

# 8 - A Lot's Been Decided

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**[00:01] Dayland**

This injustice came to light  
because of all of you.

**[00:05] Dayland**

As duke, I thank you.

**[00:07] Dayland**

Especially you, Healran Dewitt.

**[00:09] Dayland**

Your insight and investigative  
abilities are superb.

**[00:12] Dayland**

Won't you help me out at the palace?

**[00:16] Healran**

No, I have no plans to return  
to working at the palace.

**[00:20] Dayland**

I see. That's a shame.

**[00:22] Neema**

Then come work for me!

**[00:25] Neema**

You too, Miss Belle!

**[00:27] Dayland**

Of course. That *would* be an option.

**[00:30] Healran**

What exactly?

**[00:31] Dayland**

Neema currently has a certain plan.

**[00:34] Dayland**

However, if you get involved,

**[00:36] Dayland**

there's a chance your lives will be at risk.

**[00:39] Dayland**

And for me to explain further,

**[00:41] Dayland**

I'll need you all to swear

a vow upon your names.

**[00:47] Dayland**

Of course, that includes  
Your Highness as well.

**[00:54] Will**

I swear upon my name, Wilhelm Rega  
Gaché, that I will not tell a soul.

**[01:12] Sign**

Fluffy Paradise

**[02:34] Sign**

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**[02:35] Dayland**

And that pretty much sums up Neema's plan.

**[02:41] Will**

I see.

**[02:43] Will**

Gathering the monsters  
and making a settlement for them?

**[02:45] Will**

That's quite an outlandish idea.

**[02:48] Ralf**

Even the monsters appreciate  
how cute Neema is.

**[02:51] Neema**

*Ralf...*

**[02:52] Dayland**

Since he'll be the next duke,  
I'll be putting Ralf in charge.

**[02:56] Ralf**

I'm happy to help if it means  
spending time with Neema.

**[03:00] Will**

I'll help out, too.

**[03:01] Neema**

*Gah!*

**[03:02] Dayland**

Your Highness, you have  
official duties to attend to.

**[03:06] Will**

Naturally, I don't plan to ignore them.

**[03:09] Will**

I brought my work with me,  
so I can assist as I see to it.

**[03:12] Neema**

*Well, then I guess it's okay.*

**[03:14] Neema**

What about you two?

**[03:16] Healran**

I accept.

**[03:17] Ariabelle**

Me too!

**[03:19] Dayland**

Then I'd like to go over the terms  
of employment with you two.

**[03:22] Nox**

Cheep!

**[03:23] Neema**

*That was Nox.*

**[03:25] Neema**

Which means...

**[03:27] Neema**

Welcome back, Shinki!

**[03:29] Sign**

SHATTER

**[03:30] Neema**

How'd it go?

**[03:31] Shinki**

I worked things out with the local goblins.

**[03:34] Neema**

That's great!

**[03:37] Ralf**

Neema, care to introduce me to this fellow?

**[03:41] Neema**

Shinki used to be a hobgoblin before he  
evolved into this mysterious creature!

**[03:47] Ralf**

A g-goblin?

**[03:50] Ralf**

How could you let this happen, Father?!

**[03:53] Dayland**

Shinki is bound by his true name.

**[03:55] Dayland**

Just think of him as Neema's bodyguard.

**[03:59] Neema**

*Ralf can't object as long as Papa approves.*

**[04:03] Neema**

So, Shinki, can you fill me in on the details?

**[04:06] Shinki**

Sure. The goblins that  
were appearing around here

**[04:09] Shinki**

are a horde of sixteen led by a hobgoblin.

**[04:12] Shinki**

I tried to explain the plan,

but they didn't understand.

**[04:15] Shinki**

So I fought them and now they serve me.

**[04:17] Shinki**

The bugs are showing them the way,

**[04:20] Shinki**

so I'm sure they'll find the cave.

**[04:21] Neema**

*Er, those "bugs" are spirits.*

**[04:25] Neema**

I suppose we can say  
the goblins are handled, then.

**[04:28] Neema**

Father, do you have any information  
about the kobolds in Lenice?

**[04:33] Dayland**

There are reports of a large horde  
and an attack on a caravan.

**[04:39] Neema**

Mr. Squad Leader!

**[04:41] Neema**

The reality is probably worse, right?

**[04:44] Caelus**

Yes.

**[04:45] Caelus**

There are around a hundred kobolds,

**[04:47] Caelus**

and apart from their main force,  
they split into five groups.

**[04:50] Caelus**

Each one seems to have a specific duty,  
such as guarding or scouting.

**[04:54] Caelus**

The groups are commanded by high kobolds,

**[04:56] Caelus**

and leading the main force is said  
to be a werewolf of even higher rank.

**[05:00] Dayland**

A werewolf?! Where did you learn that?

**[05:03] Caelus**

We asked the adventurers'  
guild for assistance.

**[05:05] Caelus**

Next, we'll be moving out

**[05:07] Caelus**

to Lenice next to take  
corrective action on the matter.

**[05:09] Neema**

I beg your pardon,  
but what is the person in charge like?

**[05:13] Caelus**

The person in charge?

**[05:16] Dayland**

Of course.

**[05:17] Dayland**

Someone may be stopping information

**[05:19] Dayland**

from reaching the royal capital.

**[05:21] Caelus**

I've heard that the regional commander

**[05:24] Caelus**

used to work at central headquarters

**[05:27] Caelus**

before being stationed here on reassignment.

**[05:31] Neema**

*In other words, he got demoted.*

**[05:32] Neema**

*Though I guess that's not enough evidence...*

**[05:35] Dayland**

The folks who attacked Shinki  
were supposedly adventurers.

**[05:38] Dayland**

So they were either people posing as such,

**[05:41] Dayland**

or someone made a request of the guild.

**[05:43] Dayland**

Either way, the odds are increasingly likely

**[05:46] Dayland**

that our enemies are many and organized.

**[05:48] Ariabelle**

Excuse me...

**[05:49] Ariabelle**

Shall I check with the adventurers' guild?

**[05:52] Ariabelle**

I can find which office put out the request.

**[05:54] Dayland**

We'd be grateful,

**[05:56] Dayland**

but as long as we don't know where  
the enemy may be hiding, it's dangerous.

**[06:01] Will**

You think there might be spies  
in other provinces and the knighthood?

**[06:06] Dayland**

Yes. I believe that to be a probability.

**[06:09] Neema**

*That means there are spies  
everywhere, doesn't it?*

**[06:13] Neema**

*This whole situation might  
be way worse than I thought.*

**[06:17] Ralf**

Don't worry, Neema.

**[06:20] Ralf**

His Highness is always one step ahead.

**[06:24] Neema**

*That's right. As a noblewoman,  
I always need to be smiling.*

**[06:29] Neema**

Of course!

**[06:35] Dayland**

Since we don't know where the enemy may be,

**[06:38] Dayland**

we'll need to refer to them by a name  
that only we understand.

**[06:42] Dayland**

So henceforth, our enemy shall  
be known as Runohark.

**[06:45] Dayland**

And we shall call the attack on the monsters

**[06:47] Dayland**

the Southern Province Incident.

**[06:51] Neema**

*Um, runoharks are like...  
that one insect from my past life, right?*

**[06:56] Neema**

*I see. This way, no one will bat an eye*

**[06:58] Neema**

*if we talk about eliminating  
or being attacked by them.*

**[07:01] Dayland**

I return to the capital tomorrow,

**[07:03] Dayland**

but Ralf will continue my inspection.

**[07:06] Dayland**

Can I ask that you continue  
to protect him and company?

**[07:08] Dayland**

I know the knighthood serves the citizenry,

**[07:11] Dayland**

so I realize what I'm asking of you.

**[07:17] Caelus**

We believe that protecting  
the Osphe family is the best thing

**[07:20] Caelus**

we can do for the people right now.

**[07:24] Neema**

Everyone...

**[07:26] Neema**

Thank you very much! I look  
forward to working with all of you!

**[07:30] Neema**

Father, about us going to Lenice...

**[07:35] Dayland**

You won't listen even if I say no.

**[07:39] Neema**

Right! I want to include the  
kobolds in my plan, too!

**[07:43] Dayland**

All right. The adults have some  
things to discuss now. You go rest.

**[07:48] Neema**

Right! Lars!

**[07:49] Neema**

Let's nap together!

**[07:51] Ralf**

Not so fast, Neema.

**[07:53] Ralf**

Lars is Will's holy beast,  
so you should nap with me instead.

**[07:57] Neema**

I'm going to nap with Lars!

**[07:59] Ralf**

Now, don't be difficult.

**[08:01] Neema**

Then...

**[08:03] Neema**

I'm gonna nap with Shinki!

**[08:05] Sign**

Irk

**[08:06] Will**

We'll just be borrowing Shinki for a bit.

**[08:09] Ralf**

There's lots I'd like to ask him.

**[08:11] Neema**

Yay!

**[08:13] Neema**

Okay, Lars. You sit here.

**[08:19] Neema**

Come on out, Gratia.

**[08:23] Neema**

Don't worry. He's not scary.  
He's a premium floof!

**[08:31] Neema**

See?

**[08:32] Neema**

Okay, now it's my turn!

**[08:35] Neema**

Floof!

**[08:38] Neema**

*Ah, that premium fluff... I'm so happy.*

**[08:42] Neema**

*Okay, tomorrow we set out  
for Lenice to meet some kobolds!*

**[08:51] Will**

Let's go over things once more  
before we reach Lenice.

**[08:54] Will**

About Neema's plan...

**[08:59] Will**

Calling it that over and over is inconvenient.

**[09:01] Will**

Maybe we should give it a proper name.

**[09:04] Ralf**

Hmm, yes.

**[09:06] Ralf**

How about "Operation: Get Along with Monsters"?

**[09:09] Neema**

*Ralf, that's unbearably lame!*

**[09:13] Neema**

*And don't forget the adventurers  
will be a huge part of this!*

**[09:16] Will**

Come on, now. Don't give  
it such a stupid name, Ralf.

**[09:21] Ralf**

Then what's *your* brilliant idea?

**[09:24] Will**

Me?

**[09:25] Will**

Well...

**[09:28] Will**

How about "Project Shiana"?

**[09:30] Neema**

"Shiana"?

**[09:32] Neema**

*That's not Larshian, is it?*

**[09:34] Will**

In Celestian, it means strength and courage.

**[09:38] Will**

It seems the God of Divine Creation  
has taken a liking to you.

**[09:41] Sign**

Badump

**[09:42] Neema**

Th-That's not true...

**[09:44] Will**

Lars, the great Sol, Shinki,  
and that spider... Gratia, was it?

**[09:50] Will**

You have rather extraordinary  
powers gathering around you.

**[09:54] Will**

Of course we're going to think  
God brought them to you.

**[09:59] Neema**

It's not just me! God loves us all!

**[10:03] Neema**

That includes both you and Ralf!

**[10:07] Will**

I suppose.

**[10:08] Will**

Being of royal blood  
makes us somewhat special.

**[10:12] Will**

I'm sure he cares  
for us at least a little bit.

**[10:15] Neema**

*Uh... Considering you have  
Lars the ultimate floof,*

**[10:19] Neema**

*I'd bet he likes you a lot\*.*

**[10:27] Karna**

*What?! You came home and left Neema?!*

**[10:30] Dayland**

*Yes, but Ralf is with her, so she's fine.*

**[10:33] Karna**

*Unbelievable.*

**[10:36] Karna**

*Neema is still only five years old!*

**[10:36] Sign**

*HISS!*

**[10:38] Karna**

*Do you understand how dangerous it is  
for her outside of the royal capital?!*

**[10:42] Dayland**

*It's fine.*

**[10:43] Dayland**

*Both the fire dragon and Lars are with her.*

**[10:46] Dayland**

*She has other attendants now, too.*

**[10:48] Cerulia**

*So what's Neema plotting this time?*

**[10:52] Dayland**

*You really see through everything.  
Truth is...*

**[10:56] Karna**

*That's when Mother and I learned\*  
about the countless monsters*

**[11:00] Karna**

*appearing in our domain  
and that someone was behind it all.*

**[11:04] Karna**

*I don't believe this...  
Monsters are also God's creations.*

**[11:09] SFX**

MENACING

**[11:09] Karna**

*And yet someone's using them  
for their own benefit.*

**[11:12] Karna**

*What punishment will befall them?*

**[11:14] Karna**

*Just the thought makes me hope  
they'll get their just deserts!*

**[11:17] Cerulia**

*Karna.*

**[11:18] Cerulia**

*You look just like Dayle when  
he's thinking of something evil.*

**[11:23] Dayland**

*That's what I look like...?*

**[11:25] Cerulia**

*So, our daughter wants to create  
a ranch for all of the monsters.*

**[11:30] Dayland**

*A ranch? Well, I guess  
that's one way to put it.*

**[11:33] Cerulia**

Then I'll start gathering staff for the ranch.

**[11:38] Cerulia**

I'll approach various guilds with the idea

**[11:41] Cerulia**

and select any promising individuals I find.

**[11:44] Karna**

*I wonder what I should do...*

**[11:46] Karna**

*If I had an idea of how*

*Neema wanted to build this,*

**[11:48] Neema**

I love you, Karna!

**[11:50] Karna**

*I could begin collecting*

*materials and preparing.*

**[11:54] Karna**

Father!

**[11:55] Karna**

I'd like to go see Neema.

**[11:57] Dayland**

I'd love to indulge you,

but the prince is with her.

**[12:00] Dayland**

The bodyguards are already maxed out.

**[12:02] Karna**

But—

**[12:03] Cerulia**

In that case, why don't we hire

bodyguards from the adventurers' guild?

**[12:08] Dayland**

The adventurers' guild?

**[12:09] Cerulia**

Yes. Coincidentally, we just

received a letter from Phillip.

**[12:14] Karna**

Oh, Uncle Phillip!

**[12:16] Karna**

I think the last time I saw him

was when Neema was born.

**[12:21] Cerulia**

He says he'll be arriving in the capital

tomorrow, so he'd love to see us all.

**[12:25] Dayland**

I see.

**[12:26] Dayland**

He was a close associate of mine

**[12:29] Dayland**

when I was an adventurer  
to gain combat experience.

**[12:31] Dayland**

He's also one of the few  
purple-ranked adventurers,

**[12:35] Dayland**

so he'd be a perfect instructor for Karna.

**[12:38] Karna**

Huh? An instructor?

**[12:40] Dayland**

Thinking of your future, you should at  
least experience subjugating monsters.

**[12:46] Karna**

*But... depending on what Father does,  
we may also end up targets of this enemy.*

**[12:53] Karna**

Sounds like fun!

**[12:57] Dayland**

There are many dangers  
outside the royal capital.

**[13:00] Dayland**

Are you prepared for that?

**[13:02] Karna**

Yes! I'll take on anything!

**[13:04] Karna**

I must become stronger  
so that I can stay by Neema's side.

**[13:09] Cerulia**

In that case, Karna,  
prepare everything you'll need.

**[13:12] Cerulia**

There's no point if you don't do it for  
yourself. Especially with your weapon.

**[13:16] Karna**

Right!

**[13:18] Karna**

*Wait for me, Neema!*

**[13:20] Karna**

*I'm going to do my absolute best!*

**[13:29] Neema**

This is Lenice?

**[13:33] Neema**

*I wonder where the kobolds are.*

**[13:36] Neema**

*I want to see them already.*

**[13:39] Ralf**

Neema.

**[13:41] Ralf**

Make sure you behave.

**[13:43] Ralf**

We don't know what may happen from here.

**[13:45] Neema**

R-Right...

**[13:48] Neema**

*That's right. This is the front line  
of the battle with the kobolds.*

**[13:56] Caelus**

Prince Wilhelm and Duke Osphe's  
children have arrived.

**[14:02] Caelus**

We request entry.

**[14:05] Guard**

One moment.

**[14:17] Caelus**

I beg your pardon. Your Highness,  
the captain would like to greet you.

**[14:22] Will**

All right.

**[14:24] Ralf**

They probably want to confirm it's really you.

**[14:26] Will**

That's fine. I'm sure they're  
desperate to protect their city.

**[14:31] Ralf**

You wait here, Neema.

**[14:33] Neema**

What?!

**[14:41] Neema**

*Fine then!*

**[14:43] Neema**

Wind spirits, fill me in  
on what's going on outside.

**[14:49] Will**

Good work, men. At ease.

**[14:51] Neema**

*I can hear Will's voice.*

**[14:54] Dylan**

Sir!

**[14:56] Will**

I am traveling unannounced as a companion  
of this gentleman, Ralfred Osphe.

**[15:01] Dylan**

Greetings. I am Dylan Noctis,

**[15:03] Dylan**

commander of the Parzeth District Office  
and member of the First Legion.

**[15:07] Dylan**

I do beg your pardon, but this area  
is dangerous due to rogue kobolds.

**[15:11] Dylan**

You should probably leave  
as soon as possible.

**[15:15] Ralf**

We are here on my father's orders.

**[15:18] Ralf**

I am monitoring the monster sightings  
on behalf of the duke.

**[15:22] Dylan**

I-I see...

**[15:26] Dylan**

Very well. Then I shall show you  
to the proxy lord.

**[15:31] Neema**

*Sounds like things worked out!*

**[15:35] Ralf**

I'm glad they believed us so quickly.

**[15:38] Will**

Of course they did.

**[15:40] Neema**

*Those two are so in synch!  
They'll be a lot of help.*

**[15:49] Sign**

Run down...

**[15:49] Parzeth**

Thank you for coming all this way.

**[15:53] Ralf**

Marquis Parzeth, have you  
been getting enough sleep?

**[15:56] Parzeth**

Well... We've had so many kobolds  
appearing lately, so not really.

**[16:01] Neema**

*Who's that other old guy?*

**[16:04] Neema**

*Is he the one who got demoted?  
I guess he is wearing armor.*

**[16:10] Neema**

*More importantly...*

**[16:11] Neema**

*Whoever decorated this  
room has terrible taste!*

**[16:15] Parzeth**

Now, about dealing with these kobolds...

**[16:18] Parzeth**

The knights cannot keep up with them,

**[16:21] Parzeth**

so we've contacted the adventurers' guild.

**[16:23] Parzeth**

They're apparently putting together  
an extermination squad.

**[16:26] Ralf**

When will they make their move?

**[16:28] Parzeth**

Once Red Hlaada arrives.

**[16:32] Will**

Hlaada?

**[16:33] Will**

I've heard of them before.

**[16:35] Will**

Though I think they were still  
Blue Hlaada back then.

**[16:39] Neema**

*Even the prince knows about this party?*

**[16:42] Neema**

*They must be really strong...*

**[16:45] Neema**

*Wait! That means they'll  
wipe out all the kobolds!*

**[16:47] Neema**

*That can't happen!*

**[16:48] Neema**

*I need to make contact with the  
kobolds before these people show up!*

**[16:53] Ralf**

Neema?

**[16:54] Neema**

I-If there's time, it's okay  
to look around the city, right?

**[16:58] Parzeth**

What?

**[17:00] Ralf**

If we can see the city inside and out,  
we can better report to our father.

**[17:05] Neema**

*Nice one, Ralf!*

**[17:08] Will**

We have members of the royal knights with us.

**[17:10] Will**

We'll be fine to take a quick look.

**[17:12] Parzeth**

I-I see.

**[17:15] Parzeth**

Well, if it's just for a bit...

**[17:23] Ralf**

This is...

**[17:25] Will**

This place isn't too bad since the knights still patrol through here.

**[17:30] Will**

Let's head to the slums.

**[17:38] Will**

These children are definitely malnourished.

**[17:41] Ralf**

Marquis Parzeth should be supplying them with aid.

**[17:44] Will**

Perhaps someone's intercepting it.

**[17:48] Ralf**

I guess we'll just have to look into this.

**[17:51] Neema**

*I can't believe this is still Gaché...*

**[17:56] Neema**

What was that?!

**[17:57] Ralf**

Neema?

**[18:02] Neema**

Shinki!

**[18:07] Kids**

Take that!

**[18:08] Kids**

And that!

**[18:10] Raj**

What are you doing?

**[18:12] Belgar**

Th-This doesn't concern you, stupid outsiders!

**[18:18] Neema**

*There's something there...*

**[18:20] Neema**

A puppy?!

**[18:25] Neema**

What have you done?!

**[18:28] Belgar**

M-My dad said all dogs are enemies!

**[18:32] Belgar**

What's wrong with beating up an enemy?

**[18:35] Neema**

*Uh, I'm pretty sure the dogs your dad  
is talking about are kobolds.*

**[18:39] Neema**

Is that poor thing really your enemy?

**[18:43] Neema**

Even if it was,

**[18:45] Neema**

it's shameful to attack someone  
so completely defenseless!

**[18:51] Belgar**

Shut up, shrimp!

**[18:55] Belgar**

L-Let go of me!

**[18:56] Knights**

Hey, quit struggling.

**[18:59] Neema**

You mustn't immediately  
resort to brute force.

**[19:02] Neema**

Because true strength should  
be used to protect the weak.

**[19:07] Neema**

We will do you no harm,  
so please, hand over the poor thing.

**[19:23] Neema**

He's badly hurt...

**[19:25] Neema**

*I'll need Ralf to use a healing  
spell on him immediately.*

**[19:30] Neema**

What is it that you want to protect?

**[19:33] Neema**

Is it not them?

**[19:37] Belgar**

What do you know, you dumb noble?

**[19:40] Neema**

True power is not just physical strength.

**[19:44] Neema**

If you can stay on the right path,

**[19:46] Neema**

without becoming underhanded or a coward,

**[19:49] Neema**

and gain honorable strength  
like these knights here...

**[19:55] Neema**

You'll become a wonderful man  
who can protect what's important to you.

**[20:02] Belgar**

I'm Belgar, son of the  
adventurer Guy Crius the Red!

**[20:06] Belgar**

I'm gonna be as strong as my dad  
so that I can protect everyone!

**[20:11] Neema**

My name is Nefertima Osphe.  
I will remember you.

**[20:22] Ralf**

Recul Cresiolle.

**[20:33] Ralf**

He'll be all right now.

**[20:36] Neema**

Thank goodness!

**[20:38] Neema**

That tickles!

**[20:41] Neema**

Where's your mommy?

**[20:47] Neema**

The forest?

**[20:49] Neema**

What does that mean?  
So you're not someone's pet?

**[20:54] Shinki**

My lady, you apparently haven't noticed,

**[20:57] Shinki**

but that's a kobold pup.

**[21:00] Ralf; Will; Neema**

Huh?

**[21:02] Neema**

*A kobold?! This is clearly a Shiba Inu!*

**[21:07] Ralf**

Neema sure has some luck...

**[21:10] Ralf**

God really does favor her.

**[21:13] Will**

But returning him to his mother would  
surely be asking to get attacked by kobolds.

**[21:18] Neema**

Even if we have him in tow?

**[21:20] Will**

They'll probably think you kidnapped him.

**[21:33] Neema**

I'm sorry I made you worry. It'll be okay.

**[21:39] Neema**

Let's go! Since Lars,  
a holy beast, is with us,

**[21:42] Neema**

the kobolds won't attack immediately!

**[21:50] Will**

You're *such* a pushover  
when it comes to Neema.

**[21:55] Neema**

*I'll make sure you get back to your mommy!*

**[23:35] Sign**

Next Time

**[23:35] Sign**

Guardian of the Forest, Please...!

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