug

Did you deal into his hand?

[09:41] Oug

Did you?

[09:54] Oug

It passed!

[09:59] Oug

Why could he deal such a risky tile?

[10:05] Oug

Did he somehow know that it was safe?

[10:09] Oug

That the 7 of bamboo would pass?

[10:18] Oug

The 5 and the 8 of bamboo passed, too.

[10:20] Oug

*Which means he probably has
the two dora as the head*

[10:25] Oug

*and he's waiting on the 4 and 7
of circles, or 5 and 8 of circles.*

[10:28] Oug

*Since he knows what
Washizu's waiting on,*

[10:31] Oug

*he doesn't have to worry about
dealing into his hand anymore.*

[10:34] Oug

*He just has to avoid the risky
tiles, stay vigilant, and win.*

[10:38] Oug

*If he wins with the
5 and 8 of characters,*

[10:40] Oug

Akagi will continue to be the dealer.

[10:43] Oug

He can catch up to Washizu.

[10:45] Oug

*And if he draws it himself,
he can take the lead.*

[10:47] Oug

*He can bring the luck that's gone
to Washizu back to his side.*

[10:56] Oug

*He had to draw the 5
of circles, of all things.*

[10:59] Oug

This is one of those last four risky tiles.

[11:03] Oug

*He has no choice but
to hold on to this one.*

[11:05] Oug

It's still only East Hand 4.

[11:08] Oug

He can't take that risk.

[11:09] Oug

*It would be reckless to
discard that tile now.*

[11:20] Oug

You're crazy!

[11:22] Oug

What the hell are you thinking?

[11:25] Oug

That's too much.

[11:30] Was

I see.

[11:31] Was

I guess you're not completely worthless.

[11:37] Was

*Even if they notice the
second discard pile,*

[11:40] Was

they usually don't get so bold...

[11:45] Was

Usually.

[11:49] Nar

*At this point, Washizu is waiting
on the 4 and 7 of circles.*

[11:55] Oug

The second discard pile?

[11:57] Oug

What's he talking about?

[12:07] Oug

I get it.

[12:08] Oug

That's what he's talking about.

[12:11] Nar

Why does Washizu not declare a riichi despite being in tenpai?

[12:16] Nar

There could be only one reason:

[12:18] Nar

His underling doesn't have his winning tile.

[12:21] Nar

Seen another way,

[12:23] Nar

all of Washizu's underling's tiles become safe tiles, as well.

[12:27] Nar

It is a veritable "second discard pile."

[12:31] Oug

Why didn't I notice that sooner?

[12:36] Oug

Akagi used this to discard the 7 of bamboo and the 5 of circles.

[12:43] Oug

It's amazing that he could notice a detail like that under this kind of pressure.

[12:46] Oug

That's Akagi for you.

[12:48] Oug

What is truly amazing, though, is that he was able

[12:53] Oug

to bet his life on this observation.

[12:58] Nar

Washizu is also undoubtedly feeling some admiration for this audacity.

[13:03] Nar

Because the second discard pile could also potentially be used to lure Akagi

[13:08] Nar

into dealing the winning tile, using the transparent tiles as bait.

[13:13] Nar

Yet, Akagi threw all those doubts away.

[13:19] Oug

That is exactly what makes him

[13:23] Oug

Akagi Shigeru.

[13:26] Oug

He can win.

[13:29] Oug

*In this hand, he discarded two
tiles that should have been*

[13:32] Oug

*impossible to discard,
and maintained his tenpai.*

[13:36] Oug

*It might not be much, but he can
still win this hand before Washizu does.*

[13:42] Oug

He can draw the winning tile.

[13:54] Was

Tanyao, tsumo, two dora. Mangan.

[13:59] Was

This is what Mahjong is about.

[14:02] Was

You can play a perfect game...

[14:03] Was

no, better than perfect...

[14:07] Was

and you'll still fall short.

[14:10] Was

You can give your very best and still die.

[14:14] Was

It's Mahjong where,
no matter how hard you fight,

[14:16] Was

you die when your time comes.

[14:19] Was

Is that not so, Akagi?

[14:25] Nar

The game is going in your favor.

[14:27] Nar

You thought you've made it.

[14:29] Nar

And yet your opponent draws the
winning tile, with maddening ease.

[14:33] Nar

It is not a question

of talent nor strategy.

[14:35] Nar

Once the opponent draws the winning tile, it is over.

[14:39] Nar

Even Akagi is powerless to stop this.

[14:44] Nar

Akagi has 26,000 points.

[14:47] Nar

Washizu has 40,000.

[14:49] Nar

That's a difference of 14,000 points, and...

[14:52] Was

It's time to pay the bonus.

[14:58] Nar

Blood is drawn.

[15:05] Nar

Whenever Akagi and Washizu exchange points,

[15:09] Nar

whether through a tsumo or the obvious direct hit,

[15:12] Nar

it costs Washizu one million yen,

[15:16] Nar

and Akagi 100 CCs of blood for every 1,000 points.

[15:23] Nar

This time it was 4,000 points,

[15:25] Nar

which means 400 CCs of blood.

[15:28] Nar

He must fill one 250 CC tube and add 150 CCs to another.

[15:35] Was

Now we're starting.

[15:37] Was

The real game has just begun.

[15:40] Nar

That's right.

[15:41] Nar

This is Washizu's vampire Mahjong,

[15:44] Nar

demanding the very blood of his opponents.

[15:47] Nar

That reality has been set into motion.

[15:52] Yasu

This is harsh.

[15:53] Yasu

This is too harsh.

[15:56] Yasu

*If he gets three more tsumo like this,
that will already be 1,600 CCs.*

[16:02] Yasu

He'll be barely conscious.

[16:03] Yasu

*By the fifth withdrawal, he'll have
reached the fatal amount of 2,000 CCs.*

[16:08] Yasu

*He can't possibly keep this
up for six East-South matches.*

[16:11] Yasu

There's no way.

[16:13] Nar

Yes.

[16:14] Nar

The gap between Akagi and
Washizu is 14,000 points.

[16:17] Nar

Herein lies the problem.

[16:20] Nar

Unless Akagi regains the lead,

[16:22] Nar

at the end of this hand,
he will have to pay

[16:24] Nar

the ranking bonus of 20,000 points,

[16:26] Nar

that is to say, to have
2,000 CCs of blood drawn.

[16:29] Nar

That is certain death.

[16:32] Oug

That'll be the death of him.

[16:36] nar

A dark and ominous cloud
hangs over the table.

[16:39] nar

The game moves into the South round.

[16:45] Was

It's laughable.

[16:47] Was

He wanted this reckless

rate of 2,000 CCs of blood

[16:50] Was

being worth 20,000 points,
and look at him now.

[16:54] Was

Trash.

[16:57] Was

Though, he did show a little aptitude.

[17:01] Was

*I was impressed by his bold
utilization of the second discard pile.*

[17:08] Was

*But it was nothing more
than a little trick.*

[17:12] Was

*That's not the way to
grab hold of this game.*

[17:15] Was

*He's the one who chose 2,000
points over a mangan hand.*

[17:22] Was

*That was the moment you drove
the luck from your side.*

[17:28] Was

*You may be able to avoid
dealing into my hands,*

[17:30] Was

but that's all you'll be able to do.

[17:33] Was

*Once you've lost the favor of
Lady Luck, you can't get it back.*

[17:37] Was

*The good draws will
come to me first.*

[17:41] Was

That's inevitable.

[17:44] Was

*Dark demons live in
the world of Mahjong,*

[17:49] Was

*and what they appreciate is maturity
and elegance more than childish tricks.*

[17:56] Was

That is to say, my style.

[18:06] Was

I'm already close to tenpai.

[18:10] Was

That's no fun.

[18:13] Nar

If he deals the 5 of characters,
he will be in tenpai.

[18:15] Nar

It would be a tanpin,
sanshoku, with one dora.

[18:18] Nar

If he declares riichi,

[18:20] Nar

his underling will be able to supply him
with the winning 2 of circles right away,

[18:25] Nar

netting him the ippatsu bonus
and giving him a haneman.

[18:27] Nar

If he gets even one reverse dora,
it increases to a baiman.

[18:30] Nar

It is the ideal shape.

[18:32] Was

This is pointless.

[18:34] Was

This win will end it all.

[18:38] Nar

Currently, there is a 14,000
point gap between them.

[18:40] Nar

With this win, that gap
would become 26,000 points,

[18:44] Nar

with the potential to rise to 30,000.

[18:47] Nar

Reversing the situation after
that would be impossible.

[18:52] Nar

Akagi's death would be certain.

[18:54] Was

So that's it?

[18:57] Was

That was no fun.

[19:00] Was

*But I guess that's street
kid Mahjong for you.*

[19:07] Was

Riichi.

[19:11] Aka

Nope.

[19:15] Aka

Tanyao, one dora. 2,600.

[19:19] Was

A single wait for the 5 of characters?

[19:21] Was

*He took the 5 of characters
that would naturally come out*

[19:23] Was

if I were to go for a sanshoku.

[19:27] Was

Was that on purpose?

[19:30] Was

Coincidence?

[19:32] Was

No, he planned it.

[19:36] Was

Just before, he discarded the 6 of circles,

[19:38] Was

*which proves this 5 of characters
wait was no coincidence.*

[19:41] Was

It was intentional.

[19:45] Nar

Had he kept the 6 of circles in his hand,

[19:48] Nar

his tenpai would have looked like this.

[19:51] Nar

He would have been had a 4-way
wait for 1, 4, 7 or 6 of circles.

[19:55] Nar

Yet he threw away that four-way
wait for this single 5 of characters wait.

[20:00] Was

I get it.

[20:06] oug

Th-Thanks.

[20:11] Was

Pretty good.

[20:13] Was

Any other kind of play would be boring.

[20:16] Was

It would have been horribly dull if you

[20:19] Was

hadn't shown at least this
little flash of talent.

[20:23] Was

Fight back.

[20:25] Was

*Come back at me with
everything you've got.*

[20:30] Was

*Show me that very last
shred of resistance*

[20:33] Was

when I've got you backed into the corner.

[20:36] Was

That, for me, is the ultimate pleasure!

[20:47] Nar

The genius from the
darkness, Akagi Shigeru.

[20:51] Nar

The monster of the
Showa Era, Washizu Iwao.

[20:54] Nar

Two monsters that live
in the world of shadows.

[20:57] Nar

Their deathmatch continues.

[21:00] Nar

Who will be the one to fall into
the pitch-black void of obliteration?

[22:16] Nar

Next time, "The Cursed Tiles."

SIGN Next episode

SIGN The Cursed Tiles

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