

# 15 - Like a River's Flow

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Translator:

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Timer:

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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.)

**[00:00] Snake**

Well, well. Long time no see.

**[00:04] Snake**

So? Since you came to me,  
I'm guessing you want money?

**[00:10] Snake**

Who will you kill, Jiro?

**[00:13] Snake**

Or is it Saito Hajime II now?

**[00:20] Snake**

How does it feel to be called that name?

**[00:24] Hajime**

Nothing special. I gave up  
my old one long ago.

**[00:27] Hajime**

It means nothing to me.

**[00:29] Snake**

Oh, really?

**[00:31] Snake**

I don't believe that for a minute.

**[00:33] Snake**

A name is the first thing  
parents give their child.

**[00:39] Hajime**

You're awful chatty for a snake.

**[00:42] Snake**

Temper, temper.

**[00:44] Snake**

Your patience is a far cry  
from your namesake's.

**[00:48] Snake**

The surliness hasn't changed, though.

**[00:51] Snake**

You must have gotten that from him.

**[00:57] Snake**

You want to talk work?

**[01:00] Hajime**

That's right.

**SIGN** 5 ryo

**SIGN** 10

ryo

**SIGN** 20 ryo

**SIGN** 30 ryo

**[01:05] Snake**

Hook Nose: 10 ryo.

**[01:07] Snake**

Red Eye: 5 ryo.

**[01:08] Snake**

The Frog: 20 ryo.

**[01:11] Snake**

The Lady Bandit: 30 ryo.

**[01:13] Snake**

Scar: 100 ryo.

**SIGN** 100 ryo

**[01:17] Hajime**

Can I assume the reward  
matches how well they fight?

**[01:20] Snake**

Who knows?

**[01:22] Snake**

Could be the strength of the target.

Could be the depth of the grudge.

**[01:25] Snake**

The client sets the rate.

**[01:28] Snake**

Still, 100 ryo? That's something special.

**[01:33] Snake**

Now, take your pick, successor.

**[01:37] Snake**

Who will you kill?

**SIGN** Blue Miburo

**SIGN** Blue Miburo

**SIGN** Blue Miburo

**SIGN** Blue Miburo

**SIGN** Blue Miburo

**SIGN** Blue Miburo

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**SIGN** Blue Miburo

**SIGN** Any work welcome

**SIGN** Gimme money

**[03:27] Nio**

We're sure not finding any jobs, huh?

**[03:29] Taro**

Damn it. Why don't we just rob somebody?

**[03:34] Funazo**

Huh? I know you, boy.

**[03:40] Nio**

Funazo-san.

**[03:41] Nio**

It's me, Nio. It's been a long time.

**[03:44] Funazo**

I owe you for back then.

**[03:46] Funazo**

My daughter and I are getting by now.

**[03:49] Nio**

I'm glad to hear it.

**[03:50] Taro**

Wh-Who's this?

**[03:52] Taro**

You know this guy?

**SIGN** Any work welcome

**SIGN** Gimme money

**[03:53] Nio**

Yup.

**[03:54] Taro**

Huh...

**[03:56] Funazo**

Are you looking for work, young Nio?

**[03:58] Funazo**

I know just the thing.

**[04:00] Nio**

What? Really?

**[04:12] Nio**

F-Funazo-san, is this your new bride?

**[04:16] Funazo**

P-Perish the thought.

She's merely an acquaintance.

**[04:20] Nio**

Forgive me.

**[04:22] Nio**

I'm Nio.

**[04:24] Nagi**

What pretty hair you have.

**[04:26] Nagi**

Like somen noodles.

**[04:28] Nio**

Thank you.

**[04:30] Funazo**

This is Nagi-san, the lady  
of a proper samurai house.

**[04:35] Taro**

What are you clapping for?

**[04:37] Nio**

I see you're with child.

**[04:38] Nio**

When is the baby due?

**[04:40] Nagi**

I don't know, but it can't be long now.

**[04:43] Taro**

Don't you care?

**[04:44] Funazo**

Nagi-san wants to take a boat downriver.

**[04:47] Funazo**

I'll give you some pocket money  
if you'll help me take her.

**[04:50] Nio**

We'd love to help.

**[04:52] Taro**

Don't make us work for cheap!

**[04:59] Nio**

Please watch your step.

**[05:00] Nagi**

Right.

**[05:01] Nio**

So why do you want to go downriver?

**[05:05] Nagi**

That's my secret.

**[05:06] Nio**

Forgive me. I didn't mean to pry.

**[05:10] Taro**

L-Like this?

**[05:11] Funazo**

You've got a knack for it, young Taro.

**[05:14] Taro**

Yes, praise me more.

**[05:15] Nio**

Step right this way.

**[05:16] Nagi**

Okay.

**[05:20] Nio**

Nagi-san, that's the river!

**[05:22] Nio**

This way! Over here!

**[05:24] Nagi**

That gave me a fright.

**[05:25] Nio**

You took the words out of my mouth!

**[05:27] Nio**

P-Please try to be careful!

**[05:29] Taro**

H-Hey, Nio. C'mere a sec.

**[05:31] Nio**

What is it?

**[05:32] Funazo**

You've got to watch your step, Nagi-san.

**[05:33] Taro**

This lady's fishy.

**[05:34] Nagi**

Yes, of course.

**[05:35] Nio**

Y-You think so?

**[05:37] Taro**

What pregnant woman wants to go downriver?

**[05:40] Taro**

Are you sure she's not  
planning to drown herself?

**[05:43] Nio**

Drown herself? Surely not.

**[05:50] Nagi**

What a cool breeze.

**[05:52] Nagi**

It feels lovely.

**[05:53] Nio**

I-It sure does.

**[05:55] Nagi**

Look, the water's sparkling.

**[05:58] Nagi**

I feel like it could suck me in.

**[05:58] Nio**

Please don't!

**[06:03] Taro**

There's a boat coming the other way!

**[06:04] Funazo**

We're fine. Stay on course.

**[06:06] Funazo**

It's going to get a little bumpy.

**[06:14] Nio**

P-Please hold on tight.

**[06:16] Nagi**

Hold on?

**[06:20] Nio**

T-To the boat. Like this.

**[06:23] Nagi**

Oh, to the boat?

**[06:27] Nio**

*I might as well just ask her.*

**[06:30] Nio**

E-Excuse me, Nagi-san...

**[06:33] Nio**

If something's troubling you,  
I'd be happy to listen.

**[06:37] Nagi**

Troubling me?

**[06:38] Nagi**

Let me see...

**[06:40] Nagi**

I have so many worries,  
it's hard to pick just one.

**[06:43] Nio**

W-Well, you have a baby on the way,  
so please don't do anything rash.

**[06:48] Nagi**

When I was little,  
everyone called me "Ollow."

**[06:53] Nagi**

I asked them, "What's that mean?"

**[06:55] Nagi**

They said, "You're always in such a daze,  
your head must be *hollow*."

**[07:00] Nagi**

I thought that was a good one.

**[07:03] Nio**

*"Hollow"? As in "empty"?*

**[07:07] Taro**

A bridge!

**[07:09] Nagi**

Isn't the river nice?

**[07:19] Nio**

Does it bother you?

**[07:21] Nagi**

No, not a bit.

**[07:23] Nio**

Huh? Really?

**[07:25] Nagi**

I lost my parents when I was young.

**[07:28] Nagi**

I just happened to meet a good man.

**[07:30] Nagi**

My family weren't samurai,  
and I'm so clumsy, I'm always a burden.

**[07:37] Nagi**

But that makes me think.

**[07:39] Nagi**

Look.

**[07:41] Nio**

A crescent moon?

**[07:43] Nagi**

Gorgeous, isn't it?

**[07:46] Nagi**

Isn't it funny how everything  
beautiful is missing something?

**[07:52] Nagi**

Maybe the same goes for us.

**[07:56] Nagi**

Like this river.

**[07:58] Nagi**

Even if it gets weak or rough  
or takes an unexpected turn,

**[08:03] Nagi**

or if it gets silty sometimes,

**[08:05] Nagi**

we have to show respect,  
deference, and humility.

**[08:12] Nagi**

And live gracefully as the current takes us.

**[08:19] Nio**

Um, aren't you scared to give birth?

**[08:23] Nio**

It seems like it must hurt.

**[08:25] Nagi**

Of course I'm scared.

**[08:27] Nagi**

But I'm in no rush.

**[08:29] Nio**

No rush?

**[08:30] Nagi**

Well, tomorrow's me  
will figure something out.

**[08:37] Nagi**

Huh? Is that funny?

**[08:39] Nagi**

Did I say something funny?

**[08:41] Nio**

*This person is strong. I guess  
this is another kind of strength.*

**[08:45] Yotaro**

Hey!

**[08:47] Yotaro**

Nagi-san!

**[08:49] Yotaro**

I finally found you!

**[08:52] Nagi**

My husband.

**[08:56] Yotaro**

Sorry, Funazo-san. My wife made some  
more unreasonable demands, didn't she?

**[09:00] Funazo**

Not at all.

**[09:01] Nagi**

"Unreasonable demands"? I would never.

**[09:04] Nagi**

These boys were good enough to help.

**[09:07] Yotaro**

Oh, I see.

**[09:08] Nio**

I'm Nio.

**[09:09] Taro**

A-And I'm Taro.

**[09:10] Yotaro**

I really appreciate it.

**[09:13] Yotaro**

I'm Yotaro, and I run a dojo on  
the other side of Sanjo-oohashi.

**[09:17] Yotaro**

Please stop by if you're  
ever in the neighborhood.

**[09:21] Nio**

We'd love to.

**[09:23] Yotaro**

Let's head home before it gets dark.

**[09:24] Nagi**

Okay.

**[09:27] Nio**

Excuse me.

**[09:29] Nio**

How can I learn to be strong like you?

**[09:35] Nagi**

You're plenty strong already.

**[09:40] Nagi**

Oh, dear. I still need to buy tofu.

**[09:43] Nagi**

Bye now.

**[09:47] Yotaro**

Whoops. Watch your step.

**[09:53] Taro**

You don't look even a little tough.

**[09:56] Taro**

Whoa. Watch it.

**[09:57] Nio**

Taro-kun, let's get strong.

**[09:59] Taro**

What? No, stop. We're supposed  
to be making money.

**[10:02] Nio**

*I don't understand,  
but that's what makes me think.*

**[10:07] Nio**

Taro-kun, let's make money the strong way.

**[10:09] Taro**

What even *is* the strong way?

**[10:11] Nio**

*So that I can keep getting closer.*

**[10:13] Nio**

Funazo-san!

**[10:15] Nio**

I'll help you take your boat back.

**[10:17] Funazo**

Will you help me hawk fish?

**[10:19] Nio**

Not for nothing.

**[10:21] Funazo**

Now you're talking.

**[10:23] Taro**

He *is* strong.

**[10:28] Taro**

I can't believe we walked  
all over town hawking fish.

**[10:32] Nio**

But we made Funazo-san happy.

**[10:34] Todo**

Oh! Hey!

**[10:36] Todo**

Hey, Nio!

**[10:38] Nio**

Guys!

**[10:41] Hajime**

You're late.

**[10:42] Nio**

Hajime-kun. You beat us home.

**[10:47] Harada**

You smell funny.

And you're all beat up, too.

**[10:50] Hajime**

Shut up, monkey brains.

**[10:52] Kondo**

I'm back.

**[10:55] Harada**

He's beat up even worse than you!

**[11:00] Serizawa**

I have returned.

**[11:03] Hijikata**

And drunk.

**[11:04] Nio**

Did you make a lot of money?

**[11:06] Serizawa**

What a foolish question!

**[11:10] Nio**

*Good thing we've got adults we can count on!*

**[11:16] Okita**

All done.

**[11:18] Okita**

We're all done gathering funds.

**[11:22] Hijikata**

I see we're all here.

**[11:23] Hijikata**

Let's count up our earnings.

**[11:25] Hijikata**

How much do we need

to have those coats made?

**[11:28] Hijikata**

Nio!

**[11:29] Nio**

We need 250 ryo, sir.

**[11:31] Todo**

Now, put your earnings in the bowl!

**[11:34] All**

Yeah!

**[11:35] Hirayama**

At last.

**[11:36] Hirama**

Leave it to me.

**[11:37] Okita**

And me.

**[11:38] Harada**

Count me in!

**[11:39] Todo**

All right! Good work, men!

**[11:40] Taro**

Whoa!

**[11:41] Serizawa**

Keep it coming!

**[11:42] Okita**

All done.

**[11:44] Okita**

So how much did we make?

**[11:55] Todo**

Eight mon?

**[11:57] Todo**

Are you kidding me?!

**[11:58] Hirayama**

You'd better not be holding out on us!

**[12:01] Harada**

Same to you!

**[12:02] Okita**

Okay, who put in these mon coins?

**[12:05] Nio**

Me and Taro-kun.

**[12:07] Nio**

We helped sell fish.

**[12:09] Nio**

I'm sorry it's only a drop in the bucket.

**[12:11] Taro**

D-Don't apologize, Nio.

**[12:13] Taro**

What were you guys doing?

**[12:15] Harada**

We lost everything gambling!

**[12:17] Nagakura**

We pawned our swords  
and can't get them back.

**[12:20] Nagakura**

We are samurai no more.

**[12:22] Hijikata**

You reap what you sow.

**[12:24] Nio**

What about you two?

**[12:25] Todo**

We worked as bodyguards,  
secretly following this real cutie around.

**[12:29] Nio**

*Creepy.*

**[12:29] Okita**

She turned out to come from a good family.

**[12:32] Okita**

Her father insisted we accept  
a token of his gratitude.

**[12:35] Nio**

What? That's amazing.

**[12:37] Okita**

This fine erotic print.

**[12:39] Nio**

Wow.

**[12:40] Taro**

Why?

**[12:41] Nio**

And you, Kondo-san?

**[12:43] Kondo**

Right.

**[12:44] Kondo**

To my great shame, I failed to catch a cat.

**[12:47] Harada**

Some help you are!

**[12:49] Inoue**

I helped out in the fields.

**[12:51] Nagakura**

Oh, Gen-san.

**[12:52] Inoue**

Words of thanks were my reward.

**[12:55] Harada**

Get money next time!

**[12:56] Nio**

A-And your group, Serizawa-san?

**[12:58] Serizawa**

We challenged dojos!  
Naturally, we won every bout.

**[13:02] Serizawa**

Making money couldn't be simpler.

**[13:05] Serizawa**

They paid us to return their signboards.

**[13:09] Serizawa**

That put us in a grand mood.

**[13:12] Serizawa**

So grand that we spent it all drinking.

**[13:16] Nio**

Wh-What are we going to do?

**[13:18] Nio**

We'll never make any money like this!

**[13:25] Hajime**

There's 10 ryo.

**[13:26] Hirayama**

What?! Did you say 10 ryo?!

**[13:28] Taro**

Whoa.

**[13:29] Harada**

I bet you won it gambling, you lucky devil.

**[13:32] Hajime**

Don't lump me in with you.

**[13:34] Harada**

I knew I smelled blood on you.

**[13:36] Hajime**

Shut up.

**[13:45] Kondo**

This still isn't nearly enough.

**[13:47] Nagakura**

Only the children turned a profit.

**[13:50] Todo**

We'll never...

**[13:52] Okita**

...get those coats made.

**[13:54] Yamanami**

No.

**[13:56] Yamanami**

We borrowed the full  
250 ryo from the Aizu Domain.

**[13:59] Nio**

Yamanami-san! Niimi-san!

**[14:05] Nio**

Which means...

**[14:09] Nio**

We can make the coats!

**[14:14] Hijikata**

Always a step ahead.

**[14:16] Yamanami**

It's a loan with no interest or due date.

**[14:19] Yamanami**

It seems the Shogun's influence  
worked in our favor.

**[14:23] Hijikata**

I see. Then we owe Nio.

**[14:26] Harada**

Still, I liked that old man  
we met at the gambling hall.

**[14:29] Harada**

He even bought us a drink.

**[14:31] Nagakura**

Yes, he was quite an agreeable fellow.

**[14:34] Nagakura**

I hope our paths cross again.

**[14:43] Agitator**

In any case, elder, have a seat.

**[14:46] Hound**

No. Tonight, we celebrate our rising.

**[14:49] Hound**

I ought to wait till we've all assembled.

**[14:52] Ayame**

I'm sure the others will be late.

**[14:55] Ayame**

Let's start without them.

**[14:58] Naozumi**

Make merry. We'll drink this night away.

**[15:01] Ayame**

Well, we're already drinking.

**[15:03] Naozumi**

What do you say we wash down  
the wine with words?

**[15:10] Naozumi**

We, the Blood Risshidan,  
have our target: the Miburo.

**[15:15] Agitator**

Oh?

**[15:16] Naozumi**

Listen, I've got an idea.

**[15:19] Naozumi**

Here's the plan.

**[15:21] Naozumi**

Who's there?

**[15:26] Nagi**

Naozumi-niisan, it's me, Nagi.

**[15:29] Naozumi**

Oh, Nagi.

**[15:30] Naozumi**

You may have married my brother,  
but that's no excuse for eavesdropping.

**[15:34] Nagi**

I bought some fine tofu.  
Don't you like tofu?

**[15:39] Naozumi**

N-Now's not the time!

**[15:41] Nagi**

My.

**[15:43] Naozumi**

Women don't belong near the dojo.

**[15:45] Nagi**

Yes, yes.

**[15:49] Nagi**

What to do?

**[15:50] Yotaro**

Nagi-san.

**[15:53] Yotaro**

You shouldn't slip out of bed like that.

**[15:55] Yotaro**

It's bad for the baby.

**[15:58] Nagi**

Yotaro-san.

**[16:00] Nagi**

Uh, your brother and  
his friends are in the dojo—

**[16:02] Yotaro**

Don't worry. You can leave them to me.

**[16:17] Nagi**

How was it?

**[16:18] Yotaro**

Don't move, Nagi-san.

**[16:20] Yotaro**

It's over. Everything's fine now.

**[16:22] Nagi**

Is it really?

**[16:23] Yotaro**

Yeah. Let's turn in. It's getting late.

**[16:30] Nagi**

Something's been bothering me.

**[16:32] Yotaro**

You startled me.

**[16:34] Yotaro**

What's bothering you?

**[16:35] Nagi**

It's been two months since  
your father left so suddenly.

**[16:39] Yotaro**

Yes, it has.

**[16:40] Nagi**

It's strange.

**[16:42] Nagi**

He used to visit the dojo every day.

**[16:45] Yotaro**

You know my father.

**[16:47] Yotaro**

Maybe he went off on a training journey  
without telling anyone.

**[16:51] Nagi**

That's not all.

**[16:52] Nagi**

It's also the way the students  
in the dojo look at you.

**[16:56] Yotaro**

At me?

**[16:57] Nagi**

They, well... It's like they're mocking you.

**[17:01] Nagi**

They act almost contemptuous, I suppose.

**[17:03] Yotaro**

You can tell, Nagi-san?

**[17:05] Nagi**

I can. And I don't just mean a handful.

**[17:09] Nagi**

So many people from who-knows-where  
have started visiting, like those men in there.

**[17:16] Yotaro**

True.

**[17:17] Nagi**

It all started when Naozumi-san  
returned from his tour of the country.

**[17:23] Yotaro**

True.

**[17:24] (Flashback) Yotaro**

My brother seems to be enjoying himself.  
Maybe I should ask him to let me join in.

**[17:29] (Flashback) Naozumi**

I have no business with you.

**[17:31] (Flashback) Ayame**

Go away. You're killing the mood.

**[17:35] (Flashback) Yotaro**

I... I guess I'll try another time.

**[17:42] Yotaro**

Okay, my mind's made up.

I'll talk things out with my brother.

**[17:45] Yotaro**

So try to relax and focus on  
giving birth to a healthy child.

**[17:52] Nagi**

All right.

**[18:00] Yotaro**

Yes, good. Shout nice and loud.

**[18:08] Yotaro**

Nishimura-san, did you hurt your wrist?

**[18:12] Yotaro**

Did you get in a fight?

You need to stop that.

**[18:15] Yotaro**

You're a strong man. If you draw  
your sword in the heat of the moment—

**[18:21] Yotaro**

D-Did I offend you? I'm sorry.

**[18:31] Yotaro**

*I certainly have a hard road ahead.*

**[18:35] Naozumi**

We'll make this city  
of Kyoto our battlefield.

**[18:41] Naozumi**

That leaves one problem:  
how to talk Yotaro around.

**[18:50] Nagi**

*Mother, please protect me.*

**[18:54] Bunshichi**

M-Mistress!

**[18:59] Bunshichi**

I thought I'd find you here on her deathday.

**[19:03] Nagi**

What has you so flustered?

**[19:05] Bunshichi**

The night before last, a man  
caused trouble near Nijo Castle,

**[19:09] Bunshichi**

then bit through his tongue and died.

**[19:12] Bunshichi**

The magistrate wants to know  
if he was one of our students.

**[19:19] Bunshichi**

M-Mistress! You shouldn't run!

**[19:29] (Flashback) Naozumi**

Our target: the Miburo.

**[19:32] Nagi**

*What are the "Miburo"?*

**[19:35] (Flashback) Mother-in-Law**

Nagi-san, look after this place.

**[19:41] Nagi**

*I know something's about to happen.*

**[19:44] Nagi**

*Something dreadful.*

**[19:48] Nagi**

E-Excuse me. Let me see.

**[19:51] Nio**

Thank you for yesterday, Yotaro-san.

**[19:55] Yotaro**

It's so good to see you.

**[19:57] Yotaro**

Thank you for coming, Nio-kun.

**[19:59] Nio**

Is Nagi-san inside?

**[20:01] Yotaro**

She's probably visiting the graveyard today,  
but I think she'll be home soon.

**[20:06] Nagi**

*Nio-kun.*

**[20:07] Yotaro**

He assisted my wife yesterday.

**[20:10] Kondo**

Did he? I'm glad to hear it.

**[20:12] Nio**

Sorry for dropping in so suddenly.

**[20:15] Nio**

You see, we borrowed money  
from Aizu at the Konkai-Komyoji Temple,

**[20:18] Nio**

and are on our way back  
from thanking them.

**[20:20] Yotaro**

Oh, so you're men of Aizu?

**[20:23] Nio**

Oh, no, we're not.

**[20:25] Nio**

We're Miburo.

**[20:28] Nagi**

*Miburo?*

**[20:30] Kondo**

Still, it's always nice to be in a dojo.

**[20:33] Yotaro**

You like dojos?

**[20:34] Kondo**

Yes.

**[20:36] Yotaro**

I should've introduced myself. I'm Kyohachi Yotaro, head of the Kyohachi School here.

**[20:42] Kondo**

You run a dojo at your age?

**[20:44] Yotaro**

I'm 29.

**[20:45] Kondo**

So am I.

**[20:47] Kondo**

I have my own dojo in Edo.

**[20:49] Yotaro**

Really? You do?

**[20:50] Kondo**

Would you care to spar?

**[20:52] Yotaro**

That's a great idea.

I'd love to learn from you.

**[20:55] Ayame**

Naozumi, I know Yotaro's your little brother,

**[20:58] Ayame**

but you don't *need* to put him at the head of the Risshidan.

**[21:02] Ayame**

He can't be honest with you or his wife.

Not even his students respect him.

**[21:09] Naozumi**

No, we need him.

**[21:11] Naozumi**

You don't know the real Yotaro.

**[21:14] Naozumi**

He's the only man fit to lead the Risshidan.

He's a paragon of the sword.

**[21:19] Naozumi**

He's a true martial god.

No one could ever defeat him.

**[21:23] Agitator**

And what if he loses?

**[21:28] Naozumi**

If someone can pull that off,

**[21:31] Naozumi**

he'll be more than any of us can handle.

**SIGN** Like

**SIGN** a

River's

Flow

**SIGN** Next time

**[23:24] Kondo**

It is I, Kondo Isami.

**[23:26] Kondo**

I always like a dojo, and I like to match blades with skilled opponents even more.

**[23:31] Kondo**

For my Shieikan in Edo,  
and for the Miburo, I must master the way.

**[23:38] Kondo**

I shall hone my techniques,  
strengthen my body, and temper my spirit.

**[23:43] Kondo**

Next time: "To Battle."

**[23:45] Kondo**

It is not to be missed.

**SIGN** To Battle

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