

22 - The Ephemeral, Pale Cherry Blossom

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[00:00] ---

Otobe

[00:01] ---

April 1869. After waiting for the snow to melt, the Imperial Army finally appeared in Ezo.

[00:11] ---

Fire!

[00:16] ---

In order to intercept the enemy troops that landed in Otobe,

SIGN Otobe

SIGN Futamata Pass

SIGN Sea of Japan

SIGN Goryokaku

SIGN Hakodate

SIGN Matsumae Pass

SIGN Kikonai

[00:19] ---

the former Bakufu army sent Minister Otori-san to the Matsumae Pass to the southwest of Hakodate.

SIGN Otori's Division

[00:25] ---

Vice Minister Hijikata-san was sent as the commanding officer to the Futamata Pass northwest of Hakodate.

SIGN Hijikata's Division

[00:32] ---

Listen, this is the final showdown.

[00:32] ---

Futamata Pass

[00:36] ---

We have more bullets than we will need.

[00:38] ---

Don't worry about wasting them.

[00:40] ---

Fire like mad once the battle begins!

[00:42] ---

Just don't throw your lives away.

[00:44] ---

Sir!

[00:46] ---

Once this battle is over,

I'll let you drink to your hearts' content!

[00:49] ---

So work hard to see that happen!

[00:51] ---

Yeah!

[01:00] ---

Identify yourself!

[01:01] ---

Are we under attack?

[01:04] ---

What is the problem?

[01:08] ---

Are you not Kazama?

[01:12] ---

Kuroda, huh?

[01:14] ---

Great. You can take me to Ezo.

[01:19] ---

Chief Kuroda, shouldn't we do something?

[01:21] ---

Leave him be.

[01:23] ---

Even if you ganged up on him, you could not win.

[01:46] ---

Hakuoki

Demon of the Fleeting Blossom

Record of the Jade Blood

[01:49] ---

Ikusen no mirai yori mo

[01:56] ---

Isshun no ima wo tsuyoku ikitai

[02:03] ---

Naraku no hotori de sae mo

[02:08] ---

Kakete yukeru anata to nara

[02:12] ---

Mau kaze no gotoku

[02:16] ---

Aragaenu jidai no yaiba ni

[02:17] ---

Kizu tsuite taorete nao

[02:19] ---

Yume ni mishi hikari wo shinjite

[02:21] ---

Hisakata wo aogite

[02:22] ---

A, waga mi ni a, kaete mo

[02:25] ---

Anata wo mamoreru nara

[02:29] ---

Hageshiki kaze ni nare kono inori

[02:36] ---

Sadame kaeru hodo ima sugu

[02:42] ---

Yoake no kaze ni nare kurayami no tobira

[02:50] ---

Koji akeru kaze ni

[02:58] ---

Charge!

[03:00] ---

Follow me!

[03:02] ---

What?! Cover for Takigawa's division!

[03:09] ---

We did it!

[03:10] ---

We were so overwhelming that
it made 'em lose their nerve!

[03:13] ---

Takigawa!

[03:15] ---

What the hell were you doing?!

You gave me a heart attack.

[03:20] ---

But...

[03:22] ---

you did good out there.

[03:24] ---

I was confident that you would back us up, Hijikata-san.

[03:28] ---

You little...! Don't let this go to your head.

[03:31] ---

We're winning one skirmish after the next!

[03:33] ---

We did it!

[03:34] ---

Our formation in Futamata is invincible!

[03:36] ---

We'll never lose as long as we've got
the Army Minister with us!

[03:40] ---

Hijikata-san, a messenger from
headquarters is here to see you.

[03:50] ---

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The Ephemeral,
Pale Cherry Blossom

[04:02] ---

Chizuru.

[04:03] ---

Yes?

[04:05] ---

Prepare to retreat.

[04:08] ---

We're preparing to retreat?

[04:10] ---

Yeah. They broke through Otori-san at Matsumae Pass.

[04:15] ---

Although we're still unscathed,

[04:16] ---

we won't be able to return to Hakodate
if they cut off our retreat.

[04:21] ---

Is that right...?

[04:23] ---

And here everyone worked so hard. It's a pity, isn't it?

[04:29] ---

Hijikata-san?

[04:35] ---

Hang in there, Hijikata-san!

[04:40] ---

Are you okay?

[04:42] ---

It looks like my body is gettin' worse for wear.

[04:46] ---

I hope it holds up... just a little longer.

[04:52] ---

Don't... Please don't say,

[04:56] ---

"just a little longer"!

[05:04] ---

Please drink some.

[05:07] ---

Please. I will be okay.

[05:16] ---

I'm so sorry.

[05:36] ---

Benten Fortress

[05:37] ---

May 1, 1869. Hijikata-san left Futamata Pass
and returned to Goryokaku.

[05:43] ---

He visited Benten Fortress,

[05:45] ---

where he was reunited with Otori-san, Shimada-san,
and the members of the Shinsengumi.

[05:50] ---

Long time no see, Commander Hijikata!

[05:52] ---

Oh, Shimada! I'm glad to see you're well.

[05:57] ---

Hijikata-kun, Matsumae Pass fell
due to my own shortcomings.

[06:03] ---

I'm sorry.

[06:05] ---

Breaking up our forces was a bad idea.

[06:08] ---

It wasn't your fault.

[06:11] ---

Oh, I heard that a group called the Mikuni
Division just joined forces with us.

[06:16] ---

That means there are still some who haven't forsaken us.

[06:19] ---

Hijikata-kun...

[06:21] ---

Whining won't get anything done.

[06:24] ---

We should add them to our ranks and
focus our forces on the fortress and Goryokaku.

[06:31] ---

Yes, we should.

[06:33] ---

Please leave Benten Fortress to us!

[06:36] ---

As long as the will behind the
Shinsengumi's banner of truth still burns,

[06:40] ---

we will continue to fight alongside you,
Commander Hijikata!

[06:43] ---

Watch it! Don't forget that Otori-san
is the commanding officer in charge of this fortress.

[06:49] ---

Th-that goes without saying, but-

[06:51] ---

No, this time I will raise the Shinsengumi's flag.

[06:56] ---

Problem solved, right?

[06:59] ---

Truth

[07:00] ---

If we fight with the Shinsengumi's standard flying,

[07:02] ---

I get the feeling that the warrior spirit we believe in
will not falter and we will be able to persevere in battle.

[07:11] ---

The Minister of the Army is acting superstitious?

[07:13] ---

You gotta keep it together, Otori-san.

[07:18] ---

Protect Benten Fortress.

[07:23] ---

What?

[07:24] ---

It's a handshake. Unfamiliar with it?

[07:29] ---

Yeah!

[07:38] ---

Yukimura-kun!

[07:41] ---

Shimada-san!

[07:42] ---

Hey, I'm glad to see you're doing well.

[07:44] ---

Same goes for you.

[07:46] ---

But honestly, to think that the former Merciless
Vice Commander would be so beloved by his men.

[07:52] ---

Hijikata-san has certainly changed.

[07:58] ---

Tensions grew with each passing day.

[08:00] ---

May 7, 1869. We were suddenly

thrown into a naval battle.

[08:05] ---

The Imperial Army's warships
charged into Hakodate Bay.

[08:09] ---

The former Bakufu army's warships put up a good fight,
but they were outnumbered.

[08:14] ---

We were left with no choice but to rely on the infantry.

[08:17] ---

Three days later, on May 10th, the former Bakufu soldiers
shared their final drinks together like true warriors.

[08:27] ---

I'm going to leave your tea here.

[08:35] ---

If they are going to strike, it will probably be tomorrow.

[08:38] ---

Sir...

[08:41] ---

Chizuru, are you sure-

[08:43] ---

I am going to stay with you, Hijikata-san!

[08:50] ---

Please let me stay with you.

[09:04] ---

I hardly look cool when I'm always making you say that.

[09:07] ---

Huh?

[09:13] ---

The one I want to protect the most is you.

[09:17] ---

I think I'm in love with you.

[09:22] ---

I used to think I didn't care if I died once
I fulfilled my duty to lead the Shinsengumi.

[09:28] ---

But now I have a reason to live.

[09:32] ---

Thank God.

[09:34] ---

I am so happy that you want to live...

[09:43] ---

Stay by my side forever.

[09:47] ---

I won't let you go even if you try, so bear that in mind!

[10:02] ---

On the following day, May 11th,

before the sun had fully risen,

[10:07] ---

the Imperial Army had commenced
an all-out attack on Hakodate.

[10:12] ---

Shimada-san, Otori-san, and the Shinsengumi,
who had barricaded themselves in Benten Fortress,

[10:17] ---

were attacked from the rear and
completely cut off from the outside.

[10:21] ---

Prepare my horse!

[10:22] ---

Sir!

[10:24] ---

I am going to Benten Fortress to offer my help.

[10:27] ---

Chizuru, aren't you coming?

[10:29] ---

Sir!

[10:36] ---

Enemy attack!

[10:38] ---

Aim!

[10:40] ---

Fire!

[10:42] ---

Outta my way!

[10:55] ---

Hijikata-san!

[10:59] ---

Hijikata-san!

[11:08] ---

Hijikata-san!

[11:10] ---

Hijikata-san! Hijikata-san!

[11:13] ---

Hijikata-san!

[11:18] ---

Hijikata-san! Hijikata-san!

[11:23] ---

Chizuru... are you okay?

[11:25] ---

I am!

[11:27] ---

Things will get bad if they come in pursuit...

[11:29] ---

Get out of here, Chizuru...!

[11:32] ---

You got it.

[11:45] ---

Hijikata-san, I don't sense any enemy soldiers.

[11:47] ---

You should be able to rest here for a while.

[11:50] ---

We need to use this chance to stop the bleeding.

[11:52] ---

Yeah... Please do.

[12:01] ---

Hijikata-san, as soon as you've recovered enough to move, let's go back to Goryokaku.

[12:08] ---

Hijikata-san?

[12:10] ---

Hijikata-san, are you listening to me?

[12:12] ---

Y-yeah... I'm listening.

[12:16] ---

It will be okay. Shimada-san and the others won't go down without a fight.

[12:21] ---

I'm sure they're waiting for us.

[12:23] ---

Of course they are...

The Shinsengumi's name isn't just for show.

[12:32] ---

Hijikata-san? Hijikata-san, can you hear me?

[12:37] ---

Hijikata-san!

[12:39] ---

Don't shout. I can hear you.

[12:46] ---

What should I do?

[12:48] ---

What should I do?!

[12:50] ---

At this rate, Hijikata-san will...!

[13:02] ---

I won't let you die!

[13:10] ---

Please live, Hijikata-san!

[13:14] ---

Hijikata-san!

[13:21] ---

Hijikata-san...

[13:23] ---

Did you hurt yourself again?

[13:28] ---

It will heal in no time.

[13:31] ---

That's not the problem.

[13:34] ---

What man wants to make the woman
he loves taste pain and suffering?

[13:39] ---

Figure that much out for yourself!

[13:43] ---

I don't want to see the man I love in pain, either.

[13:51] ---

Shut up.

[13:56] ---

Someone will notice we're here before much longer.

[13:59] ---

Let's return to Goryokaku through the back route.

[14:01] ---

Okay.

[14:18] ---

How beautiful...

[14:34] ---

You look good next to cherry blossoms.

[14:37] ---

Huh? You think so?

[14:40] ---

I think they look better with you, Hijikata-san.

[14:44] ---

The first day we met back in the capital,

[14:47] ---

the snow dancing around you...

[14:50] ---

...looked like out-of-season cherry petals.

[14:55] ---

Let's enjoy looking at them again next year, okay?

[15:08] ---

So you're still alive.

[15:10] ---

Kazama-san?!

[15:12] ---

I've come to put an end to everything.

[15:14] ---

I swear by my pride that I will
be rid of this thorn in my side.

[15:18] ---

I never thought you'd come all the way to Ezo.

[15:21] ---

It would have been quite
a waste of time if I had already died.

[15:24] ---

Please don't do this! Hijikata-san is severely injured.

[15:31] ---

Keep quiet and watch.

[15:32] ---

But...!

[15:34] ---

If someone is willing to lose everything over a fight,

[15:37] ---

as a true warrior, I should accept the challenge.

[15:41] ---

That's...!

[15:43] ---

Supposedly I will stray from
the way of the devil if I meddle with him further.

[15:51] ---

Hijikata-san...

[15:53] ---

I...

[15:55] ---

I will fight for what I believe in.

[15:58] ---

I will win so that I may live!

[16:05] ---

Very well.

[16:08] ---

Win to live, huh?

[16:10] ---

The more power you use, the shorter your life becomes.
You furies are nothing more than mere fakes.

[16:16] ---

Pure-blooded devils are on a completely different plane.

[16:20] ---

It is your fate to die.

[16:23] ---

You are just like cherry blossoms
the way you rush through life.

[16:28] ---

I ain't trying to rush through life!

[16:30] ---

I just had a bunch of people who needed me.

[16:35] ---

The way of life for the Shinsengumi's
ideal warrior is severe!

[17:16] ---

I can't stand it anymore.

[17:18] ---

Those Bakufu cowards... you pain-in-the-ass devils...

[17:23] ---

You say I'm a fake? So what if I am?

[17:27] ---

This whole time, we've been treated
like a band of fake samurai.

[17:33] ---

But no matter what, our convictions will not bend.

[17:38] ---

Whether fake or not, persistence will make it true.

[17:43] ---

So if I, a fury, can defeat you, then I...

[17:47] ---

We can become real!

[18:06] ---

Hijikata-san!

[18:48] ---

I have things that I must protect!

[18:51] ---

That's why I can't lose, not even to a devil!

[19:06] ---

The name "fury" that belongs to those fakes
does not match the way you live your life.

[19:19] ---

You are already a devil.

[19:23] ---

I shall bestow a devil name upon you.

[19:27] ---

You are "Hakuoki."

[19:32] ---

It's not like I've been fighting to earn
your recognition as a devil.

[19:38] ---

I can't play for much longer. Is that okay?

[19:43] ---

Naturally. I shall finish you off in one strike.

[20:24] ---

Hijikata-san!

[20:37] ---

But I have always acknowledged your abilities.

[20:39] ---

Akane sasu yuuhi ga

[20:41] ---

In the end, was I of any... help?

[20:44] ---

Terasu yokogao wo mitsume

[20:47] ---

As I am remaining in Aizu,
please give me permission to raise our banner.

[20:50] ---

Sotto negau moyuru sora yo toki wo tomete ite

[20:52] ---

So I'm going to leave Hijikata-san
in your hands, Chizuru-chan.

[21:00] ---

Come on, Toshi. It's about time you let me be at peace.

[21:03] ---

Kanashimi wo seoite hitamuki ni susumu anata

[21:05] ---

You should smile because it's a time like this.

[21:07] ---

It's okay. I'm certain he will protect you.

[21:11] ---

Unlike Kondou-san or Hijikata-san,
it was never my dream to become a samurai.

[21:14] ---

Kanau naraba oikakete yukitai kewashiki kono michi wo

[21:17] ---

What are you doing, Vice Commander?

[21:21] ---

As our leader, you're our head, our limbs.

[21:27] ---

Tooku, tooku nagaruru kumo

[21:27] ---

Please tell Toshi-san.

I'm sorry my strength wasn't enough.

[21:32] ---

I want him to forgive me for not being there to the end.

[21:34] ---

Tatoe ima ga hakanaku to mo

[21:39] ---

Good morning.

[21:39] ---

Soba ni itai

[21:40] ---

Did you sleep well?

[21:42] ---

Kono kokoro wo someyuku hi wa tokoshie dakara

[21:54] ---

Kizuna dake shinjite

[21:59] ---

I see. You came from faraway Edo
in search of your father. That must've been tough.

[22:09] ---

Hijikata-san...

[22:23] ---

Truth

[22:24] ---

Hijikata-san, can you see it?
It's the banner of truth that everyone carried.

[22:54] ---

Chizuru...

[22:56] ---

[22:56] ---

The End

[22:58] ---

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