

# 16 - To Battle

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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] Ayame**

Naozumi, I know Yotaro's  
your little brother,

**[00:03] Ayame**

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

**[00:07] Ayame**

He can't be honest with you or his wife.  
Not even his students respect him.

**[00:14] Naozumi**

No, we need him.

**[00:16] Naozumi**

You don't know the real Yotaro.

**[00:19] Naozumi**

He's the only man fit to lead the Risshidan.  
He's a paragon of the sword.

**[00:24] Naozumi**

He's a true martial god.  
No one could ever defeat him.

**SIGN** Kyohachi School

**[00:29] Student A**

Best of three!

**[00:31] Student A**

Bow!

**[00:33] Student A**

Kondo Isami of the Mibu Roshigumi

**[00:36] Student A**

versus Kyohachi Yotaro,  
head of the Kyohachi School.

**[00:41] Nio**

*He doesn't always have it  
together, but even so...*

**[00:45] (Flashback) Hijikata**

If you want to learn swordsmanship here,

**[00:48] (Flashback) Hijikata**

Speak to him.

**[00:49] (Flashback) Kondo**

Start here.

**[00:51] (Flashback) Kondo**

End here.

**[00:53] Student A**

Begin!

**[00:59] Nio**

*I finally get to see how Kondo-san fights.*

**SIGN** Blue Miburo

**SIGN** Blue Miburo

**SIGN** Blue Miburo

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**[02:37] Nio**

They've begun.

**[02:38] Hajime**

Seigan.

**[02:39] Nio**

"Say gone"?

**[02:40] Hajime**

It's a basic stance.

**[02:42] Hajime**

They watch to see what the other does first.

**[02:44] Nio**

O-Oh, I see.

**[02:46] Student B**

Don't you think this'll be tough  
on the young sensei?

**[02:49] Student C**

I'm worried. That fellow looks strong.

**[02:53] Nio**

*Not even Yotaro-san's students  
have faith in him.*

**[03:01] Nio**

H-He changed stance.

**[03:03] Nio**

Hajime-kun, what's that one?

**[03:05] Hajime**

Stop bugging me. Shut up and watch.

**[03:09] Nio**

*Was that Kondo-san?*

**[03:14] Nio**

He attacking!

**[03:15] Hajime**

*He's fast.*

**[03:21] Nio**

H-He blocked it. Thank goodness.

**[03:35] Naozumi**

Good luck trying to parry  
Yotaro's flurries of blows.

**[03:39] Naozumi**

At first sight, it's virtually impossible.

**[03:47] Nio**

He got him!

**[03:49] Hajime**

No.

**[03:51] Hajime**

Pops is parrying every blow.

**[03:55] Nio**

What? That *wasn't* a clean hit?

**[03:57] Hajime**

Be quiet.

**[04:00] Nio**

K-Kondo-san has the edge. He's incredible.

**[04:05] Hajime**

*So Pops has the edge in strength.*

**[04:16] Student A**

Point to Kyohachi.

**[04:18] Nio**

What? How?

**[04:20] Hajime**

He hit his forearm. Shallow but clean.

**[04:23] Student B**

Hey, now. Is that really the young sensei?  
He's like a different person.

**[04:28] Student C**

Has he always been this good?

**[04:33] Hajime**

He must be what they call a "natural."

**[04:35] Hajime**

This guy's something special.

**[04:37] Nio**

You mean he's a prodigy, like Okita-san?

**[04:40] Hajime**

No, a little more serious.

**[04:42] Nio**

Serious how?

**[04:43] Student A**

Round two, begin!

**[04:46] Nio**

The match is a best of three.  
It all hangs on this round.

**[04:52] Nio**

It's one-sided again.

**[04:55] Yotaro**

What's the matter, Kondo-san?

**[04:56] Yotaro**

It's over for you if you don't strike back.

**[05:07] Hajime**

Kami-ashi footwork.

**[05:12] Nio**

He dodged it!

**[05:13] Yotaro**

*You're wide open!*

**[05:17] Student**

P-Point. Body strike!

**[05:22] Nio**

Yes! Kondo-san took that round.

**[05:26] Student B**

H-He pushed him with his arm.

**[05:28] Student C**

What kind of swordsmanship  
is that? Is it even allowed?

**[05:31] Hajime**

Idiots. There are no rules  
in a fight to the death.

**[05:35] Hajime**

*Still, Pops is nimbler than I thought.*

**[05:40] (Flashback) Young Hajime**

A friend?

**[05:42] (Flashback) Young Hajime**

What's this Kondo guy like?

**[05:45] (Flashback) Saito**

Good question. In short, he seeks...

**[05:49] (Flashback) Saito**

the "way."

**[05:53] Kondo**

Thank you for giving me round two.

**[05:55] Yotaro**

Oh, um...

**[05:56] Student D**

A courtesy?

**[05:57] Student E**

I see.

**[05:59] Student F**

That's our sensei. Always a gentleman.

**[06:01] Yotaro**

*But I was fighting seriously.*

**[06:05] Students**

Either way, this visitor is no slouch.

**[06:08] Students**

He's the real deal.

**[06:16] (Flashback) Child A**

Shogoro's the best!

**[06:17] (Flashback) Child B**

He's never lost a fight!

**[06:20] (Flashback) Crowd**

Did you hear he took down a boar this time?

**[06:22] (Flashback) Crowd**

What is he, a tengu?

**[06:23] (Flashback) Crowd**

A martial god?

**[06:24] (Flashback) Crowd**

Bishamonten himself?

**[06:28] (Flashback) Villager**

This is Kondo Shusuke-sensei.

**[06:30] (Flashback) Villager**

He came all this way just to meet you.

**[06:33] (Flashback) Villager**

He's strong.

**[06:34] (Flashback) Shusuke**

What would you say to going  
a few rounds with me?

**[06:45] (Flashback) Shusuke**

Did you think you could thrash my old bones?

**SIGN** Shieikan

**[06:49] (Flashback) Shusuke**

From now on, your name is Kondo Isami.

**[06:52] (Flashback) Shusuke**

And the Shieikan is your dojo.

**[06:56] (Flashback) Shusuke**

Accept all comers.

**[06:58] (Flashback) Shusuke**

This is a gathering place for  
those who wish to master the way.

**[07:03] (Flashback) Shusuke**

Hone your technique, strengthen  
your body, and temper your spirit.

**[07:09] (Flashback) Shusuke**

And never forget, Isami:

**[07:12] (Flashback) Shusuke**

You are weak.

**[07:14] (Flashback) Shusuke**

Everything begins from there.

**[07:23] Nio**

H-He's laughing?

**[07:26] Student A**

Round three, begin!

**[07:28] Kondo**

The world is vast.

**[07:29] Kondo**

Many strong fighters still lie sleeping.

**[07:35] Students**

D-Daijodan?

**[07:37] Students**

What a daring stance.

**[07:39] Nio**

What's "daijodan"?

**[07:41] Hajime**

No stance lets you strike faster  
or land a hit easier.

**[07:44] Hajime**

But it leaves your body wide open.

**[07:47] Nio**

So it's all about offense then?

**[07:52] Student C**

The young sensei has taken up a gedan stance!

**[07:54] Student B**

Another bold choice.

**[07:57] Nio**

A-And what's a "gedan" stance?

**[08:01] Hajime**

Gedan keeps your arms low, so it's easier  
to bide your time, but strikes come out slow.

**[08:08] Hajime**

Put simply, it's a defensive stance.

**[08:10] Nio**

So Kondo-san will attack,  
and Yotaro-san will defend?

**[08:14] Hajime**

Pretty much no one would use  
either stance in a real fight.

**[08:20] Nio**

What next?

**[08:46] Kondo**

You baited a blow to the face  
to counter with one of your own?

**[08:51] Kondo**

Magnificent.

**[08:53] Student A**

Point to Kyohachi. Contest over.

**[08:57] Student D**

He won!

**[08:58] Student E**

What a move.

**[08:59] Students**

I've never seen a counter like that.

**[09:06] Nio**

Th-They moved so fast,  
I couldn't follow it.

**[09:09] Hajime**

That guy really is strong.

**[09:12] Nio**

Kondo-san lost.

**[09:17] Nio**

Huh?

**[09:19] Kondo**

I learned a lot from you today.

**[09:21] Yotaro**

Oh, no. Not as much as I learned from you.

**[09:24] Kondo**

There's a big, wide world out there,  
full of swordsmen I've yet to meet.

**[09:28] Kondo**

I am weak, and that's enough  
to make life worth living.

**[09:32] Kondo**

Please teach me, all of you.

**[09:34] Students**

Oh, no. We couldn't.

**[09:38] Students**

I've never seen a guy so tough act so humble.

**[09:41] Kondo**

No, I'm weak.

**[09:42] Student F**

Sensei! I never knew  
you were hiding your strength.

**[09:45] Yotaro**

No, I really haven't been.

**[09:48] Student D**

I worried what would become of this dojo  
when the old sensei up and vanished.

**[09:53] Student E**

Same. But it's in good hands.

**[10:07] Yotaro**

I'm sorry Nagi's running late.

**[10:09] Yotaro**

Maybe she went shopping.

**[10:12] Nio**

No, that's all right. We'll come again.

**[10:20] Kondo**

Well then, if you'll excuse us...

**[10:22] Nio**

Thank you for everything.

**[10:28] Yotaro**

*What mighty blows.*

*My hands are still trembling.*

**[10:36] Yotaro**

*Kondo Isami. Things would have gone  
differently if we'd fought with steel.*

**[10:42] Nagi**

Nio-kun!

**[10:46] Nio**

Nagi-san!

**[10:47] Nagi**

I'm so sorry. I was out.

**[10:49] Nio**

Oh, please don't run.

**[10:51] Nio**

I'll come to you.

**[10:54] Nio**

We were just leaving.

**[10:56] Nagi**

Okay. I just got back.

**[10:59] Nio**

I'm really glad I got to see you.

**[11:02] Nagi**

Yes, so am I.

**[11:05] Nagi**

So you're with the Miburo, Nio-kun?

**[11:08] Nio**

Yes, we are.

**[11:10] Nio**

It's our job to keep Kyoto safe.

**[11:15] (Flashback) Naozumi**

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

**[11:24] Nagi**

What fine, upstanding work.

**[11:26] Nio**

Excuse me.

**[11:28] Nio**

Are you all right?

**[11:29] Nagi**

Huh?

**[11:30] Nio**

Oh, I just wondered  
because you look a little pale.

**[11:35] Nagi**

No, I'm fine.

**[11:37] Nagi**

Nothing's the matter.

**[11:38] Nio**

What? Really?

**[11:41] Nagi**

Really.

**[11:43] Nio**

Sorry. My mistake.

**[11:46] Nagi**

It's no problem.

**[11:48] Nio**

Do you, um, mind if I come visit you again?

**[11:53] Nagi**

Well, take care on your way home.

**[11:56] Nio**

Oh, right.

**[12:05] Nio**

Nagi-san!

**[12:09] Nagi**

What's wrong? Did you forget something?

**[12:11] Nio**

Oh, no.

**[12:12] Nio**

You see, um, my granny's amazing.

**[12:17] Nio**

She makes amazing dango,  
she's good at business,

**[12:21] Nio**

she sews her own kimono, she's a great cook,

**[12:24] Nio**

and she makes a good midwife, too,  
if you can believe it.

**[12:30] Nio**

If you ever need help with anything,  
don't hesitate to ask.

**[12:37] Nio**

Bye.

**[12:40] Hajime**

Nio, what's taking you so long?

**[12:42] Nio**

Ah, sorry.

**[13:09] (Flashback) Customer A**

A samurai just jumped in!

**[13:11] (Flashback) Customer B**

Into the freezing cold river?

**[13:12] (Flashback) Customer C**

Is he nuts?

**[13:19] (Flashback) Yotaro**

Here.

**[13:21] (Flashback) Nagi**

E-Excuse me...

**[13:22] (Flashback) Yotaro**

Ah, the water feels warmer  
than the air when it's this cold out.

**[13:30] Nagi**

*Sorry, Nio-kun.*

**[13:32] Nagi**

*All I can do now is keep this house safe.*

**[13:38] Nagi**

*I believe in Yotaro-san.*

**[13:49] Yotaro**

I don't believe it.

**[13:52] Naozumi**

The authorities already know  
about the scuffle at Nijo Castle.

**[13:58] Naozumi**

They know Kyohachi students were behind it.

**[14:01] Naozumi**

As head of the dojo,

don't you feel responsible?

**[14:11] Naozumi**

So we're all here at last.

**[14:14] Naozumi**

The Hound.

**[14:16] Naozumi**

The Agitator.

**[14:18] Naozumi**

The Lily.

**[14:20] Naozumi**

The Firework Maker.

**[14:22] Naozumi**

The Fiend.

**[14:24] Naozumi**

The Quiet.

**[14:26] Naozumi**

The Fool.

**[14:28] Naozumi**

And the Samurai.

**[14:31] Naozumi**

We strike in three days.

**[14:33] Naozumi**

On the night of the new moon,  
we, the Blood Risshidan,

**[14:37] Naozumi**

will take back the age of the samurai!

**[14:48] Nio**

What's the right word  
to stand for the Miburo?

**[14:52] Hajime**

You're the only one still  
thinking about it so seriously.

**[14:56] Nio**

That's not true.

I'm sure we're all using our heads.

**[15:00] Nio**

But it sure is hard to settle on something.

**SIGN** New

**[15:03] Nio**

"New" might be nice.

**[15:06] Nio**

Oh, it's a new moon tonight.  
The stars should be gorgeous.

**[15:10] Hajime**

Like I care.

**[15:11] Nio**

By the way, it's been three days

since we visited Yotaro-san's dojo.

**[15:15] Nio**

How do you think Nagi-san's doing?

**[15:18] Nio**

I hope she's not in trouble.

**[15:19] Hajime**

Nio.

**[15:23] Hajime**

You might want to stop  
having that woman's back.

**[15:28] Nio**

Why?

**[15:29] Hajime**

Lots of reasons.

**[15:31] Nio**

Like what? Tell me!

**[15:32] Hajime**

Lots of reasons!

**[15:34] Todo**

It's a woman. A woman came to visit.

**[15:38] Nio**

Who is she?

**[15:40] Nio**

Is it Nagi-san?

**[15:41] Todo**

Beats me. I just heard it was a woman.

**[15:44] Harada**

What's that? Hijikata's brought a woman home?!

**[15:48] Harada**

Damn. When'd he get so smooth?

**[15:51] Nagakura**

H-How indecent. I won't stand for it.

**[15:54] Todo**

Is she a maiko? A geisha?

A merchant's daughter?

**[16:00] Okita**

Wow. She knows her stuff.

**[16:05] Harada**

A sword grinder!

**[16:08] Hijikata**

Yes, about that...

**[16:10] Hijikata**

She may be a woman, but she knows her trade.

**[16:13] Todo**

Who do you think you are,

bringing a woman home, Hijikata?!

**[16:17] Nagakura**

Th-That's right. We do men's  
work here. Have some decency.

**[16:20] Harada**

What a letdown! When I hear "woman,"  
I expect sex appeal!

**[16:27] Todo**

Wh-What a piercing glare.

**[16:29] Nagakura**

Yes, a childhood friend's look  
of unabashed fury.

**[16:34] Harada**

I... I know what you mean.  
*Everyone's* been through that.

**[16:39] Todo**

Uh, while we're here,  
would you take a look at my sword, too?

**[16:43] Harada**

Well, better safe than sorry.

**[16:44] Nagakura**

Yes. I don't have a sword right now,  
but I'd like some advice.

**[16:48] Hijikata**

What are you lining up for?

**[16:50] Sakura**

I'll inspect anyone's sword.  
Business is business.

**[16:54] Nio**

There aren't many woman  
swordsmiths, are there?

**[16:58] Nio**

That's amazing.

**[16:59] Sakura**

Oh, no. There's nothing amazing about me.

**[17:02] Nio**

I'm Nio. It's a pleasure to meet you.

**[17:05] Sakura**

I'm Sakura. The pleasure is mine.

**[17:08] Todo**

Hey, Nio! No fair!

**[17:10] Harada**

Get in line and wait your turn!

**[17:13] Sakura**

When it comes to swords, I'm your woman.

**[17:16] Todo; Harada; Nagakura**

Sakura-chan!

**[17:21] Yamanami**

I'm astonished. It's as though

you've breathed new life into it.

**[17:27] Inoue**

My field work will go much smoother now.

**[17:30] Harada**

A hoe? Why?

**[17:32] Hajime**

I see. It does stick in its sheath sometimes.

**[17:36] Kondo**

Give my weapon a look.

**[17:38] Kondo**

I was entrusted with  
this Kotetsu when I left Edo.

**[17:41] Sakura**

A Kotetsu?

**[17:46] Sakura**

No, this is no Kotetsu. It's a forgery.

**[17:55] Okita**

You can appraise swords, too?  
What a skill set.

**[17:58] Sakura**

When it comes to swords, I'm your woman.

**[18:00] Hirama**

What's this? A woman swordsmith?

**[18:03] Hirayama**

Did you forget to pay your  
respects to Serizawa-sensei?

**[18:13] Sakura**

Th-That blade! H-How is it signed?

**[18:16] Serizawa**

Nagasone Okisato-nyudo Kotetsu.  
It was a gift from the lord of Mito.

**[18:22] Sakura**

A Nabeshima Kotetsu!

**[18:24] Sakura**

Amazing!

**[18:25] Sakura**

I'm called Sakura.  
Please let me maintain this sword.

**[18:32] Serizawa**

I like you!

**[18:34] Serizawa**

Sakura, starting today,  
you're the Miburo's dedicated smith.

**[18:39] Sakura**

Thank you, sir.

**[18:41] Sakura**

Although I'll still charge you in full.

**[18:45] Nio**

Wh-What a businesswoman.

**[18:47] Hijikata**

She didn't waste any time  
winning over the top dog.

**[18:50] Serizawa**

Meet our new comrade!

**[18:52] Todo**

Way to go, Sakura-chan!

**[18:53] Harada**

Glad to have you!

**[18:58] Taro**

Look at them party.  
Do some work, why don'cha?

**SIGN** Challenge

**[19:13] Naozumi**

Give this to them.

**SIGN** Challenge

**SIGN** Challenge

**SIGN** Challenge

**[19:27] Taro**

W-W-W-W-We...

**[19:30] Taro**

We've got an emergency!

**[19:32] Hijikata**

What's wrong?

**[19:35] Taro**

Th-That Naozumi guy just showed up  
and said to give you this letter.

**[19:40] Nio**

Naozumi-san? Here?

**[19:41] Okita**

That man we met?

**[19:43] Hijikata**

Give it here.

**[19:47] Serizawa**

What's the fuss?

**[19:50] Nio**

Wh-What does it say?

**[19:52] Hijikata**

"Tonight, at the hour of the boar, we will  
collapse the seven bridges on the Kamo River,"

**[19:57] Hijikata**

"and set fire to Kyoto.  
Signed, the Blood Risshidan."

**[20:02] Sakura**

Huh?

**[20:03] Hajime**

Damn it. It's that dojo.

They made the first move.

**[20:07] Nio**

Dojo? Nagi-san's place? What do you mean?

**[20:11] Hijikata**

That dojo, the Kyohachi School, is their base.

**[20:15] Nio**

What?

**[20:17] Hijikata**

The day you went there...

**[20:23] Hijikata**

Hajime spotted their lackeys  
among the students and consulted me.

**[20:29] Hijikata**

The two of us have spent  
the last three days investigating.

**[20:33] Hijikata**

We found out Naozumi and his gang  
have been visiting the place.

**[20:37] Nio**

Why didn't you tell me sooner?

**[20:41] Hijikata**

Don't blame Hajime.

**[20:43] Hijikata**

He was thinking of you, Nio.

**[20:50] Nagakura**

Let's go!

**[20:50] Harada**

Bring your swords!

**[20:52] Nagakura**

No lanterns. They'll give us away.

**[20:55] Nagakura**

Fire will spread swiftly in  
this wind. We must hurry!

**[20:59] Nagakura**

Right!

**[21:01] Kondo**

Nio.

**[21:04] Kondo**

This is yours.

**[21:06] Nio**

Yes, sir!

**[21:08] Hijikata**

Sakura, you stay here.

**[21:10] Sakura**

I'm going with you.

**[21:11] Serizawa**

Hijikata!

**[21:14] Nio**

A map?

**[21:15] Serizawa**

You take command.

**[21:20] Hijikata**

We'll assign men to each bridge.

Don't let anyone across!

**[21:24] Hijikata**

Nio! You hold the center!

Can you handle it?

**[21:27] Nio**

Yes, sir!

**[21:31] Naozumi**

Now...

**[21:34] Naozumi**

Let's get started.

**[21:37] Hijikata**

Get moving! Run!

**SIGN** To Battle

**SIGN** Next time

**[23:20] Serizawa**

I'm Serizawa Kamo.

**[23:23] Serizawa**

The Blood Risshidan?

**[23:24] Serizawa**

Only a bunch of scoundrels  
would set out to torch Kyoto.

**[23:29] Serizawa**

I'll put them in their place.

**[23:33] Serizawa**

Come on, men. Run! Run!

**[23:36] Serizawa**

A hero's coming through!

**[23:39] Serizawa**

Let's finish this quick and  
go on a drinking spree.

**[23:44] Serizawa**

Next time: "A Place to Belong."

**SIGN** A

Place

**SIGN** to

Belong

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