

E7 - Caged Screams

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.)

[00:22] Narration

Roads are a nation's blood vessels.

[00:26] Narration

Paved roads existed across
the land before Rome,

[00:30] Narration

but the approach Romans took to
building roads was on another level.

[00:34] Narration

Even for minor branch roads,
Romans dug deep into the earth,

[00:40] Narration

laid stones and gravel of different
sizes in three layers for drainage,

[00:45] Narration

and painstakingly packed their paved roads
so that they would last a long time.

[00:50] Narration

Construction was overseen by
the empire's legionnaires.

[00:55] Narration

It is of special note that they
were professional builders trained

[00:59] Narration

in civil engineering from the basics.

[01:04] Soldier

Break time! Time to eat! Gather round!

[01:08] Hernando

Finally, a break.

[01:11] Pedro

I-I'm gonna die.

[01:15] Pedro

Hey, didn't you hear him?

[01:17] Pedro

It's break time.

[01:20] Pedro

How long are you gonna keep digging?

[01:22] Pedro

They'll run out of food, Cestvs!

[01:25] Cestvs

I heard you. I'll be right there.

SIGN Caged Screams

[03:08] Pedro

How many days has it been since we started?

[03:10] Hernando

It's been... sixty and three days.

[03:14] Getty

That many already?

[03:15] Pedro

Two whole months? For real?

[03:17] Cestvs

Don't complain.

[03:19] Hernando

I think I might be at my limit.

[03:21] Getty

How long do we have to keep doing this?

[03:24] Pedro

I've lost track of how many times

I've popped my blisters.

[03:28] Pedro

After all that work,

I can't even hold a spoon.

[03:32] Pedro

We've gotten used to eating like dogs.

[03:34] Pedro

We're supposed to be human, you know.

[03:36] Cestvs

I told you to quit complaining!

[03:38] Cestvs

Remember what the master said.

This is part of our training.

[03:41] Cestvs

It's necessary for us to become stronger.

[03:43] Pedro

Well, I'm sick of this.

[03:44] Pedro

The skin of my palms is so torn up,

I can't even make a fist.

[03:47] Pedro

How am I supposed to get stronger?

[03:50] Getty

You think he's abandoned us?

[03:54] Hernando

Maybe.

[03:55] Cestvs

He'd never do that!

[04:01] Cestvs

The truth is, I have doubts, too.

[04:04] Cestvs

Every day is so difficult
and painful and boring.

[04:07] Cestvs

I'm about to lose my mind.

[04:11] (Flashback) Zafar

What you all need to work on
is your lack of decisive power.

[04:14] (Flashback) Zafar

You lack the strength to take
advantage of opportunities,

[04:16] (Flashback) Zafar

the strength to turn a fight to
your favor with a single blow.

[04:20] (Flashback) Zafar

You need to strengthen your fists.

[04:25] (Flashback) Zafar

You'll work with these until
I tell you you're finished.

[04:29] (Flashback) Zafar

Don't complain. It's plain, hard work.

[04:33] (Flashback) Zafar

You'll be on break from all
other training except running.

[04:35] (Flashback) Zafar

Dedicate yourselves to digging.

[04:40] Cestvs

*As instructed, we've been digging
for two months straight.*

[04:45] Cestvs

*Our backs are stiff, our arms are numb,
and our palms are covered in blisters.*

[04:50] Cestvs

*Is this simple labor really
going to make us stronger?*

[04:57] Narration

The pickax was the boxer's symbol.

[05:01] Narration

This is because in ancient Greece,
boxers used pickaxes to train their bodies.

[05:09] Narration

The sequence of movements involved in swinging a pickax contains all

[05:13] Narration

the elements necessary for strengthening one's punch.

[05:17] Narration

Training is the act of working one's muscles enough to cause moderate damage,

[05:22] Narration

thereby encouraging them to regenerate thicker and tougher than before.

[05:32] Narration

At the same time, training forces everyone to face their own weakness.

[05:38] Narration

One must confront their own mind, while pushing their body to its limit.

[05:43] Narration

Only then will they find their own truth and the will to grow stronger.

[05:47] Zafar

Stop. Put down your pickaxes.

[05:54] Zafar

Everyone, come with me.

[05:58] Pedro

All right! Finally!

[06:00] Getty

Is it over?

[06:01] Pedro

All right! We can finally say goodbye to this work!

[06:06] Pedro

It took a long time, but we worked really hard!

[06:11] Pedro

Ow...

[06:13] Zafar

Don't get the wrong idea.

[06:14] Pedro

Huh?

[06:15] Zafar

This is only a temporary interruption.

[06:17] Pedro

You mean it's not over? No way...

[06:21] Zafar

You'll be continuing this work for six months, at least.

[06:24] Pedro

S-Six...

[06:27] Cestvs

What are we doing now, then?

[06:29] Zafar

The troupe leader wants to talk to you.

[06:33] Man

Pedro, hang in there.

[06:39] Drisco

Ah, you're here.

[06:41] Drisco

I want you to meet someone.

[06:44] Drisco

Take a good look.

[06:45] Drisco

This is Cestvs, the fighting
slave you're looking for.

[06:49] Drisco

These two are traveling around
and recruiting exceptional boxers

[06:54] Drisco

for a tournament to be held by the emperor.

[06:57] Pedro

Held by the emperor?

[06:59] Hernando

A tournament?

[07:01] Drisco

In other words, they're imperial envoys.
Tournament commissioners.

[07:05] Drisco

You should be honored. They came all the
way out here looking for you specifically.

[07:11] Envoy A

Forgive me, but is this boy really Cestvs?

[07:16] Envoy B

Are you certain that's him?

[07:17] Drisco

You don't believe me?

[07:20] Drisco

Despite how he looks, he's my golden egg.

[07:26] Envoy B

Very well. Whether that boy is truly strong
or not will become clear soon enough.

[07:32] Envoy B

After all, we've come
to announce a qualifier.

[07:35] Drisco

A qualifier?

[07:36] Envoy A

Indeed. His Majesty has declared
that he shall hold a tournament

[07:41] Envoy A

to pray for victory in the
upcoming war for Armenia.

[07:44] Envoy A

It shall take place three months
from now at Syracuse in Sicily.

[07:49] Envoy B

Fighters are being gathered for
the main event of the tournament,

[07:53] Envoy B

and we are tasked with bringing in
strong fighters from all over the world.

[07:57] Envoy B

Currently, numerous fighters
across all provinces

[08:00] Envoy B

are competing to participate
in the main event.

[08:03] Envoy B

The fighting slave Cestvs shall participate
in the qualifier for the boxing division.

[08:08] Envoy B

This is an imperial order.

[08:17] Drisco

An imperial order, huh?

[08:19] Cestvs

*In other words, I don't
have the option to refuse.*

[08:23] Envoy A

All those who participate in the
main event will be rewarded,

[08:27] Envoy A

and the champion will receive a
reward from the emperor himself.

[08:31] Envoy A

A fighting slave like yourself would
most likely be granted his freedom.

[08:35] Envoy A

Your wish will come true.

[08:37] Envoy B

The greatest honor, freedom,
as well as other prizes could be yours.

[08:40] Envoy B

Be a man and claim them with your own fists.

[08:45] Hernando

Cestvs...

[08:47] Cestvs

He's right. It may be an imperial order,

[08:51] Cestvs

*or a clever temptation meant to
take advantage of my situation,*

[08:54] Cestvs

but it's still a great opportunity.

[08:57] Cestvs

But...

[08:59] Cestvs

Why do I feel a chill running down my spine?

[09:03] Cestvs

*Is it even possible for me to escape
from him... from Emperor Nero?*

[09:11] Narration

The emperor's influence and
intelligence network are vast.

[09:15] Narration

Traveling south along the Italian peninsula
merely put him in the emperor's backyard.

[09:21] Narration

The emperor's territory included all the
land encircling the Mediterranean Sea.

[09:26] Drisco

All right. You'll fight in
the boxing division, Cestvs.

[09:31] Cestvs

Yes, sir.

[09:32] Drisco

By the way, Mr. Commissioner,

[09:34] Drisco

there will be divisions besides boxing
at the tournament, won't there?

[09:37] Envoy B

Of course.

[09:39] Drisco

Ruddock, you'll fight in the
mixed martial arts division.

[09:43] Drisco

Our troupe will claim two crowns.

[09:48] Ruddock

All right, got it.

[09:50] Drisco

Anyway, that's that, Zafar.

[09:52] Drisco

Get them in fighting shape.

[09:54] Zafar

You don't need to tell me.
I'm already getting them prepared.

[09:57] Drisco

That's what I like to hear.

[10:00] Zafar

Let's head back.

[10:04] Drisco

I can't believe he was chosen
by the emperor himself.

[10:08] Drisco

He must have quite the past.

[10:14] Zafar

Cestvs, there's less than a
month until the qualifier.

[10:17] Zafar

We need to resume training your instincts,

[10:20] Zafar

but you'll keep training with
the pickax, too. Got it?

[10:29] Zafar

I know what you want to say.

[10:32] Zafar

But I promise it will produce results.

[10:36] Zafar

Trust me.

[10:52] Zafar

*It may be too soon, but it's worth
betting on this opportunity.*

[10:55] Zafar

*Unless you reel it in yourself,
good fortune will pass you by.*

[11:01] Narration

For Cestvs, his master's words were
absolute, and his only ray of hope.

[11:07] Narration

Everything he did was to live, to survive.

[11:12] Narration

The wheel of fate began turning once again.

SIGN Southern Italy Metapontum

[11:32] Zafar

This is where you'll be fighting?

SIGN The Roman Fighter

[11:37] Pedro

This arena is awfully small.

[11:41] Drisco

The emperor may be hosting the tournament,
but this is only the qualifier.

[11:44] Drisco

They don't need a grand arena for that.

[11:48] Narration

When we think of Roman arenas,

[11:50] Narration

we imagine structures made of stone

[11:53] Narration

because those are the only
ones left behind as ruins.

[11:57] Narration

Wooden arenas rotted away
and were abandoned,

[12:01] Narration

or were replaced by sturdy stone
structures and erased from history.

[12:07] Narration

The Colosseum completed in 80 BCE,
that pinnacle of Roman architecture,

[12:13] Narration

began as a simple structure like this one.

[12:17] Cestvs

The qualifier started yesterday, right?

[12:21] Drisco

Yeah. For better or worse,
you're fighting in the last group.

[12:26] Drisco

Make sure you're well prepared.

[12:28] Drisco

It'll be a huge loss for me
if you waste my entry fee.

[12:31] Cestvs

What? They made us pay
after inviting us to come?

[12:34] Cestvs

Who does that?

[12:36] Zafar

The point of the qualifier is to
select fighters for the event.

[12:39] Zafar

It's different from a show for an audience.

[12:41] Zafar

In other words, it's a private fight
meant to assess your performance.

[12:44] Ruddock

Open your eyes.

[12:47] Ruddock

The fact that it's being held in
this dump is already suspicious.

[12:52] Ruddock

This city has grand arenas,
so why hold the qualifier here?

[12:58] Ruddock

It's obvious to me what the guys
putting this event together are up to.

[13:01] Cestvs

They made us pay an entry fee and
aren't allowing any audience members

[13:04] Cestvs

because they want us to
fight as hard as we can.

[13:07] Zafar

It's an old trick.

[13:10] Zafar

Losers receive no pay.
They can't even promote their name.

[13:14] Zafar

They lose the entry fee they
paid for out of pocket.

[13:17] Zafar

Since only the champion receives a
reward, everyone's desperate to win.

[13:21] Hernando

So we have to turn our entry fee into
a ticket to the main event ourselves.

[13:25] Pedro

It's an underhanded technique.

[13:27] Drisco

Hardly.

[13:28] Drisco

In simpler terms,
this is a winner-takes-all wager.

[13:33] Drisco

Only the winner acquires
the right to participate

[13:36] Drisco

in the main event and a chance at the prize.

[13:38] Drisco

You can't win a bet without
putting money down.

[13:42] Drisco

The winner takes all.

[13:44] Drisco

That's the law of competition in this world.

[13:49] Drisco

There's only one ticket to the main event.

[13:52] Drisco

If you want it, you'll have to be
the last fighter standing, Cestvs.

[13:55] Cestvs

There's no second prize in a serious fight.

[13:59] Cestvs

I know that much.

[14:05] Narration

As the tournament commissioners intended,

[14:07] Narration

the qualifier was cutthroat
from the first day.

[14:11] Narration

The stands were filled with only
associates of the participants.

[14:14] Mob

What are you doing? Get up!

[14:16] Mob

Kill him! Crush him!

[14:18] Narration

Jeers and angry roars flew about,

[14:19] Narration

and there was no applause
to praise the fighters.

[14:22] Narration

With only a scornful glance
for the crestfallen losers,

[14:24] Narration

the next fighters steeled their
resolve and stepped into the arena.

[14:27] Narration

Win or lose?

[14:29] Narration

With only two options, it was
a merciless selection process.

[14:33] Narration

It was simply a fight for survival.

[14:57] Ref

Enter the arena!

[15:11] Ref

It's time for the fourth
fight of the fourth group.

[15:14] Ref

This fight will determine the last fighter

[15:16] Ref

to advance to the second
round of the qualifier.

[15:18] Ref

Entering from the east gate, from Drisco's
boxing group, Cestvs the Young Boxer!

[15:22] Ruddock

Give it all you've got!

[15:24] Ruddock

If you lose your first fight,
you're not getting fed for three days!

[15:28] Ref

Entering from the west gate, from Catullus's
training school, Zain the Fighting Slave!

[15:34] Mob A

His opponent is a kid! Is this a joke?

[15:37] Mob B

The arena isn't a playground!

[15:39] Mob C

Go home before Zain makes you cry!

[15:42] Mob D

Shut up, idiots!

[15:43] Mob E

Kill him!

[15:44] Ruddock

Don't let their jeers scare you, Cestvs!

[15:46] Ruddock

You'd better not embarrass us!

[15:48] Mob A

What was that? You wanna fight?

[15:50] Mob C

Don't try to act tough after
sending a kid to fight for you!

[15:53] Mob

Yeah!

[15:54] Ref

Quiet! You're not the ones
who will be fighting.

[15:57] Ref

If you don't settle down immediately,
both of them will be disqualified.

[16:01] Pedro

Th-The atmosphere here seems really sketchy.

[16:04] Pedro

Is he going to be okay?

[16:06] Getty

If there's a riot,
this derelict arena will collapse.

[16:09] Zafar

If he can't focus with this
noise, he'll never survive.

[16:16] Zafar

On top of that, his head is probably
full of other concerns right now.

[16:21] Hernando

Other concerns?

[16:24] Zafar

Has he mastered what he
learned during his training?

[16:26] Zafar

How much stronger has he become?

[16:29] Zafar

A fighter's true worth can only
be measured during a real fight.

[16:31] Ref

Fighters, to the center.

[16:40] Zain

He's too scared to look me in the eye.

[16:42] Zain

This will be easy.

[16:43] Zain

Looks like one win for me.

[16:46] Cestvs

Finally, my first fight.

[16:48] Cestvs

I've only just begun.

[16:50] Cestvs

It's so far away.

[16:51] Cestvs

*How many fights do I have to win here
before I can go to the main event?*

[16:55] Ref

Fighters, get ready.

[16:59] Cestvs

*How many punches do I have to throw?
How many fighters do I have to defeat,*

[17:04] Cestvs

just to win my freedom?

[17:07] Ref

Begin!

[17:09] Cestvs

*If every punch I throw and every fighter
I beat gets me closer to freedom, then fine.*

[17:15] Cestvs

I'll keep punching until I get there!

[17:19] Zain

I'll start by casually introducing myself.

[17:22] Cestvs

Boxers who underestimate their opponent are third-rate.

[17:24] Zain

This'll send you flying!

[17:26] Cestvs

I don't mess around!

[17:35] Zain

He waited to strike until after I threw my punch.

[17:38] Zain

Two punches, first right, and then left.

[17:42] Zain

Impossible. Who is this kid?

[17:47] Zain

He's far stronger than me.

[17:52] Zain

He's too fast.

[17:53] Zain

I can't handle it.

[17:58] Zain

Damn it!

[18:13] Cestvs

I'll be moving on to the next fight.

[18:15] Cestvs

You got a problem with that?

[18:21] Ref

Th-The winner is Cestvs!

[18:24] Mob

Nice work, kid!

[18:25] Mob

So strong! What a fighter!

[18:28] Mob

Pathetic, Zain!

[18:29] Drisco

Yes, yes, yes! We're off to a good start!

[18:34] Getty

Good work.

[18:34] Pedro

You did it, Cestvs.

[18:36] Hernando

That's one victory.

[18:37] Drisco

You sure have gotten stronger. I'm surprised.

[18:41] Drisco

Keep it up!

[18:45] Pedro

What's wrong? You won,
but you look so sullen.

[18:48] Hernando

Are you hurt?

[18:50] Cestvs

It's nothing. I'm not injured.

[18:54] Pedro

Really? Then it was an easy win.

[18:56] Pedro

Don't try to act cool. Just be happy!

[18:58] Cestvs

An easy win? Don't be stupid. I hardly won.

[19:03] Cestvs

I'm disappointed.

[19:04] Cestvs

I hardly got to fight at all!

[19:10] Zafar

Of course you feel that way.

The qualifier has only just begun.

[19:15] Zafar

Cestvs, what do you think?

[19:18] Zafar

Of this arena, I mean.

[19:21] Cestvs

What do I think?

[19:22] Cestvs

It's cramped, and the walls felt oppressive.

[19:26] Cestvs

It felt like being thrown inside a cage.

[19:32] Cestvs

But even if the arena is small,
that doesn't change what I have to do.

[19:34] Zafar

No, you underestimate the situation.

[19:37] Zafar

A boxer with the slightest bit

[19:39] Zafar

of intelligence will use that
cramped space against you.

[19:45] Zafar

The size of the arena can
change the nature of a fight.

[19:49] Zafar

Prepare yourself for fights
like you've never seen before.

[19:53] Cestvs

A different kind of fight?

[19:56] Zafar

There's no time. Let's come up with
a strategy for your next fight.

[20:14] Man A

Whoa!

[20:14] Man B

What is it?

[20:15] Man A

A crow, damn it. It shit on my head.

[20:20] Man A

Why me?

[20:25] Felix

Unlucky men are visited by
misfortune again and again.

[20:29] Felix

Look at that. I win again.

[20:31] Man A

You're kidding!

[20:32] Man B

You're definitely cheating!

[20:34] Man C

Yeah, you're cheating!

[20:35] Man D

We know you're cheating!

[20:36] Felix

Don't falsely accuse me.

[20:38] Felix

I'm just an incredibly lucky guy.

[20:40] Man A

Oh, shut up! You can't win that
many times in a row on luck alone!

[20:43] Felix

But when it comes to gambling,
I've never been abandoned by luck.

[20:50] Felix

You'll see.

[20:53] Felix

I'll be the one to advance to the main event.

[20:59] Felix

I'll prove to you why they
call me Felix the Lucky Man.

[22:39] Zafar

It's more than simply applying

that feeling to your punches.

[22:43] Cestvs

I'm doing everything I can!

[22:45] Man

He's changed.

[22:47] Man

I'm sure Cestvs is struggling, too.

[22:50] Felix

How very polite of you.

SIGN Epiphany

[22:52] Man

Did he lose consciousness?

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