

# 11 - True Strength

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**[00:02] Hijikata**

Could you be...

**[00:04] Hijikata**

Shogun Tokugawa Iemochi?

**[00:06] Okita; Todo; Nio; Taro; Hajime; Granny**

Th-The Shogun?!

**[00:10] Hijikata**

We'll escort the Shogun to the safety of  
Nijo Castle with only the forces we have here.

**[00:16] Nio**

I have an idea.

**[00:26] Assassin C**

Huh? They split up.

**[00:28] Assassin C**

Which way did Iemochi go?

**[00:29] Assassin A**

Don't let anyone escape! After them!

**[00:38] Nio**

There they go.

**[00:39] Kikuchiyo**

I see. Quite the stratagem.

**[00:42] Granny**

The Shogun! The Shogun!

**[00:44] Okita**

I love the courtly laugh.

**[00:47] Nio**

We'll count to 30, then take  
the backstreets to Nijo Castle.

**[00:52] Kikuchiyo**

Right.

**[00:55] Naozumi**

So *both* groups were decoys?

**[01:00] Naozumi**

Luck really wasn't on your side.

**[01:03] Nio**

Kikuchiyo-san!

**[01:05] Nio**

Let's go.

**[01:06] Naozumi**

One.

**[01:08] Naozumi**

Two.

**[01:10] Naozumi**

Three.

**[01:18] Naozumi**

Go on. Run.

**SIGN** Blue Miburo

**SIGN** Blue Miburo

**SIGN** Blue Miburo

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**[02:55] Assassin A**

Halt!

**[03:11] Assassin B**

Hold it!

**[03:12] Assassin A**

Go inside! Circle ahead!

**[03:13] Assassin B**

Don't let 'em escape!

**[03:21] Assassin B**

Perfect. We've got 'em boxed in.

**[03:23] Assassin C**

Say your prayers, Iemochi!

**[03:26] Hajime**

Haven't we bought enough time, Hijikata?

**[03:28] Hijikata**

No.

**[03:30] Hijikata**

I hate to disappoint you,  
but we can't surrender the Shogun.

**SIGN** Conquer

**[03:35] Granny**

The Shogun. That's me.

**[03:36] Hijikata**

Damn it, old woman.

**[03:38] Assassin A**

Damn. He's not here.

**[03:41] Assassin A**

Go after the other group!

**[03:42] Hajime**

Not so fast.

**[03:46] Hajime**

I'll take you on.

**[03:48] Hajime**

This farce was never my style.

**[03:51] Assassin B**

Little shit.

**[03:52] Assassin A**

Have it your way. I'll teach you  
how a grown man uses a sword.

**[03:57] Assassin A**

First, you wear it on your *left* side.

**[04:01] Assassin A**

Come on, draw. I ain't got all day.

**[04:15] Assassin C**

You...

**[04:16] Assassin C**

You'll pay for that!

**[04:25] Hajime**

Remind me. Who's teaching whom about what?

**[04:30] Hajime**

When I draw, it's already over. That's iai.

**[04:35] Assassin A**

C-Cocky brat.

**[04:36] Assassin A**

Retreat! Retreat!

**[04:38] Hajime**

What? You're turning tail *already*?

**[04:40] Hajime**

Try with your short swords! Well?

**[04:42] Hijikata**

Wait, Hajime.

**[04:44] Hajime**

What's *your* problem, Hijikata?

**[04:46] Hijikata**

Was that man there?

**[04:50] Hajime**

No. Why?

**[04:51] Hijikata**

Then, as we speak—

**[04:55] Hijikata**

What is it *now*, old woman?

**[04:56] Granny**

I was scared stiff!

**[04:58] Hijikata**

Get off! Enough, you old bat!

**[05:04] Okita**

Hey, he dodged it!

**[05:08] Taro**

O-Okita! Get these guys!

**[05:11] Okita**

We promised to buy all the time we could  
so that Nio's group could get to Nijo Castle.

**[05:17] Todo**

That we did.

**[05:18] Taro**

We've already done plenty!

**[05:20] Todo**

I am your Shogun.

**[05:22] Taro**

When are you gonna drop that act?

**[05:26] Assassin E**

This guy's a fake!

**[05:27] Assassin F**

He's not Iemochi!

**[05:29] Todo**

They caught on.

**[05:30] Taro**

H-Hurry up and clobber these guys.

**[05:34] Todo**

I am your Shogun. I do not brawl.

**[05:36] Taro**

Give it a rest. You're plenty tough!

**[05:40] Okita**

Guess I've got no choice.

**[05:42] Okita**

I'll make them talk.

**[05:44] Taro**

Hey, at least put down your lantern.

**[05:46] Assassin E**

You think you're hot shit? Die!

**[06:03] Okita**

I cut your tendon,  
so you're not going anywhere.

**[06:06] Okita**

You see, a guy I knew in Edo  
always went for the lower legs.

**[06:11] Okita**

I put my own spin on his style.

**[06:13] Okita**

Yamanami-san told me  
they used to punish criminals this way.

**[06:18] Okita**

I call it Ashigiri: "Leg Cutter."

**[06:22] Taro**

He's a demon.

**[06:25] Okita**

Oh, dear. Your friends ran off without you.

**[06:28] Okita**

Not very nice of them.

**[06:30] Assassin E**

Damn it all.

**[06:31] Okita**

Oh, well. I'll get you to tell me  
all about who you guys are.

**[06:39] Taro**

He just bit through his tongue.

**[06:42] Todo**

Staunch it somehow.

**[06:44] Taro**

It's no good. It's too late.

**[06:45] Okita**

Wh-Who in the world are these people?

**[06:50] Taro**

This crap's not normal.

**[06:52] Taro**

They're all crazy. They have to be.

**[06:57] Nio**

We're almost at Nijo Castle.

**[07:00] Kikuchiyo**

Indeed.

**[07:03] Kikuchiyo**

No! No more! I'm exhausted!

**[07:05] Kikuchiyo**

I demand a palanquin!

**[07:06] Nio**

Didn't you just say, "Indeed"?!

**[07:10] Kikuchiyo**

Wh-What is it?

**[07:12] Kikuchiyo**

What's wrong?

**[07:13] Nio**

I hear voices.

**[07:15] Kikuchiyo**

What?

**[07:16] Underling H**

Where's His Lordship?

**[07:18] Underling I**

Leave no stone unturned!

**[07:19] Underling H**

Yes, sir!

**[07:20] Kikuchiyo**

They're from the castle.

**[07:21] Nio**

Thank goodness. They're here to save you.

**[07:24] Nio**

Hey! Over here!

**[07:29] Underling H**

Is that you, My Lord?

**[07:30] Underling I**

Is Your Lordship hurt?

**[07:33] Kikuchiyo**

I am unharmed.

**[07:35] Nio**

He's right as rain!

**[07:55] Nio**

I don't believe it.

**[07:59] Naozumi**

I'm here for your head, Iemochi.

**[08:03] Nio**

Run for it, Kikuchiyo-san.

**[08:08] Kikuchiyo**

I do not understand.

**[08:11] Kikuchiyo**

What do you call yourself?

**[08:16] Naozumi**

Naozumi.

**[08:18] Kikuchiyo**

Naozumi, what drives you to do such things?

**[08:22] Kikuchiyo**

To "expel the barbarians"?

**[08:24] Kikuchiyo**

Taking my head will not  
change our land's predicament.

**[08:31] Naozumi**

"Expel the barbarians"?

**[08:33] Naozumi**

"Expel the barbarians," he says.

**[08:37] Kikuchiyo**

Am I wrong?

**[08:40] Naozumi**

I couldn't care less about them.

**[08:43] Nio**

*He doesn't want to expel the foreigners?*

**[08:46] Kikuchiyo**

I do not understand.

**[08:48] Kikuchiyo**

I ask you, then: what is it that you desire?

**[08:58] Naozumi**

To bring back the age of the samurai.

**[09:01] Nio**

Bring it *back*?

**[09:04] Naozumi**

You lot stole it from us.

**[09:08] Naozumi**

You Tokugawa.

**[09:12] Kikuchiyo**

What are you talking about?

**[09:14] Kikuchiyo**

You claim the Tokugawa robbed you?

**[09:17] Naozumi**

That's right.

**[09:19] Kikuchiyo**

And what did we steal?

**[09:22] Naozumi**

A place to do battle.

**[09:27] Naozumi**

The founder of the Tokugawa Shogunate, Iyasu, ended the Age of Warring States.

**[09:32] Naozumi**

He robbed us samurai of a place to fight.

**[09:36] Kikuchiyo**

You mean peace displeases you?

**[09:51] Naozumi**

Stay still.

**[09:56] Naozumi**

It does displease me.

**[10:00] Kikuchiyo**

Why shed blood if it can be avoided?

**[10:09] Naozumi**

Why keep samurai around, then?

**[10:13] Naozumi**

I'm strong as hell.

**[10:15] Naozumi**

I was born strong.

**[10:17] Naozumi**

Daily training made me stronger.

**[10:19] Naozumi**

I toured the provinces, honing my skills.

**[10:24] Naozumi**

What did we work ourselves to the bone  
strengthening body and spirit for?

**[10:30] Kikuchiyo**

To defend the people in times of crisis.

**[10:36] Naozumi**

And when will that be?

**[10:38] Naozumi**

I come from a long line of samurai.

**[10:40] Naozumi**

My granddad and his granddad  
before him died

**[10:43] Naozumi**

between threadbare sheets without  
ever getting to show what samurai are for.

**[10:49] Naozumi**

For 260 years, you Tokugawa have lorded  
over the samurai and kept us useless.

**[10:58] Naozumi**

Tell me, boy...

**[11:00] Naozumi**

What's the way of the sword?

**[11:04] Nio**

I... I don't know.

**[11:09] Naozumi**

Tell me, lemochi. What's the sword to you?

**[11:15] Kikuchiyo**

The sword...

**[11:19] Kikuchiyo**

is mere decoration.

**[11:22] Nio**

*He won't like that answer.*

**[11:25] Kikuchiyo**

The sword is insurance  
lest the worst should happen.

**[11:34] Naozumi**

The way of the sword is blood.

**[11:36] Naozumi**

An unbroken lineage,  
passed down since Genji fought Heike.

**[11:42] Naozumi**

Why don't you try to fight?

**[11:44] Naozumi**

Why don't you try to show off your strength?

**[11:50] Kikuchiyo**

Fighting is synonymous with dying.

**[11:54] Kikuchiyo**

I suggest you mistrust any who urge battle,

**[11:57] Kikuchiyo**

no matter what pretty phrases  
they dress it up in.

**[12:04] Naozumi**

*This* is the lord of all samurai? What a joke.

**[12:08] Naozumi**

When the great rot, the lesser go hungry.

**[12:13] Naozumi**

There's a big war coming.

**[12:15] Naozumi**

We, the Blood Risshidan,  
are going to start it.

**[12:19] Nio**

*"The Blood Risshidan"?*

**[12:22] Naozumi**

Iemochi, your head will do nicely.

**[12:26] Naozumi**

It will make the perfect centerpiece  
for the coming festival.

**[12:30] Naozumi**

Your death will throw the city into chaos  
and the country into violence.

**[12:34] Naozumi**

The Warring States will come again.

**[12:37] Naozumi**

That's when we'll find the  
place where we belong.

**[12:41] Nio**

*Damn it. It's hopeless.  
He really means it.*

**[12:45] Kikuchiyo**

Listen, Naozumi.

**[12:48] Kikuchiyo**

Even so, I will not allow you to make war.

**[12:51] Kikuchiyo**

That is my verdict as  
leader of the samurai clans.

**[12:56] Kikuchiyo**

I will not die.

**[12:58] Kikuchiyo**

I cannot die now.

**[13:01] Naozumi**

No.

**[13:03] Naozumi**

You're gonna die.

**[13:06] Naozumi**

Right here. Right now.

**[13:12] Kikuchiyo**

Nio?

**[13:17] Nio**

We need to escape, Kikuchiyo-san.

**[13:18] Nio**

Please run!

**[13:24] Naozumi**

How feeble.

**[13:27] Naozumi**

Playtime is over.

**[13:31] Kikuchiyo**

What's your plan?

**[13:32] Nio**

I have an idea.

**[13:55] Naozumi**

So you've dropped your sword in surrender?

**[14:12] Nio**

Naozumi-san...

**[14:16] Nio**

You're weak.

**[14:19] Naozumi**

Where's Iemochi?

**[14:21] Nio**

I won't...

**[14:23] Nio**

give him up!

**[14:32] Hijikata**

The man in white wasn't with  
the group that chased you, either?

**[14:36] Taro**

Not a chance.

**[14:38] Taro**

I was so relieved we didn't have  
to deal with that nightmare.

**[14:42] Taro**

But nobody scares me more than Okita.

**[14:47] Okita**

In that case, I'm worried about  
Nio-kun and the Shogun.

**[14:51] Todo**

What now?

**[14:53] Todo**

Do we head back to the dango shop?

**[14:54] Taro**

C-Can I leave now?

**[14:57] Granny**

Taro! You should be ashamed of yourself!

**[15:00] Taro**

But you said I was  
more cut out for business!

**[15:03] Granny**

Even shopkeepers have to  
stand their ground sometimes.

**[15:13] Hijikata**

We'll go to Nijo Castle.

**[15:16] Hijikata**

The man in white may have rallied  
the men who fled to beat us there.

**[15:22] Okita**

That seems likely.

**[15:24] Okita**

I mean, the Shogun has  
to go there eventually.

**[15:29] Hijikata**

We'll check every likely spot  
for an ambush near the castle.

**[15:34] Todo**

That's more like it!

**[15:35] Granny**

I'll lend you a hand!

**[15:38] Granny**

Come along, Taro. Shape up, will you?

**[15:41] Taro**

Seriously?

**[15:43] Hijikata**

Hurry.

**[15:43] Todo**

You got it.

**[15:51] Taro**

Sure, I'm worried about Nio,  
but what can I do?

**[15:55] Taro**

Can't I just go home?

**[15:58] Taro**

What do you say, Hijikata?

**[16:00] Taro**

Huh? What?

**[16:03] Taro**

Hey! Hijikata's gone!

**[16:05] Todo**

Well, yeah. He ran on ahead.

We'd better catch up.

**[16:10] Taro**

Huh?

**[16:11] Taro**

Ah, of all the...

**[16:16] Okita**

No fair, Hijikata-san.

**[16:25] Naozumi**

So Iemochi's through here?

**[16:31] Naozumi**

By the way, unless my ears are playing tricks,  
I think you just called me weak.

**[16:37] Nio**

I did.

**[16:38] Nio**

Kikuchiyo-san is stronger than you.

**[16:43] Naozumi**

A mighty man like me?

**[16:47] Nio**

*Calm down.*

**[16:48] Nio**

*Don't let him see you feeling hopeless.*

**[16:51] Naozumi**

Did I scare you out of your wits?

**[16:54] Nio**

*I've watched the Miburo enough to tell...*

**[16:59] Nio**

*just how terribly strong  
and dangerous he is.*

**[17:03] Nio**

*I came into this with only one goal:*

**[17:06] Nio**

*to fight with the weapons I have!*

**[17:10] Nio**

You say you want to fight a war.

**[17:13] Nio**

You say that's what samurai do.

**[17:15] Naozumi**

That's right. Samurai fight  
and die on the battlefield.

**[17:20] Nio**

That's why you're weak.

**[17:22] Naozumi**

I don't follow.

**[17:25] Nio**

Don't you think it's selfish? What about

the people who get dragged into your war?

**[17:30] Nio**

The women? The elderly? The invalids?

**[17:36] Nio**

The children?

**[17:40] Nio**

Kikuchiyo-san is putting himself  
in all of their shoes,

**[17:43] Nio**

and wondering what he can do  
to make things better.

**[17:47] Nio**

He's looking at the bigger picture.

**[17:50] Nio**

Clinging to your samurai status  
makes you weaker than he is.

**[17:55] Nio**

You can't beat him!

**[17:58] Naozumi**

That's enough chitchat.

**[18:01] Naozumi**

*A counterweight? Don't tell me  
he has a chain and sickle.*

**[18:05] Naozumi**

*He's bluffing.  
No kid could handle one of those.*

**[18:10] Naozumi**

*Still, he did throw away his sword.*

**[18:12] Naozumi**

*It makes sense to assume  
he has a better weapon.*

**[18:18] Naozumi**

*He has been hiding his left side  
ever since I caught up to him.*

**[18:24] Naozumi**

*And it's too dark to get a good look.*

**[18:29] Naozumi**

Of course, none of that matters.

**[18:32] Naozumi**

My sword can reach him.

**[18:36] Naozumi**

And kill him.

**[18:37] Nio**

*Now!*

**[18:40] Naozumi**

A rock?

**[18:45] Naozumi**

A rock? A rock, huh?

**[18:48] Naozumi**

Bluffing to buy time, are you?

**[18:50] Naozumi**

I admire your guts.

**[18:53] Naozumi**

And you know, it's not so easy to swing  
my long sword in this narrow alley.

**[18:59] Naozumi**

You've really thought this through.

**[19:04] Naozumi**

But I don't have to *swing* it.

**[19:09] Naozumi**

How do you like this?

**[19:19] Nio**

I've been waiting for this!

**[19:21] Nio**

I've got you!

**[19:23] Nio**

Now you can't use your sword!

**[19:28] Naozumi**

What's your game?

**[19:30] Nio**

Kikuchiyo-san is stronger than you!

**[19:34] Naozumi**

What'd you say?

**[19:38] Nio**

I barely felt that.

**[19:43] Nio**

It... It won't work.

**[19:45] Naozumi**

Looks like it's working to me.

**[19:56] Naozumi**

Will you die by my fist?

Or let go and die by my sword?

**[20:01] Nio**

I'll never let go. Never.

**[20:09] Naozumi**

I'll knock you out for good.

**[20:18] Nio**

I'll never let go.

**[20:21] Nio**

I'll never let go!

**[20:23] Nio**

You'll never beat me!

**[20:26] Naozumi**

You're still saying that?

**[20:29] Nio**

*You really...*

**[20:33] Nio**

*are strong.*

**[20:37] Nio**

*I could never beat you.*

**[20:42] Nio**

*But...*

**[20:45] Nio**

*If I let go now,*

**[20:49] Nio**

*I won't be able to prove...*

**[20:52] (Flashback) Hajime**

*She's tough.*

**[20:54] (Flashback) Hajime**

*I guess the sword isn't  
the only way to be strong.*

**[21:00] Nio**

*I know, right?*

**[21:02] Nio**

*Hajime-kun, I feel the same way.*

**[21:07] (Flashback) Kikuchiyo**

*But I believe there are steps only a  
powerless, incompetent Shogun can take.*

**[21:17] Nio**

*Something tells me...*

**[21:19] Nio**

*that deep down, Kikuchiyo-san's  
strength is a lot like Granny's.*

**[21:25] (Flashback) Kikuchiyo**

*Even so, I will not allow you to make war.*

**[21:27] (Flashback) Kikuchiyo**

*That is my verdict as  
leader of the samurai clans.*

**[21:32] Nio**

*I have to prove that.*

**[21:37] Nio**

*Prove the truly strong one...*

**[21:42] Nio**

*is Kikuchiyo-san!*

**SIGN** True Strength

**SIGN** Next time

**[23:21] Hijikata**

*Hijikata Toshizo here.*

**[23:23] Hijikata**

*We managed to drive off  
the assassins on our tails,*

**[23:27] Hijikata**

but that man in white wasn't with them.

**[23:31] Hijikata**

I don't like leaving

Lord Iemochi in Nio's charge.

**[23:34] Hijikata**

Making for Nijo Castle is our best move now.

**[23:38] Hijikata**

That said...

**[23:40] Hijikata**

Sorry, Soji. My mind's made up.

**[23:44] Hijikata**

Next time: "Eight Heads."

**[23:46] Hijikata**

Watch. That's all.

***SIGN*** Eight Heads

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