

22 - Those Who Struggle

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

Translator:

Editor:

Timer:

QC:

(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.)

[00:11] Lesser Aizu Samurai

Fire!

[00:16] Taro

What do we do? It's all gonna burn.

[00:18] Hirosawa

Throw water over the nearby buildings.

If that fails, tear them down.

[00:22] Hirosawa

Don't let it spread!

[00:23] Taro

Kondo-san!

[00:24] Kondo

Taro, what's going on here?

[00:26] Taro

Nothing good! The fire's gonna spread!

And I can't find Nio for some reason.

[00:30] Taro

Gimme a hand here.

[00:31] Kondo

Hand me that.

[00:32] Taro

Huh?

[00:37] Kondo

I swear, I will stop this fire!

[00:41] Taro

There he goes!

[00:43] Lesser Aizu Samurai

That's Kondo of the Miburo!

[00:45] Lesser Aizu Samurai

Follow him, men!

[00:48] Nio

Granny!

[00:49] Nio

Granny, it's an emergency!

[00:53] Nio

Come on, Granny! Wake up!

[00:56] Granny

What is it, Nio?

[00:58] Granny

It's too late for all this fuss.

[01:02] Granny

What happened to you?

[01:06] Nagi

It hurts. It hurts.

[01:08] Granny

What? She's in labor?

[01:10] Nagi

It hurts. It hurts.

[01:12] Granny

I'll take a look.

[01:14] Nio

You'll be all right now, Nagi-san.

[01:17] Granny

Uh-oh. The baby's already crowning.

[01:19] Granny

You men, carry her in!

[01:22] Harada

Right!

[01:22] Nagakura

Okay!

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

SIGN Blue Miburo

[03:00] Serizawa

A fire across the river?

[03:06] Serizawa

Wasn't your plan to burn down the *city*?

[03:12] Serizawa

Oh, I get it. You're burning down
your "cursed house."

[03:18] Serizawa

Well, I know how you feel.

[03:21] Serizawa

Being born to samurai stock
is a kind of curse.

[03:25] Serizawa

I couldn't help noticing
your underlings don't look so young.

[03:30] Serizawa

Frustrated with a world at peace?

[03:33] Serizawa

Afraid of rotting away
without accomplishing anything?

[03:37] Naozumi

Shut your mouth.

[03:39] Serizawa

Are you giving them a place
to die like samurai?

[03:42] Naozumi

Be quiet.

[03:44] Serizawa

Will you bunglers stop wasting my time?

[03:47] Naozumi

Be quiet!

[03:50] Naozumi

Die!

[03:58] Serizawa

Watching you pisses me off.

[04:01] Serizawa

If you're that unhappy,
I'll put an end to you myself.

[04:11] Naozumi

It's been ten years...

[04:14] Naozumi

since that day.

[04:15] (Flashback) Naozumi

So long, Yotaro.

[04:19] (Flashback) Yotaro

Wait, Nii-san!

[04:23] Naozumi

*My journey east from Kyoto began
with the shock of the Black Ships.*

[04:32] (Flashback) Official A

Line sumo wrestlers up along the bank!

[04:35] (Flashback) Official A

We don't have enough cannons!

[04:37] (Flashback) Official A

Fetch temple bells! We'll bluff them!

[04:40] (Flashback) Official A

Grill some kusaya
and send them packing!

[04:42] (Flashback) Subordinate

But will the stench reach that far?

[04:44] (Flashback) Official A

It's the spirit of the thing!

[04:46] (Flashback) Subordinate

Yes, sir.

SIGN Uruga Magistrate's Office

[04:48] (Flashback) Naozumi

What are the authorities doing?

[04:50] (Flashback) Naozumi

Why don't they go out to battle?

[04:52] Naozumi

Uruga
Magistrate's
Office

[04:52] (Flashback) Naozumi

What are samurai *for*,
if not a time like this?

[04:55] (Flashback) Official B

Enough. Get back!

[04:56] (Flashback) Official B

If you want to go, then swim!

[05:02] (Flashback) Naozumi

It's hopeless.

[05:03] (Flashback) Naozumi

I... I thought I was a goner.

[05:06] Naozumi

The times were about to change in a big way.

[05:10] Naozumi

Swords were worthless

against those Black Ships.

[05:14] Naozumi

But what could I do?

SIGN Invincible Dojo

[05:19] Naozumi

"Invincible"?

[05:20] (Flashback) Instructor

I am the instructor here.

[05:24] (Flashback) Instructor

My ancestors served in
the famed Takeda cavalry.

[05:27] Granddaughter

Don't push yourself, Grandpa.

[05:29] (Flashback) Granddaughter

You know you can't see anymore.

[05:32] Naozumi

Even so, the way of the sword I sought...

[05:38] Naozumi

was beautiful.

[05:41] Naozumi

The sword truly was...

[05:47] Naozumi

worth spending my life on.

[06:01] Naozumi

Mastery of the sword...

[06:06] Naozumi

counted for something.

[06:08] Naozumi

I learned many things on my path to it.

[06:12] (Flashback) Ayame's Father

Don't leave the shed! Folk'll make a fuss
if they find out you're missing an arm!

[06:17] Naozumi

*Even among those known as samurai,
there were outcasts.*

[06:25] (Flashback) Naozumi

Want me to let you out of there?

[06:33] (Flashback) Naozumi

They said they planned
to sell you to a freak show.

[06:38] (Flashback) Naozumi

They were a disgrace
to samurai everywhere.

[06:41] (Flashback) Naozumi

I killed them all.

[06:46] (Flashback) Naozumi

I'm Naozumi.

[06:48] (Flashback) Naozumi

If you don't like it,
try and settle the score someday.

[06:54] Naozumi

There were people struggling to get by.

[07:03] (Flashback) Naozumi

Don't worry.

[07:05] (Flashback) Naozumi

We've just got to build up our strength.

SIGN Risshi

SIGN Aspire

[07:20] Naozumi

I dubbed us the Risshidan.

[07:23] (Flashback) Naozumi

I know our day will come!

[07:29] Naozumi

*But despite biding our time,
the Shogunate never took action.*

[07:34] Naozumi

*The 14th shogun, Iemochi, took over,
and still nothing changed.*

[07:40] (Flashback) Naozumi

What the hell have we been training for?

[07:43] (Flashback) Agitator

They say Kyoto is the seat
of government these days.

[07:47] (Flashback) Hound

We can start something if we go there.

[07:50] (Flashback) Naozumi

Wait a little while longer.
I'll be in touch.

[07:53] Naozumi

*But another cruel betrayal
awaited me there.*

SIGN Kyohachi School

SIGN Kyohachi School

[07:59] (Flashback) Naozumi

Ten years, and this place
hasn't changed a bit.

[08:01] (Flashback) Nagi

Oh, goodness.

[08:03] (Flashback) Nagi

Might you be Yotaro-san's brother?

[08:12] (Flashback) Nagi

I knew it. I'm right, aren't I?

[08:15] (Flashback) Nagi

Yotaro-san told me

you were a real man's man.

[08:20] (Flashback) Naozumi

Who are you?

[08:22] (Flashback) Nagi

My name is Nagi.

[08:24] (Flashback) Nagi

I am Yotaro-san's wife.

[08:26] (Flashback) Naozumi

Wife?

[08:29] (Flashback) Yotaro

What? N-Naozumi-niisan?

[08:32] (Flashback) Yotaro

Yikes! That forehead scar!

[08:34] (Flashback) Naozumi

Yotaro.

[08:35] (Flashback) Yotaro

Oh, um...

[08:39] (Flashback) Naozumi

You haven't changed, either.

[08:41] (Flashback) Naozumi

I'm just passing through.

[08:42] (Flashback) Yotaro

Wait.

[08:43] (Flashback) Yotaro

You came all this way. At least come in.

[08:46] (Flashback) Yotaro

Father will be delighted.

[08:48] (Flashback) Naozumi

There's no need.

[08:49] (Flashback) Yotaro

Don't be like that.

[08:51] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Feast your eyes! I made a wooden horse!

[08:54] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Put my grandson on it when he's born!

[08:58] (Flashback) Nagi

My, how lovely.

[09:01] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Aren't you...

[09:05] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Naozumi.

[09:06] (Flashback) Naoyasu

It's been too long.

It's good to see you again—

[09:10] (Flashback) Yotaro

Father, you shouldn't get up so suddenly.

[09:13] (Flashback) Naozumi

What's wrong with you?

[09:15] (Flashback) Naoyasu

A little issue with my lungs.

[09:17] (Flashback) Naoyasu

But enough about that.

[09:19] (Flashback) Naoyasu

I'm going to be a grandfather.

[09:21] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Don't you want to see the baby, Naozumi?

[09:24] (Flashback) Naoyasu

We've had our differences,
but let's let bygones be bygones.

[09:30] (Flashback) Naoyasu

I can't die yet.

[09:32] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Not till I get to see
my grandson come of age.

[09:35] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Now, I'd better stop by the dojo before—

[09:39] (Flashback) Nagi

You mustn't push yourself, Father.

[09:42] (Flashback) Naozumi

When did he lose his backbone?

[09:45] (Flashback) Naozumi

He's like a different person.

[09:47] (Flashback) Yotaro

That just goes to show how long it's been.

[09:51] (Flashback) Yotaro

An illness took Mother three years ago.

[09:55] (Flashback) Yotaro

I wish I'd had some way to tell you.

[10:00] (Flashback) Naozumi

I'll go train in the dojo.

[10:01] (Flashback) Yotaro

Sure.

[10:16] (Flashback) Naozumi

What are all these halfhearted shouts?

[10:20] (Flashback) Nagi

Here. You must all be tired.

[10:22] (Flashback) Nagi

I made onigiri.

[10:24] (Flashback) Student D

Oh, I was just getting hungry.

[10:26] (Flashback) Student E

Time for a break.

[10:27] (Flashback) Naozumi

Is this a *hobbyists'* dojo?

Did you all come here to play?!

[10:31] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Line up! I'll beat some guts back into you!

[10:36] (Flashback) Yotaro

Wait, Nii-san.

[10:37] (Flashback) Yotaro

Now, now, now.

[10:38] (Flashback) Naozumi

Let go of me, Yotaro.

[10:40] (Flashback) Yotaro

You must be worn out from your journey.

[10:42] (Flashback) Naozumi

I'm not tired!

[10:43] (Flashback) Yotaro

Let's have a drink for old times' sake.

[10:45] (Flashback) Naoyasu

You can't hold your alcohol!

[10:47] Yotaro

Now, now, now, now.

[10:50] (Flashback) Nagi

What good friends they are.

[11:05] (Flashback) Naozumi

At least *you've* kept up your training.

[11:08] (Flashback) Yotaro

Oh, no. I have a long way to go.

[11:11] (Flashback) Yotaro

I don't risk my life like you do.

[11:14] (Flashback) Naozumi

By the way, about that woman...

[11:17] (Flashback) Yotaro

You mean Nagi?

[11:18] (Flashback) Naozumi

She doesn't seem all there.

What family is she from?

[11:22] (Flashback) Yotaro

She's adopted, and I hear
she had a hard childhood.

[11:26] (Flashback) Yotaro

We met by chance,
and Mother took a liking to her.

[11:30] (Flashback) Naozumi

She doesn't have samurai blood?

[11:32] (Flashback) Yotaro

No, but she's a lovely person.

[11:34] (Flashback) Yotaro

I know you'll warm up to her, too.

[11:39] (Flashback) Yotaro

Nii-san?

[11:40] Naozumi

Not even the blood is left.

[11:42] Naozumi

What part of this family is samurai now?

[11:48] (Flashback) Naozumi

I'll set things right.

[11:52] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Mmm, so soft and sweet.

I can't get enough.

[11:57] (Flashback) Naozumi

What are you eating?

[12:00] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Castella. I sent for it from Nagasaki.

[12:03] (Flashback) Naozumi

That's foreign junk!

[12:05] (Flashback) Naozumi

What are you, a traitor?

[12:07] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Want a bite?

[12:08] (Flashback) Naozumi

Never!

[12:10] (Flashback) Naoyasu

What do you want?

[12:11] (Flashback) Naozumi

How many times do I have to tell you?

Let my comrades into the dojo.

[12:16] (Flashback) Naozumi

Real warriors with grit, each of them.

They'll help this dojo shape up.

[12:20] (Flashback) Naoyasu

No.

[12:22] (Flashback) Naozumi

And why not?

[12:24] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Naozumi, all you've ever done is rebel.

[12:29] (Flashback) Naozumi

I stick to my principles.

Like a samurai should.

[12:33] (Flashback) Naozumi

You taught me that.

[12:36] (Flashback) Naoyasu

What a relic.

[12:40] (Flashback) Naozumi

What?

[12:46] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Look at it fly. That's the stuff.

[12:50] (Flashback) Naoyasu

My grandson will love it.

[12:53] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Tell me, Naozumi.

[12:55] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Is a life like this really so bad?

[12:58] (Flashback) Naozumi

Who are you to talk?

[13:00] (Flashback) Naozumi

You told me to live
with pride as a samurai's son.

[13:03] (Flashback) Naozumi

To be ready and alert
for battle at any time!

[13:10] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Times change. And people
must change with them.

[13:14] (Flashback) Naozumi

All you've done is go soft.

[13:16] (Flashback) Naozumi

You're no longer a samurai.

[13:18] (Flashback) Naoyasu

There's a new age coming.

[13:21] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Samurai need to adjust to it.

[13:24] (Flashback) Naoyasu

You won't draw anyone
with strict discipline at this point.

[13:28] Naozumi

Was he always so small?

[13:31] (Flashback) Naoyasu

The age of the sword will end soon.

[13:34] Naozumi

This is a betrayal.

[13:36] (Flashback) Naoyasu

You've traveled Japan. Broadened your horizons.
You should know it better than me.

[13:41] (Flashback) Naozumi

So now you pull the ladder out from under me?

[13:45] (Flashback) Naozumi

Oh, really? So you're done with "relics."

[13:48] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Tell me, Naozumi.

[13:50] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Will you start over?

[13:52] (Flashback) Naoyasu

It's not too—

[13:59] (Flashback) Naozumi

The oldest relic here is you.

[14:03] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Nao—

[14:15] (Flashback) Yotaro

Oh, Nii-san.

[14:17] (Flashback) Yotaro

I haven't seen Father since yesterday.

[14:20] (Flashback) Naozumi

Don't ask me.

[14:23] Naozumi

I can't turn back now.

[14:27] (Flashback) Naozumi

I've made up my mind.

[14:32] (Flashback) Naozumi

We'll do it ourselves.

[14:39] Naozumi

The times will change, will they?

[14:44] (Flashback) Risshidan A

Can I go on like this?

[14:50] (Flashback) Risshidan A

I'm the third son of a samurai,
stuck living at home.

[14:53] (Flashback) Risshidan A

I've let the years go by,
always believing my time would come.

[14:59] (Flashback) Risshidan A

If nothing changes, I'll die in my sleep.
That doesn't sit right with me.

[15:07] (Flashback) Risshidan A

Look at all our comrades here.
People like me.

[15:14] Naozumi

That's fine for those who can adjust.

[15:17] Naozumi

But...

[15:19] (Flashback) Ayame

They're all pieces of shit.

[15:21] (Flashback) Ayame

They only judge by appearances.

[15:24] (Flashback) Agitator

Perhaps they won't listen to me
because I haven't cultivated a reputation.

[15:28] (Flashback) Hound

I have no home left to return to.

[15:31] (Flashback) Fiend

We fought a duel, but only I did time.

The other guy had money.

[15:35] (Flashback) Firework Maker

Let's light some fireworks.

[15:37] (Flashback) Firework Maker

I can't do what I like back home!

[15:42] Naozumi

What about the people left behind?

[15:45] Serizawa

They're not needed.

[15:47] Serizawa

Let the good-for-nothings die.

[15:50] Naozumi

I can't die.

[15:53] Naozumi

I won't back down.

[15:56] Naozumi

What will happen to them if I do?

[16:00] Serizawa

You're already at a dead end.

[16:02] Serizawa

The only way forward leads to ruin.

[16:05] Naozumi

Serizawa, I'm nothing like you.

[16:09] Naozumi

I won't run.

[16:11] Serizawa

Enough.

[16:13] Serizawa

This is the end.

[16:15] Naozumi

I may be fighting the times,

[16:17] Naozumi

but I'll struggle to the bitter end!

[16:20] Serizawa

Enough yapping!

[16:36] Naozumi

I beat him.

[16:39] Naozumi

I've won.

[16:50] Naozumi

I'm not like him.

[16:52] Naozumi

Spineless old man.

[16:55] Naozumi

I've won. I kept struggling to the end.

[17:01] Naozumi

I fought this "new era" to the last.

[17:06] Serizawa

You're finished.

[17:12] Naozumi

So are you.

[17:14] Serizawa

Me? From this?

[17:18] Serizawa

You didn't come close!

[17:21] Serizawa

Your wound is fatal.

[17:23] Serizawa

The one you gave me is barely a scratch.

[17:29] Naozumi

My sword didn't cut you.

[17:32] Serizawa

What?

[17:33] Naozumi

Haven't you realized?

[17:36] Naozumi

No, you must have.

[17:38] Naozumi

You're just pretending not to see
the blow the times have dealt you.

[17:46] Serizawa

What are you talking about?

[17:49] Naozumi

Serizawa.

[17:51] Naozumi

That wound will fester
and eat away at you one day.

[18:02] Serizawa

Be quiet.

[18:07] Yamanami

Hijikata-kun. Noguchi-kun.

[18:09] Hijikata

Is that you, Yamanami and Gen-san?

[18:12] Hijikata

You took care of your bridge?

[18:13] Yamanami

Yes.

[18:14] Niimi

We're done, too.

[18:16] Hijikata

Niimi.

[18:18] Hijikata

Hajime! Is he dead?

[18:20] Niimi

No, just sleeping. He got poisoned.

[18:22] Hijikata

Will he pull through?

[18:24] Niimi

Probably.

[18:25] Todo

Hey!

[18:26] Okita

Are you all okay?

[18:30] Hirayama

No evildoer gets by us!

[18:32] Hirama

Yeah, not a single one!

[18:33] Todo

You talk big, given *we* did most of the work.

[18:36] Hijikata

Did you get them?

[18:37] Okita

Yes, of course.

[18:39] Okita

I hear Harada-san and Nagakura-san
went with Nio to his granny's place.

[18:44] Hijikata

Meaning Kondo-san is
at the enemy's headquarters.

[18:47] Hijikata

The fire worries me,
but I can't imagine him losing.

[18:52] Okita

Which only leaves one place.

[18:56] Hijikata

Yes.

[18:57] Hijikata

Right here.

[18:59] Okita

The first bridge. The one Serizawa-san took.

[19:04] Hirama

Hey! Someone's coming!

[19:06] Todo

Who is it? Did an enemy make it through?

[19:12] Hirayama; Hirama

Serizawa-sensei!

[19:20] Serizawa

He's still breathing.

[19:26] Okita

Hijikata-san.

[19:44] Hijikata

Did the others run away?

[19:46] Hijikata

How sad for you.

[19:48] Naozumi

Kill me.

[19:50] Hijikata

No.

[19:54] Hijikata

Don't count on dying like a samurai.

[19:57] Hijikata

You'll reflect on what you've done,
regret it, and die suffering.

[20:04] Naozumi

I didn't think I'd go out
with a demon's face staring at me.

[20:09] Hijikata

Give up. That's the hand fate dealt you.

[20:16] Hijikata

Was this the only way?

[20:19] Naozumi

Because I'm a samurai?

[20:21] Naozumi

Because the world's the way it is?

[20:23] Hijikata

Guys like you belong in
the Miburo more than anyone.

[20:27] Naozumi

I don't think so.

[20:29] Naozumi

It doesn't matter who you are.
The times are always the enemy.

[20:34] Hijikata

You've done enough. Rest.

[20:37] Naozumi

Hijikata, do you think these chaotic times
will turn you into darlings?

[20:44] Hijikata

You were born too late.

[20:49] Naozumi

I didn't mind getting to
have it out with you at the end.

[21:00] Naozumi

Must be my ears ringing.
I can hear a baby crying.

[21:07] (Flashback) Yotaro

Nii-san, let's spar a round.

[21:09] (Flashback) Asa

Eat up.

[21:11] (Flashback) Naoyasu

Look! I made one that will fly even better!

[21:15] Naozumi

Looks like I'm not the first.

[21:18] Naozumi

I'll keep a seat warm for you in hell.

[21:36] Hijikata

You...

[21:38] Hijikata

stupid dumbass!

SIGN Those

Who

SIGN Struggle

SIGN Next time

[23:22] Taro

Tanaka Taro here.

[23:25] Taro

Looks like the mess at
the bridges has died down.

[23:28] Taro

I wonder if Nagi-san had her baby all right.

[23:32] Taro

Was leaving her with Nio a good idea?

[23:37] Taro

Our worries never end, but I guess
we've just gotta do what we can.

[23:43] Taro

Next time: "Ties."

[23:46] Taro

You're gonna watch, yeah?

SIGN Ties

Revision #1

Created 2026-01-04 23:18:53 UTC by whimsee

Updated 2026-01-04 23:18:53 UTC by whimsee