

8 - The Sign of Rebirth

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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.)

[01:11] nar

1958.

[01:13] nar

Akagi Shigeru, the genius who suddenly descended into the darkness.

[01:16] nar

He was just 13 when he emerged victorious

[01:18] nar

from the death match against the Kawada group's rep player, Ichikawa.

[01:21] nar

After that, he vanished without a trace.

[01:24] nar

Six years have passed since then.

[01:31] nar

1964.

[01:33] nar

All of Japan was excited about the Tokyo Olympics.

[01:46] kaw

Are you certain, Yasuoka-san?

[01:49] yas

Lying wouldn't get me anywhere.

[01:53] yas

People who know him would know it when they see him.

[01:56] kaw

Then it's really

SIGN Kawada Group Boss

Kawada

[01:57] kaw

the one from that legendary night?

[02:00] yas

Yes, these last six years, nobody knew where he was.

[02:09] yas

It is the Akagi Shigeru.

[02:13] yas

You will be able to witness another
legendary tale of the undefeatable man...

[02:18] yas

Delivered by Akagi Shigeru.

[02:20] kaw

Ishikawa.

SIGN Kawada Group Underboss

Ishikawa

[02:21] ish

Yes.

[02:23] kaw

You're the only one in our group
who has seen Akagi play in person.

[02:28] kaw

I'll leave this to you.

[02:30] ish

Yes.

[02:33] guy

I've brought him.

[02:34] kaw

Come in.

[02:42] yas

This is Akagi Shigeru.

SIGN Episode 8

SIGN The Sign of Rebirth

[02:52] ish

Let's see how you play.

[02:55] ish

We've supplied additional players.

[02:57] ish

That's all right, isn't it, Yasuoka-san?

[03:00] yas

That's fine.

[03:07] ish

*That godly play I saw six years ago
isn't something that anyone can do.*

[03:13] ish

If that sort of play is recreated right here,

[03:16] ish

I'll have no choice but to believe

[03:19] ish

that the Akagi Shigeru here is the real deal.

[03:28] ish

The perfect tile to draw.

[03:30] ish

*He can now go from a double
pon wait to a two-sided wait.*

[03:35] ish

Huh?!

[03:38] ish

He kept the double pon wait?

[03:40] ish

*Why did he stick with that if
it won't give him a pinfu?*

[03:50] fak

Tsumo!

[03:57] ish

What's with his luck?

SIGN Daisangen

[04:04] nar

It was a ridiculous draw.

[04:07] nar

*But after this, Akagi kept making
impossible draws and wins.*

[04:18] nar

And in the last hand...

[04:23] ish

He's got a junchan hand.

[04:26] ish

He has to discard the 6 of circles.

[04:29] aka

Riichi.

[04:32] ish

Again!

[04:33] ish

He did something inexplicable again.

[04:42] aka

Ippatsu tsumo.

[04:43] aka

Riichi, pinfu, sanshoku.

[04:45] aka

Haneman.

[04:53] yas

*Looks like Akagi dominated
these two East-South matches.*

[04:57] ish

*I don't get how he can continue
to get all these crazy draws.*

[05:02] yas

It's simple.

[05:07] ish

Simple?

[05:08] yas

Akagi, do it.

[05:24] nar

Akagi gathers 17 tiles, looks at them for an instant, and puts them down.

[05:29] nar

He repeats this 8 times.

[05:38] nar

In other words, 17 x 8 tiles, 136 tiles, are now facedown.

[05:46] yas

Ishikawa-san, it doesn't matter which, just name any hand.

[05:50] yas

Akagi will put together that hand while the tiles are facedown.

[05:53] ish

He'll pick the tiles facedown?

[05:55] yas

Yes, he's memorized all of the 136 tiles here.

[06:01] ish

That's ridiculous! Memorized?

[06:03] ish

He didn't have time for that. He only glanced at them.

[06:07] yas

That's all he needs. Please, name a hand.

[06:11] ish

Then, a sanshoku.

[06:34] ish

Okay, next, a kokushi musou.

[06:47] ish

Daisangen tsuuiisou!

SIGN Tsuuiisou - A hand composed exclusively of wind and dragon tiles.

[06:50] ish

After a kokushi musou, this should be difficult.

[06:52] ish

He won't be able to make it unless he knows the position of every honor tile.

[07:10] ish

That is indeed amazing.

[07:12] ish

His memorization skill could be called godly.

[07:16] ish

But something's off.

[07:18] ish

I can't shake that feeling.

[07:21] ish

*What was amazing about Akagi
Shigeru was not something like that.*

[07:28] ish

*What I saw six years ago was something
totally different, something mysterious.*

[07:35] ish

*It was something far beyond
the scope of normal people like us.*

[07:49] kaw

So?

[07:50] ish

Akagi has become weaker.

[07:52] ish

It seems that his peak was six years ago,

[07:54] ish

and in a sense, he's not the same person.

[07:57] ish

Nevertheless, he has abilities that
far surpass those of normal people.

[08:04] kaw

Then I don't care.

[08:06] kaw

No matter how much he has weakened,

[08:08] kaw

it's irrelevant as long as there
is nobody who can beat him.

[08:17] ish

I hate this.

[08:19] ish

I didn't want to see a second-rate Akagi.

[08:21] guy

You bastard!

[08:24] guy

Think we're playing around?!

[08:25] guy

Don't screw with us!

[08:27] ---

Come on, bitch!

[08:28] guy

Are you shitting yourself?

[08:29] ---

The fuck are you looking at?

[08:31] ish

Four on one, huh?

[08:34] guy

Asshole!

[08:51] guy

H-Hey!

[08:56] guy

Damn you!

[08:57] guy

I won't forget this!

[09:03] isH

Akagi Shigeru?

[09:06] isH

No, he has a completely different
aura than the guy from before.

[09:10] isH

It's like he's a different person.

[09:12] isH

Are there two Akagi Shigerus?

[09:24] isH

Are you Akagi?

[09:26] isH

Are you Akagi Shigeru?

[09:29] isH

Are you the Akagi Shigeru who had a
death match against the blind master,

[09:33] isH

Ichikawa, six years ago?

[09:35] isH

I don't expect you to remember who I am.

[09:39] isH

After that match, you suddenly disappeared.

[09:43] isH

We looked all over for you.

[09:48] isH

H-Hey.

[09:50] isH

Please wait!

[10:00] nan

Akagi?

[10:02] ish

Yes.

[10:03] nan

It's been six years, so I realize
he might be difficult to recognize.

[10:10] nan

But Akagi is different.

[10:13] nan

He was so unique and intense.

[10:15] nan

So if Yasuoka-san is saying
that that man is Akagi...

[10:20] ish

No, that man is someone else.

[10:22] nan

Huh?

[10:23] ish

It was just one night, but I have
seen Akagi with my own eyes.

[10:27] ish

That man is a fake.

[10:29] ish

Yasuoka-san is just using Akagi's name.

[10:33] ish

I'm sure about that.

[10:36] ish

I came here today to ask for
your help with the other Akagi.

[10:42] nan

The other Akagi?

[10:43] ish

Yes.

[10:48] ish

The man I met after seeing the fake Akagi

[10:51] ish

is the one who matched
the Akagi of my memory.

[10:57] ish

I asked my underlings and,
apparently, he's quite notorious

[11:01] ish

among the local punks
for picking random fights.

[11:04] nan

Random fights?

[11:05] ish

Amateurs, yakuza members...
he'll pick a fight with anyone.

[11:08] ish

It's like he knows no fear.

[11:11] ish

It goes without saying that he's skilled.

[11:13] ish

If you're with less than five people,

[11:15] ish

it's safest to avoid eye contact with him.

[11:18] nan

You're saying that man is Akagi?

[11:23] ish

That's what I'd like you to confirm.

[11:26] ish

We've already figured out where he is.

[11:30] nan

A toy factory?

[11:32] ish

Akagi is a worker at this factory.

[11:37] ish

Could you take a look through that gap?

[11:40] ish

He should be working right now.

[11:55] ish

Well?

[11:56] nan

That looks like him.

[11:57] nan

So much, I could almost swear it's him.

[12:01] ish

Right?

[12:03] nan

But I can't believe that

Akagi is doing honest work...

[12:22] bos

I'll hand out this month's pay now.

[12:24] bos

Ishida-kun.

[12:25] ishi

Yes.

[12:26] bos

Nagasawa-kun.

[12:27] nag

Yes.

[12:28] bos

Kawashima-kun.

[12:29] kaw

Yes.

[12:30] bos

Furuya-kun.

[12:31] fur

Yes.

[12:31] bos

Tawara-kun.

[12:32] taw

Yes.

[12:32] bos

Nakatani-kun.

[12:33] ---

Yes.

[12:33] nar

Twelve thousand yen.

[12:35] nar

In 1964, college graduates made about 20,000 yen at their first job.

[12:42] kaw

Hey, newcomer.

[12:44] kaw

It's our tradition to play Mahjong on our pay day here.

[12:48] kaw

You know how to play, right?

[12:50] aka

Sorry, but I don't feel like it today.

[12:54] kaw

Come on, don't be like that.

[12:58] kaw

It's also your welcoming party.

[13:00] kaw

We can't do that without you, can we?

[13:02] kaw

Don't worry, we won't take all of your pay.

[13:06] kaw

We'll leave you enough to eat.

[13:09] kaw

It's completely normal to pay a tuition in the beginning.

[13:12] kaw

It comes with being a member of society.

[13:17] aka

So you'll basically be taking my money.

[13:19] kaw

Not necessarily.

[13:21] kaw

You could win, too.

[13:24] aka

I suppose.

[13:26] aka

You're right.

[13:27] bos

Akagi-kun, you have a visitor.

[13:33] nan

Akagi.

[13:35] aka

Well, well...

[13:36] nan

There's no doubt,

[13:40] nan

you're the real Akagi.

[13:42] aka

What's up, Nangou-san?

[13:44] nan

Do you have a minute?

[13:46] aka

Sure.

[13:48] aka

Well, Senpai, you heard him.

[13:50] nan

Is that okay?

[13:51] aka

It's not like I had plans.

[13:55] kaw

Osamu!

[13:57] kaw

It'll have to be you again this month.

[14:00] osa

But I did it last month,
and the month before that...

[14:03] kaw

Akagi says he won't do it,
so you don't have a choice!

[14:05] kaw

If you want to blame someone, blame him.

[14:09] osa

Akagi-san, please play instead of me.

[14:14] aka

I'm going out now.

[14:16] aka

If you don't want to play, just don't.

[14:18] osa

It doesn't work that way...

[14:20] kaw

We don't have enough players!

[14:22] osa

See?

[14:24] aka

Why don't you go to a Mahjong parlor?

[14:27] aka

There will be plenty of players there,

[14:30] aka

and you'll be able to
gamble all you want there.

[14:34] aka

It's not like you really have to
squeeze us for our cheap salary.

[14:38] kaw

You're gonna talk back to your senpai?!

[14:41] nan

Violence is not the solution!

[14:46] kaw

I'll remember this.

[14:51] aka

For some reason, there are
always two or three of those

[14:54] aka

ganging up at every workplace.

[14:57] aka

I wonder why.

[14:59] nan

Huh?

[15:00] aka

Why don't they live more rewarding lives?

[15:07] aka

I see what's up.

[15:09] nan

I'm sorry, he said he just wanted to talk.

[15:12] ish

Akagi, why are you
wasting your time here?

[15:17] ish

You can't play around forever.

[15:19] ish

You can't buy a life with the pocket change
you get from working a normal job.

[15:27] ish

Last week, the night I ran into you,

[15:31] ish

Yasuoka brought a fake Akagi over.

[15:35] aka

He's just as crooked as always, that cop.

[15:39] aka

So does this fake look like me?

[15:42] ish

Of course he looks like you,
but he actually plays well, too.

[15:46] ish

He is assuming your identity.

He couldn't do that if he was a loser.

[15:52] ish

There were two matches this week
where he played as our rep player.

[15:57] ish

He made it through both without a hitch.

[15:59] (Flashback) fak

Tsumo.

[16:01] ish

He didn't win an astonishing amount,

[16:03] ish

but his play style was stable
from beginning to end.

[16:08] ish

Our boss seems to like his clever
play style and trusts him quite a lot.

[16:14] ish

But I'm worried.

[16:16] nan

Worried?

[16:20] ish

It's true that he has skill,
but it's still within the human realm.

[16:24] ish

If we tried hard enough,
we could probably match him.

[16:29] ish

As a gambler, he's second-rate.

[16:32] nan

Second-rate...

[16:33] ish

He's the type that will never be
able to play on a godly level.

[16:38] ish

He'll lose eventually.

[16:39] ish

When he encounters the real villains

[16:43] ish

and the demons of this world,
he'll be torn to shreds.

[16:47] aka

Green.

[16:51] ish

The only one who can fight
those villains is you, Akagi.

[16:57] aka

I'm just going to take a look at the fake.

[17:01] aka

I don't want anything else to do with this.

[17:03] ish

Yeah, that's right.

[17:08] kawa

I see, you found the real one.

[17:11] kawa

Good work.

[17:13] kawa

However, I don't need him any longer.

[17:16] ish

What?

[17:17] kaw

Ishikawa, I have a high opinion of that man.

[17:21] kaw

The one you call the fake.

[17:26] kaw

He's a new kind of rep player.

[17:28] kaw

Every single move he makes is ruled by logic.

[17:31] kaw

He never plays by gut instinct.

[17:34] kaw

He has the sensibility and
readiness to prioritize actual facts

[17:38] kaw

as well as keen eyes to spot these.

[17:40] kaw

He doesn't win big, but he
doesn't lose big, either.

[17:43] kaw

His wins have a stability to them.

[17:45] kaw

We don't need godly skill in our rep players.

[17:50] kaw

What's important is the average.

[17:54] kaw

Don't you agree, Ishikawa?

[17:57] ---

Yes...

[17:58] yas

Excuse me.

[18:02] nan

Yasuoka-san!

[18:09] nan

So that's the other Akagi.

[18:15] nan

He does look like him.

[18:24] kaw

Ishikawa, I'll show you something fun.

[18:28] kaw

I wonder if the real one can do it, too.

[18:31] kaw

Yasuoka-kun, please have him do that thing.

[18:34] yas

Yes, sir.

[18:38] nar

After being instructed by Yasuoka,

[18:41] nar

the fake Akagi first turns
all 136 tiles facedown.

[18:45] nar

Then he randomly picks
13 tiles and opens them.

[18:49] faK

Three.

[18:52] nar

Then he picks another
13 tiles and opens them.

[18:58] fak

Two.

[18:59] ish

Boss, what is he doing?

[19:02] kaw

It's the shanten number.

[19:03] ish

Shanten?

[19:04] nar

The shanten number is the number of
tiles a hand needs to get into tenpai.

[19:08] nar

A hand that requires three tiles to be
in tenpai is called a three shanten hand.

[19:12] kaw

He instantly finds the shanten
number and says it out loud.

[19:17] ish

That's crazy.

[19:18] ish

*He's doing it in a flash without
even ordering the tiles.*

[19:21] ish

The first one was three,

and the second one was two...

[19:25] ish

Hey, order the tiles.

[19:33] ish

*The first one was a three
shanten hand, and the next...*

[19:37] nan

Two shanten.

[19:39] nan

No mistakes.

[19:41] nan

How can he do it so fast?

[19:43] fak

Five.

[19:45] nar

What the fake Akagi is doing here
isn't amazing in and of itself.

[19:50] nar

With enough time, anybody can do it.

[19:53] nar

Except he does it five to ten times
faster than normal people.

[19:57] nar

It's an awe-inspiring speed.

[19:59] fak

Four.

[20:01] nan

Ishikawa-san said he's second-rate,

[20:03] nan

*but this man's a different
kind of genius than Akagi.*

[20:07] nar

After this, the fake Akagi

[20:09] nar

kept repeating this superhuman
feat without missing a beat.

[20:12] nar

And just when he was about to
uncover the last set of tiles

[20:16] nar

that he picked from the last 19...

[20:20] aka

Three.

[20:26] nan

Three?

[20:27] nan

He hasn't even opened the hand yet!

[20:33] ish

How many?

[20:34] ish

What's the shanten number?

[20:36] nan

Uh...

[20:37] ishi

Order them, order them!

[20:42] nan

No sets of three...

[20:44] ish

And four sets of two, with one pair.

[20:47] ish

Which means...

[20:50] ish

Three shanten!

[20:53] nan

He got it right!

[20:58] nar

The genius Akagi Shigeru has descended into the darkness again.

[21:02] nar

This is the beginning of a new legend.

[22:16] nar

Next time, "The Authenticity of Genius."

SIGN Next Episode

SIGN The Authenticity of Genius

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