

6 - The Picaro's Talent

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

When Akagi and Ichikawa first
started their zetsu ichimon game,

[01:15] Nar

they appeared evenly matched,

[01:17] Nar

but now it is becoming
clear who is superior.

[01:20] Nar

Ichikawa now has more
than 100,000 points.

[01:24] Nar

On the other hand, Akagi is steadily
losing points and now stands at 23,000.

[01:29] Nar

Ichikawa takes that opportunity
to change his play style.

[01:33] Nar

He gives up on tsumo wins

[01:34] Nar

and focuses on getting direct
hit wins off of Akagi.

[01:37] Nar

He's going in for the kill.

SIGN Episode 6

SIGN The Picaro's Talent

[01:48] Boss

We've reached the first turning point.

[01:51] Boss

*Will Ichikawa deal a finishing blow,
or will Akagi make a comeback?*

[01:58] Boss

They're both going for a one suit hand?

[02:00] Boss

I see, I see.

[02:02] Boss

*It's not zetsu ichimon anymore;
it's zetsu nimon, eliminating two suits.*

[02:05] Boss

*It'll be interesting to watch them
both go for a characters chinitu.*

[02:09] nar

If zetsu ichimon is like boxing's in-fighting,

[02:13] nar

then zetsu nimon is like grappling.

[02:15] nar

It's as if they have their hands
on each other's throats

[02:17] nar

and are slowly tightening their grips.

[02:19] nar

The one who can't hold out any longer
and coughs up the ron tile first dies.

[02:25] Cop

Akagi, isn't that a little reckless?

[02:28] Cop

Luck isn't on your side right now.

[02:31] Cop

*Ichikawa's much more likely
to get his winning tile*

[02:34] Cop

than you are to get yours.

[02:36] Nar

Yasuoka's hypothesis was correct.

[02:39] Nar

Akagi has no momentum right now.
Everything is in Ichikawa's favor.

[02:45] Nar

The seventh turn.

[02:49] Nar

Ichikawa is in tenpai.

[02:50] Nar

He's waiting for a 3, 6, or 9 of characters.

[02:52] Boss

Looks like Ichikawa might be the winner...

[02:56] Boss

*He's in tenpai with a concealed
dora triplet of red dragons*

[02:59] Boss

*and an ideal three-way wait,
so early in the game.*

[03:02] Boss

Akagi's miles away.

[03:04] Guy

Kan!

[03:07] Guy

The new dora is the 6 of characters.

[03:10] Guy

Riichi!

[03:11] Nar

In the same round,

[03:12] Nar

not just the dealer, but the
South player is also in tenpai.

[03:15] Nar

They've caught up with no delay.

[03:17] Nar

It looks as though the match
may end here in the seventh turn.

[03:22] Nar

But...

[03:23] Nar

Just then, Akagi's hand
is still at this stage.

[03:26] Nar

You may say he's one tile
away from a chiitoitsu,

[03:29] Nar

but the 9 of characters that he must

[03:31] Nar

discard for that happens to
be Ichikawa's winning tile.

[03:34] Nar

Akagi senses that this tile is dangerous.

[03:37] Nar

And then...

[03:38] Aka

Chi.

[03:40] Nar

With this call, he manages to secure one
9 of characters tile in a sequence.

[03:45] Nar

This way, he's not likely to have to discard
the remaining 6 or 9 of characters.

[03:48] Nar

Akagi's sharp insight shines as this
remarkable play gets him out of danger.

[03:53] Nar

But Ichikawa is also privy to this strategy.

[03:56] Nar

He can read Akagi's moves precisely.

[03:59] Ichi

He won't discard the 3, 6, or 9 now.

[04:03] Man

5 of characters.

[04:04] Ichi

Chi.

[04:05] Nar

Now Ichikawa's waiting for
a 2, 5 or 8 of characters.

[04:10] Nar

He changes his wait to the 8 of characters

[04:12] Nar

that Akagi is most likely to discard next.

[04:14] Nar

He chases him down.

[04:15] Nar

As his target moves, so does he.

[04:19] Nar

Like a homing missile.

[04:23] Man

7 of characters!

[04:23] Aka

Chi.

[04:25] Nar

With that move, he's used up
his 8 of characters,

[04:27] Nar

and he discards the 9 of characters.

[04:30] Nar

He's sidestepped Ichikawa's
waits once again.

[04:33] Nar

The ninth turn.

[04:35] Nar

The South player deals the 2 of characters.

[04:37] Nar

This is one of Ichikawa's winning tiles.

[04:39] Nar

Yet he doesn't move.

[04:41] Nar

He will hold out for a
direct hit off of Akagi.

[04:45] Aka

Pon.

[04:47] Nar

With this call, Akagi has
now caught up to Ichikawa.

[04:49] Nar

He managed to worm out of Ichikawa's
waits and get into tenpai himself.

[04:53] Nar

He's waiting on the
1 and 4 of characters.

[04:56] Nar

Now Ichikawa faces another decision.

[05:00] Ichi

*Akagi took care of his
3, 6, and 9 of characters,*

[05:02] Ichi

as well as his 2, 5, and 8 of characters.

[05:05] Ichi

Therefore, all that's left in his hand
now are 1, 4 and 7 of characters.

[05:10] Ichi

Our waits are the same.

[05:12] Nar

Ichikawa's waiting on the
1, 4 and 7 of characters.

[05:15] Nar

He chases Akagi for the third time.

[05:17] Nar

Akagi waits for the 1 and 4 of characters.

[05:19] Nar

The waits are similar,

[05:21] Nar

but Ichikawa has a slight
advantage since his wait

[05:22] Nar

also includes the 7 of characters.

[05:29] Nar

Akagi's drawn the worst tile,
the 7 of characters dora.

[05:37] Ichi

Looks like you got it.

[05:39] Aka

4 of characters.

[05:41] Ichi

Ron!

[05:42] Ichi

Dealer haneman. 18,000.

[05:46] Ichi

I finally got you, Akagi.

[05:58] Nan

We're dead.

[05:59] Cop

I guess Ichikawa's too much for him...

[06:02] Boss

I wouldn't say that.

[06:04] Boss

Indeed, Ichikawa's persistence
as he hunted down

[06:07] Boss

Akagi's tiles made for an excellent game.

[06:09] Boss

His tenacity and intuition are superhuman.

[06:12] Boss

However, Akagi's game was
not worse, by any means.

[06:15] Boss

In fact, in terms of impressiveness,
his game may have surpassed Ichikawa's.

[06:20] cop

What exactly do you mean?

[06:25] Boss

This last hand, Akagi consistently
dodged Ichikawa's waits,

[06:29] Boss

and finally managed to get himself
into a 1 or 4 of characters wait tenpai.

[06:32] Boss

If you had drawn the 7 of characters
then, what would you have done?

[06:36] Cop

Huh? Well...

[06:38] Boss

Figuring that the 1 and 4 of
characters are his winning tiles,

[06:40] Boss

wouldn't you have discarded the 7?

[06:43] Boss

Most people would try to
preserve their tenpai,

[06:46] Boss

hoping for that tiny chance of it passing.

[06:50] Boss

But Akagi didn't try to pursue
that small chance.

[06:56] Boss

If he'd discarded the 7 of characters dora,

[06:58] Boss

Ichikawa would've had a baiman
and Akagi would've gone bust.

[07:03] Boss

His tenacity is truly astonishing.

[07:05] Boss

Would a normal person
even consider all that?

[07:09] Boss

And even if they considered it,

[07:10] Boss

would they be able to resist the
temptation to maintain their tenpai?

[07:13] Boss

Akagi did just that!

[07:16] Boss

Chasing after something as ephemeral
as "if" will never bring you victory.

[07:21] Boss

I can hear Akagi's will, clear as any voice,
from the 7 of characters he kept.

[07:28] Cop

Akagi...

[07:30] Nar

Winning is something that happens in reality.

[07:34] Nar

Without pursuing reality,
there is no way to win.

[07:38] Nar

Akagi dealt into someone's
hand, but left his will behind.

[07:41] Nar

The will to win in reality.

[07:46] Nar

The game is not favoring Akagi right now.

[07:48] Nar

He may have limited the loss to a haneman,

[07:50] Nar

but drawing the winning
tile itself was bad luck.

[07:53] Nar

It's obvious that the game
is favoring Ichikawa.

[07:56] Nar

Akagi has 5,000 points,
and that's all he has.

[08:00] Nar

It may just end here.

[08:02] Nan

I'm sorry, Akagi.

[08:04] Nan

*I understand that this player
is out of your league.*

[08:08] Nan

*But you've always overturned
accepted notions like those.*

[08:12] Nan

You're a genius, no questioning that.

[08:14] Nan

Please...

[08:15] Nan

show me one last time...

[08:17] Nan

an escape from this dilemma.

[08:19] Nan

We need some miracle tiles!

[08:22] Nan

Akagi!

[08:25] Nan

What a crap hand!

[08:28] Nan

*He might as well keep the terminal and
honor tiles and go for a kokushi musou.*

SIGN Kokushi musou: Yakuman hand with one of each terminal and honor tile, plus one tile that matches any of the other 13.

[08:32] Nan

The luck just isn't on his side right now.

[08:35] Nan

The luck...

[08:38] Boss

I knew it.

[08:40] Boss

There's no way we can expect Akagi

[08:41] Boss

*to get a decent hand
under these circumstances.*

[08:50] Boss

That's an amazing hand.

[08:52] Boss

Two dora to boot.

[08:54] Boss

*With a tsumo win, he could
get up to a haneman.*

[08:56] Boss

*And he's only two tiles
away from tenpai already.*

[08:59] Boss

*It's the complete opposite
of Akagi's starting tiles.*

[09:02] Boss

*Who could've predicted
such a huge difference?*

[09:05] Boss

If Ichikawa wins with a haneman,

[09:06] Boss

*he'll get 6,000 from each
player as the dealer.*

[09:09] Boss

*Akagi will have to give up his
last 5,000 points and die.*

[09:13] Boss

And that will be the end.

[09:16] Nan

Damn it!

[09:18] Nan

Even his draws are complete shit.

[09:20] Nan

It's the sixth turn and he's still got nothing!

[09:23] Nan

I guess there's nothing he can do...

[09:25] Cop

No.

[09:26] Cop

He's on it already.

[09:27] Nan

Huh?

[09:32] Nan

Looking at Akagi's discard pile...

[09:34] Nan

That's it!

[09:36] Nan

I see what he's getting at...

[09:38] Nan

*He's hinting at a kokushi musou
or a chinitsu to tie their hands.*

[09:42] Man

Riichi!

[09:45] Nan

It's hopeless.

[09:46] Nan

No one sees him as a threat right now.

[09:49] Nan

His attempt was totally ineffective.

[09:51] Nan

His final effort failed. Is this the end?

[09:58] bos

5 of characters?

[09:59] yas

That's right by the dora!

[10:01] nan

Have you gone insane?!

[10:04] Nar

Dealing into another player's
hand right now is fatal,

[10:06] Nar

yet Akagi makes a bold move.

[10:08] Nar

And again on the next turn...

[10:11] Nar

He discards a 4 of characters dora,
making two consecutive reckless moves.

[10:15] Nan

This is crazy.

[10:18] Boss

I get it.

[10:19] Boss

Akagi's betting his life on this bluff.

[10:23] Nar

These character tiles are exactly
what the player in riichi wants.

[10:26] Nar

Akagi was ready to face death when
he discarded those two tiles.

[10:30] Nar

His hand is in shambles.

[10:33] Nar

At first, it seems foolish to bet
his life on a trash hand like this.

[10:37] Nar

However, that's precisely what is
needed in order to deceive others.

[10:42] Nar

People are always disoriented by
actions that seem counterproductive.

[10:45] Nar

How can you ever fool anyone
without risking anything yourself?

[10:49] Nar

Akagi's boldness plants
doubt in his opponents.

[10:53] Nar

Doubt gives way to delusions,
and delusions give birth to fear.

[10:57] Nar

To them, his trash hand no
longer looks like a trash hand.

[11:05] Nar

With this one discard,

[11:06] Nar

Akagi's bluff now controls the entire table.

[11:09] Nar

The next player gives up on winning.

[11:11] Nar

The player before him looks troubled, as well.

[11:14] Nar

And once you've gained
control, lies becomes truths.

[11:18] Nar

Akagi arrives at his own truth by
deliberately weakening himself.

[11:24] Nar

Ichikawa is in tenpai.

[11:25] Boss

This is perfect.

[11:27] Boss

If he discards the 5 of characters,

[11:28] Boss

he's looking at a haneman tsumo.

[11:30] Boss

He can end the match—

[11:32] Boss

What?!

[11:35] Man

R-Ron!

[11:36] Boss

What?! Why?!

[11:39] Boss

It can't be!

[11:40] Boss

I see.

[11:42] Boss

*A judgment typical of a man
as pragmatic as Ichikawa.*

[11:45] Boss

Right now, the only thing Ichikawa

wants to prevent is Akagi winning.

[11:49] Boss

*He probably knew the kokushi musou
had a 90% chance of being a bluff,*

[11:54] Boss

but he figured,

[11:55] Boss

*on the off-chance that Akagi
escapes out of reach again,*

[11:57] Boss

he'd be better off throwing away this hand.

[12:05] Boss

*For Ichikawa, dealing into that
hand was the logical conclusion.*

[12:08] Boss

*But this sort of underhanded play
might change the flow of the game.*

[12:14] Boss

*Thinking about it,
this was a godly play by Akagi.*

[12:18] Boss

*He used his terrible
starting hand and his draws*

[12:21] Boss

to force Ichikawa out of the dealer seat.

[12:24] Boss

With this trash hand...

[12:28] Nar

*To rewrite lies into truths,
he bled himself without hesitation.*

[12:33] Nar

*Each of Akagi's tiles seems to
glisten with his own blood,*

[12:36] Nar

*placing unsurmountable
pressure on Ichikawa.*

[12:39] Boss

This is Akagi's Mahjong...

[12:45] Nar

*Akagi's just come back
from the depths of Hell,*

[12:48] Nar

*and his starting hand looks like
he's just made a pact with the devil.*

[12:54] Nar

It's an extraordinary starting hand.

[12:56] Nar

Could this be the luck
Akagi was born with?

[12:58] Nan

*Whenever he survives
a near-death encounter,*

[13:00] Nan

Akagi returns with a monster hand.

[13:03] Nar

Then, five turns later...

[13:05] Aka

Tsumo.

[13:06] Nar

He wins this unbelievable
hand with a tsumo.

[13:08] Nar

Honitsu, tsumo, chanta, san ankou,
red dragons, green dragons, 1 dora.

[13:13] Nar

A sanbaiman.

SIGN Sanbaiman - Triple mangan.

[13:16] Nar

The sand at the depths
of Hell is magical sand.

[13:20] Nar

Touching it will reverse the poles
of great fortune and great loss,

[13:24] Nar

much like a coin turning
from one side to another.

[13:27] Nar

Now Akagi is the dealer.

[13:29] Nar

He takes another 5,800
from the player after him.

[13:33] Nar

Then he gets another dealer
mangan with a tsumo win.

[13:37] Nar

He gives himself up to his flow
and goes on a winning streak.

[13:39] Nar

He now has 47,000 points.

[13:43] Nar

He's made it back to just under 50,000.

[13:48] Nar

But the problem is still ahead.

[13:51] Nar

Ichikawa is a wall he cannot penetrate.

[13:55] Nar

He was unable to get a direct win
off the real target, Ichikawa.

[13:58] Nar

In this game,

[13:59] Nar

he must decrease Ichikawa's points
if he wants to approach victory.

[14:04] Nar

Akagi attempts unorthodox waits,
hell waits, and all other manners of waits,

[14:08] Nar

but Ichikawa plays too defensively
and never deals into his hand.

[14:12] Aka

Riichi.

[14:13] Nar

Akagi doggedly tries to
win off of Ichikawa.

[14:16] Nar

He goes into a hell wait for
the last of the four wind tiles.

[14:20] Nar

The game, however, ends up
being another fruitless draw.

[14:23] Nar

Ichikawa will not deal into his hand.

[14:28] Aka

Oh, boy.

[14:30] Aka

Let's stop this.

[14:33] Aka

It's never going to end, Ichikawa-san.

[14:37] Aka

What good does it do for us to
keep piling up these points?

[14:41] Aka

What we really want

[14:43] Aka

are the points that we have to
pay with our flesh and bone.

[14:47] Ichi

What are you trying to say?

[14:50] Aka

Let's cut it down to one tenth.

[14:52] Aka

Right now, I have 50,000 and you have 100,000 points.

[14:55] Aka

Let's cut these down to 5,000 and 10,000 and start over.

[15:00] Nan

What?!

[15:02] Nan

You just managed to get yourself up to 50,000 points and into the clear!

[15:06] Nan

Why would you do something that risky?

[15:08] Cop

No, this could actually be interesting.

[15:10] Cop

Ichikawa has 100,000 points.

[15:12] Cop

It would be basically impossible to make him bust.

[15:17] Cop

Looking at it that way, it's not a bad idea to gamble.

[15:19] Cop

The bigger problem is getting Ichikawa to accept this term.

[15:25] Ichi

I refuse.

[15:27] Ichi

I would refuse even if you had as many points as I do.

[15:33] Ichi

I won't do anything that would lower my chances of winning by even a single percent.

[15:39] Aka

Fine, then. You stubborn old fart.

[15:43] Aka

Looks like I'll have to force the issue.

[15:47] Cop

I can tell this kid's up to no good again.

[15:52] Cop

What's he going to do now?

[15:57] Nar

Akagi is still on his dealer streak.

[15:59] Nar

As always, the game flows in his favor.

[16:02] Nar

On the ninth turn, he's in tenpai.

[16:07] Cop

He's got two choices.

[16:08] Cop

*He could go for the south wind
hell wait, or 6 or 9 of characters.*

[16:13] Cop

*But he's already confirmed that
single hell waits aren't effective.*

[16:17] Cop

*And his discards are a dead
giveaway that he's after a honitsu.*

[16:21] Cop

A south wind wait would be meaningless.

[16:25] Cop

*It's nothing special, but right
now, he's got no other option.*

[16:29] Man

Riichi!

[16:34] Nar

Then, on Akagi's turn...

[16:36] Nar

He doesn't chase it.

[16:37] Nar

He simply discards the tile he drew.

[16:39] Nar

In the 12th turn, the player before him

[16:42] Nar

discards a 6 of characters.

[16:44] Nar

This is Akagi's winning tile.

[16:46] Nar

However, Akagi does not win.

[16:48] Aka

Chi.

[16:49] Nar

He makes his move.

[16:51] Nar

He calls the 6 of characters
and discards the 9,

[16:54] Nar

switching his winning tile,
but giving up a ron win.

[16:56] Nar

Initially, this call seems meaningless,

[16:58] Nar

but it marks the beginning of
Akagi's hunt for Ichikawa...

[17:01] Boss

Hold it.

[17:02] Boss

You can't do that.

[17:03] Aka

Huh?

[17:04] Boss

You can't call a 6 of
characters and discard a 9.

[17:06] Boss

We don't accept switch-ups like those.

[17:08] Boss

Put it back.

[17:11] Nar

Akagi is uncharacteristically accommodating.

[17:14] Nar

He puts the discarded 9

[17:15] Nar

and the revealed 7 and 8
back into his hand,

[17:18] Nar

and returns the 6 he had
called to the discard pile.

[17:21] Nar

He then draws a new tile...

[17:22] Nar

and discards that tile immediately.

[17:27] Cop

I get it.

[17:29] Cop

Now I see what he's getting at.

[17:31] Cop

*He only pretended to not
know about that rule,*

[17:33] Cop

and that in itself is the trap.

[17:35] Cop

*Since he can still call on tiles,
it means he's not in tenpai.*

[17:38] Cop

*The 6 he called and the 9 he
discarded, at least, will seem safe.*

[17:44] Cop

*He wanted to emphasize
that these tiles are safe*

[17:47] Cop

and something this elaborate would

be enough to fool most people.

[17:52] Cop

Probably even Ichikawa is no exception.

[17:56] Nar

No.

[17:59] Nar

Ichikawa saw through it.

[18:02] Ichi

*You're a sly little monkey who
likes to use dirty tricks.*

[18:07] Ichi

*But that trick's been
around for a long time.*

[18:11] Ichi

I can't discard this 9 of characters.

[18:13] Ichi

It's the most dangerous tile.

[18:16] Ichi

Which means that...

[18:17] Ichi

The safest tile is...

[18:23] Ichi

The west wind.

[18:25] Ichi

The fourth west wind.

[18:27] Ichi

This is 100% safe.

[18:29] Ichi

I have to stay on the defensive.

[18:36] Aka

That's it, old man.

[18:41] Ichi

I-Impossible...

[18:43] Ichi

*This was supposed to
be the fourth west wind.*

[18:45] Ichi

That can't happen!

[18:48] Ichi

Is it really a west wind?!

[18:50] Boss

Y-Yes!

[18:57] Cop

H-How did he...

[18:59] Cop

*I'm sitting right behind him
and I still don't understand.*

[19:02] Cop

*Until a second ago, he was
waiting on a 6 and 9 of characters.*

[19:07] Cop

That's it!

[19:08] Cop

*He switched the west wind
with the 9 of characters!*

[19:11] Cop

He filched it after that call.

[19:13] Cop

When he was returning the tiles.

[19:19] Cop

He's insane!

[19:21] Cop

*Is this what he meant
by forcing the issue?!*

[19:25] Cop

I can't believe this guy...

[19:28] Ichi

It's not possible.

[19:30] Ichi

I dealt the fourth west wind.

[19:33] Ichi

*Unless he had a kokushi musou,
that tile was 100% safe.*

[19:36] Ichi

*Which means he pulled that tile
from somewhere in the discard pile.*

[19:42] Ichi

He got me.

[19:44] Ichi

*We have no way to stop
him from doing this.*

[19:48] Ichi

*The longer the match goes on,
the worse my position gets.*

[19:51] Ichi

So that's his game.

[19:53] Aka

What do you say, Ichikawa-san?

[19:55] Aka

Will you accept my proposal?

[20:00] Ichi

Fine.

[20:01] Ichi

I accept.

[20:03] Boss

Ichikawa...

[20:05] Ichi

*I'll make you regret cheating
against me... Akagi.*

[20:12] Aka

That's the spirit. I knew you'd
understand, Ichikawa-san.

[20:18] Cop

He got his way in the end.

[20:22] Cop

He really is ruthless.

[20:24] Cop

At this point, I can't even be appalled.

[20:26] Cop

I can only admire his natural talent

[20:28] Cop

*that allowed him to execute
this so masterfully.*

[20:32] Nar

The points are cut to one tenth.

[20:34] Nar

Akagi goes from 68,000 to 6,800.

[20:38] Nar

Ichikawa goes from 81,700 to 8,100.

[20:42] Nar

They are now both under 10,000 points.

[20:45] Nar

The game can now be settled in one blow.

[20:50] Nar

It was Akagi's talent that
created these conditions.

[20:54] Nar

That's right.

[20:55] Nar

Akagi's true nature,
which is undoubtedly evil.

[21:02] Nar

Evil of the highest and purest grade.

[21:07] Nar

A picaro.

SIGN Next Episode

SIGN An Innocent Devil

[22:16] txt

Next time: "An Innocent Devil."

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