

# 11 - A Gathering of Champions

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**[00:05]** ---

Thank you.

**[00:07]** ---

Rit told me about last night.

**[00:10]** ---

There's no need to thank me.

**[00:12]** ---

Lady Ruti is my friend.

**[00:16]** ---

That's why I'm thanking you.

**[00:18]** ---

I'm grateful that you're her friend.

**[00:23]** ---

Lady Ruti should be the one  
to tell you this, Sir Gideon,

**[00:27]** ---

or should I say, Master Red.

**[00:30]** ---

But it must be hard for her  
under the circumstances.

**[00:33]** ---

That's all right.

**[00:35]** ---

We're aware of the changes  
she's going through.

**[00:39]** ---

Then I'll place my trust in you  
and share with you what I know.

**[00:59]** ---

"Banished from the Hero's Party, I Decided  
to Live a Quiet Life in the Countryside"

**[02:17]** ---

"A Gathering of Champions"

**[02:17]** ---

I had no idea that a contract demon

had approached Ruti.

**[02:22]** ---

Will Ruti become addicted if she keeps taking that Devil's Blessing drug?

**[02:28]** ---

She should be fine while the full immunity of the Hero's Blessing lasts.

**[02:32]** ---

But that drug also has a Blessing-weakening effect.

**[02:36]** ---

Once her Blessing weakens enough to lose her full resistance,

**[02:40]** ---

she'll start showing signs of addiction?

**[02:43]** ---

I'd say it's quite likely.

**[02:45]** ---

In any case, let's see what Godwin has to say.

**[02:48]** ---

He's at the ancient elven ruins?

**[02:50]** ---

Yes, but...

**[02:56]** ---

Are you angry at Lady Ruti for breaking Godwin out of prison?

**[03:02]** ---

It's not like anyone got hurt.

**[03:05]** ---

I can't say I'm pleased about it, but it's not my place to judge.

**[03:11]** ---

Please let Lady Ruti know that's how you feel.

**[03:15]** ---

She's likely scared of what you might say if you found out.

**[03:19]** ---

I'll do that.

**[03:20]** ---

One more thing.

**[03:21]** ---

I'd like to stop by the port to buy the alchemical tools Godwin requested.

**[03:26]** ---

Our port is the end of

the line for trading vessels.

**[03:29]** ---

They may not have what you want,  
but I'll go see.

**[03:32]** ---

Okay, we'll go rent a couple  
of riding drakes and head off.

**[03:36]** ---

Okay, I'll be right behind you.

**[03:40]** ---

What a miserable-looking port.

**[03:43]** ---

Do you really think we can get this  
done without anyone noticing me?

**[03:47]** ---

Those are magic bandages that  
divert attention away from you.

**[03:52]** ---

So stop your grumbling.

**[03:54]** ---

We'll look for an inn and  
gather info around the port.

**[03:58]** ---

I'm not staying a moment  
longer in this grubby place.

**[04:01]** ---

The center of town can't be this bad.

**[04:04]** ---

I'll look for an inn there.

**[04:20]** ---

Jackpot!

**[04:21]** ---

Gideon!

**[04:24]** ---

Danan!

**[04:25]** ---

What're you...?

**[04:27]** ---

It's so good to see you again, my friend!

**[04:35]** ---

Now that is good!

**[04:36]** ---

You say that about everything.

**[04:39]** ---

No, I don't!

**[04:40]** ---

After you left the party,

**[04:42]** ---

I've had to eat Ares' god-awful  
cooking day after day.

**[04:47]** ---

So why the hell did you leave?

**[04:50]** ---

I'm sure Ares told you.

**[04:52]** ---

I reached my limit as far  
as combat ability.

**[04:55]** ---

No!

**[04:57]** ---

It became crystal clear  
once you were gone.

**[05:00]** ---

Gideon, you're a formidable force.

**[05:03]** ---

Even when battling a much stronger foe,

**[05:05]** ---

you've got the grit to keep  
your wits about you.

**[05:08]** ---

And though you lack magic  
and martial arts skills,

**[05:11]** ---

you know the most  
effective battlefield actions.

**[05:14]** ---

You are a real man.

**[05:16]** ---

Our party needs you.

**[05:18]** ---

Sorry.

**[05:19]** ---

But I've found where I belong here.

**[05:24]** ---

I can't go back with you.

**[05:31]** ---

I see. You left the party  
of your own free will.

**[05:36]** ---

That's right.

**[05:38]** ---

I'm going to remain in Zoltan awhile  
to see what it is you do here.

**[05:43]** ---

Then I'll decide what to do.

**[05:45]** ---

That's fine with me.

**[05:48]** ---

But there's just one problem.

**[05:50]** ---

Which is?

**[05:51]** ---

Ruti's here.

**[05:53]** ---

Huh?!

**[05:57]** ---

She suffers due to her Blessing?

**[05:59]** ---

I don't know anything about that.

**[06:02]** ---

I really don't.

**[06:04]** ---

But I do know that I don't  
really understand anything!

**[06:07]** ---

All I can do is fight!

**[06:10]** ---

All brawn and no brains.

**[06:12]** ---

I fight for whatever cause  
the Hero takes up!

**[06:17]** ---

So if milady says she wants  
to quit being the Hero,

**[06:20]** ---

that's when I need to start thinking!

**[06:23]** ---

Now that that's decided, we can't  
sit around here gabbing all day!

**[06:27]** ---

Let's go, Gideon!

**[06:29]** ---

We must play our part and save the Hero!

**[06:32]** ---

Wait! I haven't even heard  
what happened to you!

**[06:35]** ---

We can talk on the way.

**[06:37]** ---

Besides, there's really not much to tell!

**[06:39]** ---

Losing your right hand  
isn't worth a good story?!

**[06:44]** ---

Shouldn't we follow them?

**[06:54]** ---

It's me.

**[06:56]** ---

Danan?

**[07:00]** ---

What are you doing here?

**[07:03]** ---

I came to find Gideon.

**[07:06]** ---

Gideon's here?!

**[07:07]** ---

Yeah. He's running an apothecary.

**[07:10]** ---

Where's the Hero?

**[07:13]** ---

She's not here.

**[07:15]** ---

Why not?

**[07:16]** ---

I don't have to explain anything to you.

**[07:19]** ---

Gideon plans on settling down here.

**[07:23]** ---

Remember Princess Rizlet of Loggervia?

**[07:27]** ---

He's living with her.

**[07:31]** ---

I've been risking my life while  
he runs off to live a peaceful life

**[07:36]** ---

and tries marrying into the royal family?!

**[07:39]** ---

That dirty little traitor!

**[07:40]** ---

Well, if the Hero is trying to win  
Gideon back, she's wasting her time.

**[07:47]** ---

Wait, don't tell me the Hero knew  
Gideon's whereabouts the whole time.

**[07:53]** ---

Now I see.

**[07:54]** ---

Ruti realized Gideon was here

after she spoke to that demon.

**[07:59]** ---

Please take me to Gideon's shop.

**[08:02]** ---

Sure, but what do you have in mind?

**[08:05]** ---

I'll tell him to disappear  
from Ruti's life forever!

**[08:09]** ---

I doubt he'll agree to that.

**[08:12]** ---

I'll force him into  
submission if I have to!

**[08:14]** ---

So where is he?!  
Tell me where his shop is, now!

**[08:20]** ---

Follow me.

**[08:24]** ---

Gideon!

**[08:25]** ---

You've thwarted me at every turn!

**[08:33]** ---

Gideon! How dare you drag the Hero  
into such a crummy little shop!

**[08:38]** ---

What are you trying to pull?!

**[08:48]** ---

Damn you!

**[09:01]** ---

Now that you got that out of your system,

**[09:03]** ---

have you figured out  
it was a big waste of time?

**[09:07]** ---

Shut your trap!

**[09:09]** ---

Shut your trap!

**[09:17]** ---

Shisandan's alive?!

**[09:19]** ---

That's right.

**[09:21]** ---

I was attacked aboard the ship I took here

**[09:23]** ---

and had my right hand bitten off.

**[09:25]** ---

I plunged into the sea but was saved  
when I washed up in a port town.

**[09:30]** ---

He'd taken the form of an adventurer,

**[09:32]** ---

but it was without a doubt Shisandan,  
the Asura demon we battled in Loggervia.

**[09:37]** ---

I thought Ruti defeated him!

**[09:45]** ---

Ruti plunged her blade through his heart.

**[09:48]** ---

Relax. It's not that big a deal.

**[09:52]** ---

Every time he returns,  
I'll keep beating him to death!

**[10:05]** ---

There shouldn't be anyone in Zoltan with  
magic powerful enough to summon a drake.

**[10:10]** ---

They're heading toward the mountains  
where the Hero went.

**[10:14]** ---

Gideon, you go ahead as fast as you can.

**[10:16]** ---

I follow behind as best I can.

**[10:18]** ---

Got it!

**[10:25]** ---

Rit! Tisse!

**[10:27]** ---

Red!

**[10:29]** ---

Danan's coming, too.

**[10:31]** ---

You saw Danan?!

**[10:32]** ---

He was at the port.

**[10:34]** ---

He came looking for me.

**[10:37]** ---

I'm sorry I didn't tell you,  
but I ran into him, too.

**[10:41]** ---

Danan?

**[10:42]** ---

Yes.

**[10:43] ---**

But he said since you're  
trying to lead a peaceful life,

**[10:46] ---**

it's better if you didn't know  
he was here.

**[10:49] ---**

Did you notice anything  
different about him?

**[10:52] ---**

Anything different?

**[10:54] ---**

No, nothing in particular.

**[10:56] ---**

I see.

**[10:58] ---**

When I saw Danan, he had lost  
his right hand at the wrist.

**[11:02] ---**

What?!

**[11:03] ---**

What in the world happened?

**[11:06] ---**

It seems Shisandan bit it off.

**[11:10] ---**

That's not possible!

**[11:12] ---**

We were there when the Hero slew him!

**[11:15] ---**

We were.

**[11:16] ---**

But Danan isn't one  
to forget a foe he's faced.

**[11:20] ---**

I believe what he said is quite credible.

**[11:24] ---**

So then who did I see  
if it wasn't really Danan?

**[11:27] ---**

It was probably Shisandan.

**[11:29] ---**

He was able to take Danan's  
form after devouring his hand.

**[11:33] ---**

If I'd told you sooner,

**[11:36] ---**

you probably would've known

he was an imposter.

**[11:39]** ---

Then I could've--

**[11:42]** ---

Cut him down?

**[11:44]** ---

Yeah, I hadn't planned  
on taking up a sword again,

**[11:47]** ---

but he's an exception.

**[11:49]** ---

If Shisandan's here,  
let's battle him together!

**[11:52]** ---

Let's avenge Gaius's death  
once and for all.

**[11:55]** ---

But, Red...

**[11:57]** ---

If you say we must fight, I, too,  
will take up my sword again.

**[12:02]** ---

There's no point in averting a fight  
if it will make life unbearable.

**[12:07]** ---

Okay. If it really was Shisandan,

**[12:10]** ---

I'll become the Champion Rit  
just this once more.

**[12:13]** ---

I'll be fine, so you go on ahead.

**[12:16]** ---

Got it.

**[12:47]** ---

She could've used the mechanism  
that opens the place up.

**[12:51]** ---

Ruti can be so careless sometimes.

**[13:00]** ---

All right.

**[13:02]** ---

Acrobatics Mastery: Slow Fall.

**[13:17]** ---

It's supposed to be southwest of here.

**[13:23]** ---

This is wood-elf script.

**[13:26]** ---

But what's it doing in  
an ancient elven ruin?

**[13:30]** ---

"Hero Administration Authority"?  
What could that be?

**[13:38]** ---

Is this it?

**[13:43]** ---

Whoa!

**[13:47]** ---

Y-You're that apothecary...

**[13:50]** ---

Where's the girl who dragged you here?

**[13:52]** ---

How should I know?

**[13:54]** ---

Probably somewhere in these ruins.

**[13:56]** ---

Could you try shouting out  
and see if she answers?

**[13:59]** ---

Wh-Why don't you call her yourself?!

**[14:01]** ---

She seriously scares me to death!

**[14:04]** ---

Really? In that case...

**[14:13]** ---

Big brother?!

**[14:19]** ---

Tisse told me what's going on.

**[14:22]** ---

I'm sorry I haven't been any help.

**[14:25]** ---

Huh?

**[14:26]** ---

I, too, have been looking for a way  
to suppress your Blessing all this time.

**[14:31]** ---

This concoction curbs Blessing impulses.

**[14:34]** ---

But it can be toxic.

**[14:37]** ---

And it doesn't work  
on the Hero's Blessing.

**[14:39]** ---

I don't understand.

**[14:41]** ---

Haven't you always tried  
to save the world?

**[14:44]** ---

Since you were a kid,  
you tried to get stronger.

**[14:47]** ---

You became a knight and  
helped countless people.

**[14:50]** ---

Plus, you joined me on the quest  
to defeat the Demon Lord.

**[14:54]** ---

You didn't have to help people like I did.

**[14:59]** ---

But you did, anyway.

**[15:01]** ---

I never told you, did I?

**[15:04]** ---

All I wanted to do was to protect you.

**[15:07]** ---

Why? I'm the Hero, after all.

**[15:11]** ---

Don't be silly.

You really have to ask why?

**[15:14]** ---

It's because you're precious to me.

**[15:18]** ---

I knew you'd embark  
on your own journey someday.

**[15:22]** ---

I've merely been preparing for that.

**[15:25]** ---

So, I don't mind that you're trying  
to quit serving as the Hero.

**[15:31]** ---

I don't blame you.

**[15:32]** ---

Are you sure?

**[15:34]** ---

I abandoned my comrades,

**[15:36]** ---

I broke Godwin out of jail,  
and I'm trying to quit being the Hero.

**[15:40]** ---

You'll forgive me after all that?

**[15:43]** ---

I will.

**[15:44]** ---

Can I really do whatever I want?

**[15:46]** ---

The whole world and my Blessing  
expect me to play the Hero's role,

**[15:51]** ---

but it's okay for me to do what I want?

**[15:54]** ---

Just as my life is my own to live,

**[15:56]** ---

yours is your own to live, too.

**[16:02]** ---

Gideon.

**[16:06]** ---

I'm such a selfish girl,

**[16:08]** ---

so selfish that I'm not worthy  
of being the Hero.

**[16:11]** ---

But please don't hate me  
for being like that.

**[16:16]** ---

Ruti, you'll always be  
my beloved little sister.

**[16:20]** ---

Thank you.

**[16:21]** ---

You're the best big brother ever,  
and I really love you.

**[16:26]** ---

It has to be around here!

**[16:28]** ---

Why can't we find it?!

**[16:30]** ---

Come to think of it,

**[16:31]** ---

there's an ancient elven ruin  
on this mountain.

**[16:34]** ---

So what if there is?!

**[16:36]** ---

Quit blabbering on like that  
and help me find Ruti!

**[16:39]** ---

Word is part of the ruins  
lies underground.

**[16:43]** ---

Why are you just telling me this now?!

**[16:46]** ---

It slipped my mind.

**[16:47]** ---

So where are these ruins  
you're talking about?!

**[17:02]** ---

Theodora?!

**[17:05]** ---

Red!

**[17:07]** ---

That was quick.

**[17:08]** ---

We didn't waste any time.

**[17:09]** ---

Lady Ruti, I...

**[17:13]** ---

Tisse.

**[17:14]** ---

Thank you for bringing  
my brother and Rit here.

**[17:20]** ---

We need to go speak with Godwin.

**[17:23]** ---

Demon hearts are required  
to make Devil's Blessing.

**[17:28]** ---

We must find out what  
he means to do about that.

**[17:31]** ---

The demon who visited me also  
said it requires demon hearts.

**[17:35]** ---

But since the curse of demon hearts  
won't manifest within me,

**[17:39]** ---

the Devil's Blessing can't take effect.

**[17:42]** ---

Then how are you weakening  
the Hero's Blessing?

**[17:47]** ---

A nameless Blessing emerged within me.

**[17:50]** ---

A nameless Blessing?!

**[17:51]** ---

Yes.

**[17:53]** ---

There are no skills or impulses.

It's just there.

**[17:59]** ---

I've never heard of that!

**[18:02]** ---

What sort of Blessing has no name?

**[18:06]** ---

We need to know.

**[18:08]** ---

Will she suffer murderous rages?

**[18:10]** ---

That's a known effect of  
the Axe Demon's Blessing.

**[18:14]** ---

But if the Blessing doesn't manifest,  
the murderous rages shouldn't, either.

**[18:19]** ---

And if there are no impulses  
with this nameless Blessing,

**[18:22]** ---

we can assume nothing bad will happen.

**[18:24]** ---

Simply put, what can we  
expect will happen?

**[18:28]** ---

Well, it doesn't seem all that dangerous.

**[18:33]** ---

Something's coming!

**[18:38]** ---

Plague eyes.

**[18:39]** ---

They'll keep multiplying for  
the duration of the spell.

**[18:42]** ---

And if we attack, the caster  
will know where we are.

**[18:45]** ---

How convenient.

**[18:46]** ---

Lightning of Judgment!

**[18:52]** ---

Hey! Don't run off alone!

**[18:53]** ---

Red!

**[18:55]** ---

Follow behind me, but keep Godwin safe!

**[18:58]** ---

Will do!

**[19:00]** ---

I have no idea how Ruti has been  
fighting her battles since I left.

**[19:05]** ---

Ruti!

**[19:06]** ---

They're around that bend!

**[19:13]** ---

Ares!

**[19:15]** ---

I've finally found you.

**[19:17]** ---

Come with me and defeat the Demon Lord.

**[19:20]** ---

Ruti, only you, the Hero,  
can save the world.

**[19:24]** ---

And I must be by your side.

**[19:27]** ---

We don't need anyone else.  
Surely you know that?

**[19:31]** ---

Every last one of them  
is worthless and weak.

**[19:36]** ---

Now let's go defeat the Demon Lord,  
just the two of us.

**[19:39]** ---

A bright and beautiful future awaits us.

**[19:42]** ---

Now, take my hand and--

**[19:45]** ---

I'm done adventuring with you.

**[19:48]** ---

What?

**[19:48]** ---

Our journey together is over.

**[19:51]** ---

I'm going to live my life as Ruti,  
rather than the Hero.

**[19:56]** ---

How very kind you are.

**[19:58]** ---

You can't get rid of Gideon,  
even though he weighs you down.

**[20:02]** ---

So you chose a bearer of  
a worthless blessing over me.

**[20:05]** ---

You have it all wrong, Ares! Ruti is--

**[20:07]** ---

Shut your mouth!

**[20:13]** ---

Now, Ruti, you're free to go.

**[20:16]** ---

Let's go defeat the Demon Lord!

**[20:21]** ---

You never did understand  
a single thing about me.

**[20:28]** ---

I avoided your vitals.

**[20:30]** ---

You have the skill to heal yourself,  
but remember this:

**[20:35]** ---

I would've slain you had you  
seriously wounded my brother.

**[20:46]** ---

Gideon, are you okay?!

**[20:48]** ---

Y-Yeah.

**[20:50]** ---

R-Ruti.

**[20:55]** ---

I'm no longer the Hero.  
There's nothing more I can do for you.

**[21:02]** ---

Why?

**[21:04]** ---

Why won't the Hero fulfill her role?  
It doesn't add up.

**[21:08]** ---

Why am I, the Sage,  
sitting here bloodied and alone?

**[21:12]** ---

How can people be so foolish?!

**[21:14]** ---

Damn them! Damn them all!

**[21:17]** ---

Are you all right?

**[21:20]** ---

I'm Bui, an adventurer.

**[21:22]** ---

Here, try this.

**[21:29]** ---

You can use healing magic.

**[21:31]** ---

It seems I was presumptuous.

**[21:33]** ---

You're an Asura demon.

**[21:35]** ---

I used the Appraisal skill on you.

**[21:38]** ---

You don't have a Blessing.

**[21:40]** ---

Asura demons are the only beings  
in this world that lack one.

**[21:45]** ---

Impressive, Sage.

**[21:47]** ---

I've no wish to fight you.

**[21:50]** ---

What do you say we form a party together?

**[21:53]** ---

Huh? Are you insane?

**[21:55]** ---

A relic of the first Hero  
lies hidden in these ruins.

**[22:00]** ---

We should help each other find it.  
Then we can fight if we must.

**[22:04]** ---

A relic of the first Hero?!

**[22:06]** ---

That's right.

**[22:07]** ---

The Hero will return to your side--  
if you give it to her.

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