

24 - The Blue Oath

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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.)

[00:03] Tsuru

He guarded a noble in the palace?

[00:05] Old Nagakura

Yes. Although I had it secondhand,
so I don't know all the details.

[00:11] Boy A

Head!

[00:12] Boy B

I bet you're bored of
Gramps's long stories, too!

[00:18] Old Nagakura

We knew the river of time
was flowing fiercer.

[00:24] Old Nagakura

For the Miburo...

[00:27] Old Nagakura

those days may have been a turning point.

SIGN Blue Miburo

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[02:09] Anegakoji

I hear the Miburo are a band of swordsmen.

[02:12] Hajime

So what if we are?

[02:14] Anegakoji

Do you keep guns or cannons in reserve?

[02:17] Hajime

Huh? Of course not.

[02:19] Anegakoji

I see.

[02:21] Anegakoji

You may wish to consider doing so.

[02:28] Anegakoji

My life is under threat because
I have had a change of heart.

[02:34] Anegakoji

A naval commissioner, Katsu Kaishu,
convinced me of the value of sea power.

[02:40] Anegakoji

I no longer favor expulsion at any cost.

[02:44] Anegakoji

The hardliners of the anti-foreign movement
must view that as a betrayal.

[02:50] Anegakoji

Politics demands ceaseless vigilance.

[02:54] Anegakoji

One always finds oneself
in an awkward position.

[02:57] Anegakoji

He who defends me today
may come for my life tomorrow.

[03:04] Anegakoji

Why did you agree to guard me so readily?

[03:08] Hajime

None of that crap matters.

[03:12] Hajime

I did it because you really did seem scared.

[03:16] Hajime

If samurai don't protect the weak, who will?

[03:21] Anegakoji

I see Iroha was right to turn to you.

[03:25] Anegakoji

Still...

[03:27] Anegakoji

Hold on to notions like that,
and the tide will leave you behind.

[03:31] Hajime

What tide?

[03:32] Anegakoji

The tide of time.

[03:35] Anegakoji

Or will you rebel against
the age we live in?

[03:42] Anegakoji

If so, men like that fellow,
who strive to push us forward,

[03:48] Anegakoji

may one day become your greatest foes.

[03:52] Hajime

What "fellow"? Who do you mean?

[03:56] Anegakoji

The ronin Sakamoto Ryoma, formerly of Tosa.

[04:01] Hajime

Never heard of him.

[04:03] Assassin A

Anegakoji!

[04:05] Assassin A

Prepare to die!

[04:06] Guard A

We're under attack!

[04:07] Guard B

What?

[04:13] Guard A

After him! Don't let him escape!

[04:15] Guard B

Halt!

[04:18] Anegakoji

You're formidable! Formidable indeed!

[04:22] Hajime

You think I'd let that loser beat me?

[04:28] Anegakoji

And confident! Hajime, you intrigue me.

[04:33] Todo

How's Nio doing?

[04:35] Taro

Not good. He won't leave his room.

[04:38] Todo

But I thought his fever went down.
Is something still affecting him?

[04:43] Nagakura

A matter of the heart, no doubt.

[04:45] Harada

I don't get it.

[04:47] Harada

I mean, what's done is done, right?

[04:50] Okita

Sometimes, Sanosuke-san,
you cut right to the heart of things.

[04:54] Harada

Huh? How do you mean?

[04:56] Taro

Nio...

[04:58] Todo

Nio might be out of commission for a while.

[05:03] Harada

And Serizawa?

[05:04] Nagakura

He's given over the room to Nio.

[05:07] (Flashback) Serizawa

Let him use it until he's feeling better.

[05:11] Nagakura

Even he has his good points.

[05:13] Todo

Hajime's out, Gen-san's working the fields,
and Yamanami-san's writing something.

[05:30] Anegakoji

You served well, Hajime.

[05:32] Anegakoji

Farewell!

[05:34] Iroha

See you, Hajime-chan!

[05:37] Hajime

I don't need you to see me off.

[05:40] Hajime

Damn it.

[05:43] Old Nagakura

*And so, Hajime completed
his guard duty in safety.*

[05:48] Old Nagakura

However...

[05:50] Old Nagakura

*That night, three assassins
claimed Anegakoji's life.*

[05:56] Old Nagakura

*It would come to be known as
the "Incident Outside Sakuhei Gate."*

[06:03] Harada

A court noble got killed?

[06:06] Todo

The killer dropped his scabbard.

[06:09] Todo

*Rumor has it the deed was done by
Tanaka Shinbei, an assassin from Satsuma.*

[06:13] Yamanami

Aizu seems frantic to track him down.

[06:20] Granny

What a shame.

[06:22] Granny

A crying shame.

[06:25] Granny

Iroha sent this. It's a letter for you.

[06:38] Iroha

"Hiya, Hajime-chan!"

[06:41] Iroha

*"It's your favorite girl, Iroha!
How have you been?"*

[06:47] Iroha

*"I bet you're down in the dumps,
and I thought maybe I could cheer you up."*

[06:52] Iroha

"Oh, about Anegakoji-sama..."

[06:56] Iroha

"He adopted a son the other day."

[06:59] Iroha

"A little boy. Just four years old."

[07:03] Iroha

"The day after you drove off those ruffians,"

[07:06] Iroha

*"they played kemari together
for the first time."*

[07:10] Iroha

"Anegakoji-sama was over the moon."

[07:15] Iroha

*I'd like to think helping him live
even one extra day counted for something.*

[07:29] Hajime

Tanaka Shinbei.

[07:39] Sakura

Nio-kun, Nagi-san was worried about you.

[07:45] Sakura

She thought you'd be even more hurt
if she died without saying anything.

[07:50] Sakura

That's why she lashed out
at you so fiercely.

[07:54] Sakuhei

She was treating you as an adult.

[08:00] Gatekeeper A

You want to catch Tanaka Shinbei?

[08:03] Gatekeeper A

Forget it, kid.

Shinbei the Killer is no joke.

[08:08] Gatekeeper A

He's a Jigen School swordsman.

[08:10] Fujita

You can tell him.

[08:12] Gatekeeper A

Fujita-san.

[08:15] Fujita

Saito-san, I would like your assistance.

[08:20] Hajime

Try to keep up, Fujita.

[08:23] Fujita

Yes, sir!

[08:27] Taro

You know, I don't think
you did anything wrong.

[08:33] Taro

Maybe you weren't quite tough
enough to see it through, but still.

[08:37] Taro

Before I joined the Miburo, I'd given up.
I figured that was just life.

[08:45] Taro

But you told me we have souls, remember?

[08:52] Taro

It sucks how things turned out this time,

[08:57] Taro

and I don't know what
to say to you about it,

[09:01] Taro

but what can any of us do except
keep chasing our... "ideals," I guess?

[09:08] Taro

Even if it goes wrong,

no matter how many times we fail,

[09:15] Taro

what else *can* we do?

[09:24] Taro

Damn it. What the hell is your problem?

[09:30] Hijikata

Well said, Taro.

[09:34] Hijikata

I agree.

[09:41] Aizu Samurai A

That's Shinbei's hideout.

[09:44] Fujita

We'll go in from the front.

[09:46] Fujita

The rest of you cover the back door.

[09:49] Fujita

Don't let him see you.

[09:50] Aizu Samurai A

Yes, sir.

[09:53] Fujita

We'll wait until he settles
down for the evening.

[10:06] Yamanami

Excuse me.

[10:07] Nio

Yamanami-san.

[10:09] Yamanami

You could use a haircut.

[10:22] Nio

I got it all wrong.

[10:28] Nio

I ran in blindly, just waving
my ideals around and stirring up trouble.

[10:35] Nio

Things only worked out by chance,
because I got help from the people around me.

[10:41] Fujita

Tanaka Shinbei, you're under arrest.

[10:44] Shinbei

Says who?

[10:46] Yamanami

What's so wrong with having ideals?

[10:49] Nio

But even my ideals
turned out to be nebulous.

[10:53] Nio

They weren't worth preaching about.

[10:59] Yamanami

Human beings progress
through ideals and philosophy.

[11:04] Yamanami

Isn't that what makes us
beautiful and noble?

[11:07] Yamanami

Results and outcomes are no more than that.

[11:10] Yamanami

We are not animals.

[11:13] Yamanami

We have a dream we call "hope."

[11:16] Yamanami

Your attitude and actions in pursuit of it
shape your individual humanity.

[11:23] Yamanami

Never forget: You did it.

[11:28] Yamanami

You should be proud.

[11:30] Yamanami

Don't stop in your tracks.

[11:34] Yamanami

That's what it means
to have an exalted soul.

[11:51] Nio

Nagi-san.

[11:57] Nio

Yotaro-san. Naozumi-san.

[12:04] Nagi

Thanks for everything.

[12:14] Old Nagakura

*Tanaka Shinbei was captured
and accused of Anegakoji's murder.*

[12:20] Old Nagakura

*Confronted with the evidence of the scabbard,
he took his own life on the spot.*

[12:25] Old Nagakura

*Blame extended to Satsuma,
and the domain lost influence at court.*

[12:33] Old Nagakura

The truth remains a mystery to this day.

[12:48] Taro

P-Please forgive me, sir!

[12:50] Taro

I dozed off and—

[12:53] Nio

I'll get stronger. So strong,

no one can argue with me.

[12:58] Nio

So strong, no one can complain.

[13:01] Taro

N-Nio.

[13:05] Nio

Sorry for worrying you.

[13:08] Nio

Thank you. I'm fine now.

[13:12] Taro

Nio!

[13:16] Taro

Thank goodness!

[13:20] Taro

I was worried sick about you, jackass!

[13:21] Nio

I'll start with one tatami's worth.

[13:28] Okita

Man, you must be so relieved.

[13:30] Hijikata

I... I was never worried!

[13:32] Kondo

Aren't you glad?

[13:34] Hajime

Damn, that hurts.

[13:41] Iroha

"P.S. Hajime-chan..."

[13:44] Iroha

"I know my brother will be fine."

[13:47] Nio

Hey!

[13:48] Iroha

"I'm not worried about him."

[13:51] Nio

Hajime-kun!

[13:53] Taro

Where the hell have you been?

[13:58] Nio

They say our coats are finally ready!

The Miburo uniforms we ordered!

[14:03] Iroha

"After all..."

[14:05] Taro

Hey, how come you're walking funny?

[14:06] Iroha

"...he has people like you by his side."

[14:08] Taro

And you look beat to hell.

[14:10] Hajime

Shove it.

[14:11] Hajime

Now, let's go get those coats.

[14:12] Nio

Not that way, Hajime-kun. It's this way.

[14:15] Hajime

I know that!

[14:17] Old Nagakura

*In May of 1863, the Choshu domain
convinced Shogun Iemochi*

[14:24] Old Nagakura

*to swear to "expel the barbarians"
in the Emperor's presence.*

[14:28] Old Nagakura

*Hearing his promise, Choshu bombarded
foreign ships in the Bakan Straits.*

[14:35] Old Nagakura

They dealt a devastating blow.

[14:38] Old Nagakura

And those chaotic times moved ever faster.

[14:44] Kikuchiyo

So you would have me return to Edo?

[14:47] Vassal A

Yes, my lord. War with
foreign powers is now inevitable.

[14:51] Vassal A

What could be more vital than returning
to Edo to oversee defense of the bay?

[14:57] Kikuchiyo

Very well. Let us do that.

[15:00] Vassals

Yes, my lord.

[15:02] Vassal A

Whew. Good thing he didn't make a fuss.

[15:06] Vassal A

He sure has matured.

[15:11] Kikuchiyo

Kagemaru.

[15:12] Kagemaru

Here, my lord.

[15:13] Kikuchiyo

So, what, they're *done* with me now?!

[15:15] Kikuchiyo

Damn Choshu!

[15:17] Kikuchiyo

The jackasses actually went and did it!

[15:20] Kagemaru

My lord, calm yourself.

[15:22] Kikuchiyo

Brainless nobles! Stupid emperor!

[15:28] Kikuchiyo

It's the money.

[15:30] Kagemaru

Money, my lord?

[15:32] Kikuchiyo

Choshu will *obviously* lose!

[15:35] Kikuchiyo

And the victors will demand reparations!

[15:37] Kikuchiyo

But Choshu won't be able to pay!

[15:40] Kikuchiyo

The Shogunate will be forced
to shoulder their debts!

[15:44] Kikuchiyo

Well, that's part of what I'm here for.

[15:48] Kikuchiyo

But my one regret is for this city of Kyoto.

[15:52] Kikuchiyo

Anegakoji has been murdered.

[15:55] Kikuchiyo

More and more factions will use
violence to press their claims now.

[16:00] Kikuchiyo

Tragedies will become ever more common.

[16:03] Kagemaru

On that point,
I think you need have no fear.

[16:10] Kikuchiyo

What?

[16:16] Taro

Hey, Nio!

[16:18] Taro

We have those manju to snack on.
Let's eat 'em already.

[16:20] Taro

What? You're *still* going at it?

[16:23] Okita

I told him to take a breather,
but look at him go.

[16:29] Nio

I'll just keep swinging and swinging.

[16:32] Nio

There's nothing else to do.

[16:35] Nio

I know I'm soft.

[16:37] Nio

*And I know I've gotten away
with things because I'm a kid.*

[16:42] Nio

For who? For what?

[16:45] Nio

For me? For my own self-satisfaction?

[16:50] Nio

That's good enough.

[16:52] Nio

I'll take it all the way.

[16:56] Okita

His swing changed.

[16:58] Okita

Nio-kun—

[16:59] Todo

Hey!

[17:01] Todo

Lord Iemochi's going home to Edo.

[17:08] Harada

What'll happen to us?

[17:10] Hajime

Why should we care?

[17:12] Yamanami

Because the Roshigumi originally
came to Kyoto to guard the Shogun.

[17:19] Taro

Huh? S-So you're gonna leave?

[17:21] Taro

Wh-What'll happen to me?

[17:23] Todo

What about Serizawa's bunch?

Can we talk them round?

[17:29] Nagakura

I suppose it would make sense
for us to return to Edo as well.

[17:34] Hijikata

No.

[17:36] Hijikata

Guarding the Shogun is a pretext.

[17:39] Hijikata

We follow our own path.

[17:51] Vassal A

Make way for His Lordship, the Shogun!

[18:00] Townsfolk

It's Lord Iemochi.

[18:01] Townsfolk

That's him?

[18:02] Townsfolk

He holds himself with
all the dignity you'd expect.

[18:06] Townsfolk

He's got some shady guy with him, though.

[18:09] Vassal A

His Lordship certainly looks impressive.

[18:12] Vassal B

Indeed.

[18:13] Townsman A

His Lordship's leaving already?

[18:16] Townsman A

Why did he even come here?

[18:20] Vassal A

Such insolence! Who said that?

[18:24] Kikuchiyo

No mind. Leave him be.

[18:26] Townsman A

Ow, ow, ow!

[18:31] Serizawa

You got a bit too carried away,
don't you think?

[18:36] Nio

Serizawa-san, we shouldn't spoil
the Shogun's procession.

[18:40] Kikuchiyo

Nio.

[18:43] Serizawa

Next time we meet, you're dead.

[18:47] Vassal A

Have no fear. He was no rebel,
just a lowly nobody. Pay him no heed.

[19:07] (Flashback) Nio

You picked this word, Kondo-san?

SIGN Heart

SIGN Superior

SIGN Justice

SIGN Stylish

SIGN War

SIGN Decisive

SIGN Flame

SIGN Loyalty

SIGN Heaven

[19:10] (Flashback) Kondo

Yes. I chose it from the ones you wrote.

[19:14] (Flashback) Kondo

The times may twist,
but our lives will go straight ahead.

[19:17] (Flashback) Kondo

That's our way.

[19:21] (Flashback) Kondo

And yours.

[19:24] Kagemaru

They originally came to Kyoto
to guard Your Lordship,

[19:28] Kagemaru

but for the present, they aim
to improve law and order here.

[19:34] Kagemaru

Sure enough, they've chosen to remain.
So this city, at least, will be safe.

[19:43] Kikuchiyo

I see. They'll be here, then.

[19:47] Kagemaru

Yes, my lord.

[19:52] (Flashback) Kikuchiyo

What is the way of the sword to you?

[19:57] (Flashback) Kikuchiyo

Tell me your answer when we meet again.

[20:02] Kikuchiyo

Nio, is that your answer?

SIGN Sincerity

[20:14] Taro

He's changed.

[20:16] Taro

*I can't put my finger on it,
but something seems different.*

[20:21] Okita

I can tell.

[20:22] Okita

No doubt everyone can.

[20:25] Okita

Even you.

[20:29] Okita

And you.

[20:32] Okita

And all of you.

[20:42] Boy A

How do you like this?

[20:44] Boy B

You'll never beat me!

[20:45] Boy A

Ow!

[20:46] Boy A

Don't hit for real!

[20:48] Boy B

Aw, come on. Don't be a wimp.

[20:55] Old Nagakura

*When a boy loses something,
he becomes a man.*

[21:01] Old Nagakura

*He can only know that feeling by
experiencing and overcoming it firsthand.*

[21:23] Kikuchiyo

I'm counting on you!

[21:27] Vassal A

My lord?

SIGN Sincerity

[21:41] Nio

We won't let you down.

SIGN The Blue Oath

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