

5 - Stairway to the Blue Skies

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.)

SIGN Osaka

[00:04] ---

As I said, the master is currently away!

[00:08] ---

Insolent whelp!

[00:10] ---

We are devoted warriors who have traveled

[00:14] ---

all the way from the east to
fight for national loyalism!

[00:18] ---

I am most sorry!

[00:20] ---

I beg of you!

[00:22] ---

Please accept this and
pardon his insolence!

SIGN Tempo Koban of 50 Ryou

[00:28] ---

What's this?

[00:30] ---

You were here after all.

[00:33] ---

Serizawa-san, what were you thinking?!

SIGN Money Exchange House

[00:36] ---

We came to Osaka to borrow
money to fund the Roshigumi!

[00:41] ---

But you...

[00:42] ---

Doesn't this make us no better than the

[00:45] ---

rogue samurai who forcibly borrow money?!

[00:47] ---

In this day and age,
those who save easy money

[00:52] ---

clearly made a profit by doing
business with foreigners.

[00:55] ---

I would think that punishing
such vile merchants

[00:58] ---

is part of our duty as nationalists.

[01:01] ---

You're using fuzzy logic!

[01:03] ---

Then do you know of
another way to procure

[01:07] ---

funding for the Roshigumi?

[01:10] ---

Serizawa-sensei is out here doing

[01:13] ---

the dirty work to gather funds...

[01:16] ---

What right do you have to criticize him

[01:18] ---

when you haven't done a thing?

[01:21] ---

You can't even play
the villain, can you?

[01:25] ---

What?!

[01:26] ---

A samurai's existence must be

[01:28] ---

awe-inspiring to the ordinary citizens.

[01:31] ---

Moreover, you must be resolved

[01:32] ---

to incite fear in the hearts of others

[01:35] ---

if you intend to fight against the rogue

[01:37] ---

samurai in the future.

[01:39] ---

We need... resolve?

[03:19] ---

Hijikata-san's taking forever.

[03:22] ---

This place is filled with nasty vibes.

[03:25] ---

I think I'm going to take
a walk around the area.

[03:35] ---

Nagakura-kun, handle things here.

[03:45] ---

Is the boat ready yet?

[03:48] ---

Should I go see how it's coming along?

[03:50] ---

Wait! Nagakura-kun, you may stay.

[03:53] ---

Go on, dog!

[03:54] ---

What?

[03:57] ---

F-fine! I'll go ask!

[04:04] ---

Why does everyone always leave me behind?

[04:07] ---

EPISODE 5:

Stairway to the Blue Skies

[04:22] ---

Oh, it's you.

[04:23] ---

What is it?

[04:24] ---

Serizawa-san wants to know
when the boat is departing.

[04:29] ---

Apparently there was
some sort of mistake,

[04:31] ---

so it's won't be for a little while.

[04:33] ---

Got it.

[04:38] ---

I wonder why...

[04:41] ---

I can't stand a thing he says or does,

[04:45] ---

but for some reason that

[04:47] ---

man's words stab deep into my chest.

[04:50] ---

He makes me realize just

how naïve we have been.

[04:59] ---

Say, this has been eating
at me this whole time...

[05:05] ---

Have you spoken to Okita
since that incident?

[05:08] ---

Haven't you and Okita been

[05:09] ---

pals since your dojo days in Edo?

[05:17] ---

I don't need to worry about

[05:19] ---

Souji with Kondou-san dealing with him.

[05:22] ---

But--!

[05:26] ---

It's nothing...

[05:30] ---

Maybe I should go.

[05:32] ---

We can't stay stuck like this forever.

SIGN Several Days Later, Kyoto

SIGN Ink Sticks

[05:52] ---

Excuse me!

[05:53] ---

I was asked to get an ink stick.

[05:55] ---

Could you show me what you've got?

[05:58] ---

I do not have any.

[05:59] ---

Huh? You don't?

[06:01] ---

But doesn't this shop
specialize in selling ink?

[06:04] ---

That is correct,

[06:05] ---

but I have already
sold out of today's stock.

[06:08] ---

Please take your leave.

[06:11] ---

What?!

[06:12] ---

There's no way in the world

[06:14] ---

you could have totally run out!

[06:16] ---

Say what you will, but...

[06:19] ---

My apologies, Sir.

[06:21] ---

This man is an acquaintance of mine.

[06:23] ---

Huh?

[06:24] ---

Could you sell him a stick?

[06:27] ---

Is that right?

[06:29] ---

Come to think of it, I
just might have one left.

SIGN Dried Blue Ink Stick

[06:46] ---

I owe you one!

[06:48] ---

Thanks a lot!

[06:49] ---

It's nothing.

[06:51] ---

There are some in Kyoto who feel uneasy

[06:53] ---

when they hear your eastern dialect.

[06:56] ---

Please don't hold it against him.

[06:57] ---

Ah, so that's what the deal was.

[07:01] ---

By the way, have I met
you somewhere before?

[07:08] ---

I see elite samurai do
not remember everything

[07:11] ---

that happens in a banquet room.

[07:13] ---

Huh?

[07:18] ---

Thank you for your help back then.

[07:25] ---

Oh, it's you!

[07:28] ---

I totally didn't recognize
you without your MAIKO attire!

[07:32] ---

How was your injury?

[07:36] ---

The doctor say that it
merely gave me a bump,

[07:37] ---

so I may return to work once
it isn't so noticeable.

[07:43] ---

I see...

[07:45] ---

It must have been a nightmare.

[07:48] ---

I have heard that the
man named Serizawa-han

[07:51] ---

came to Kyoto with the
Roshigumi to protect Kyoto.

[07:55] ---

Uh, r-right...

[07:58] ---

Then why does he treat the weak

[08:01] ---

such as myself so cruelly?

[08:04] ---

N-no, it isn't limited to the weak!

[08:07] ---

He's always mean to me and the

[08:10] ---

members of the Roshigumi.

[08:14] ---

Uh-huh!

[08:21] ---

Yeah, but seriously, why
did you talk back to him?

[08:24] ---

Huh?

[08:25] ---

I mean, considering
where you work and all,

[08:28] ---

shouldn't you act a
bit more businesslike?

[08:33] ---

What do you mean by "considering
where I work"?

[08:36] ---

Huh? Well, don't you
get paid for serving SAKE

[08:40] ---

and casually pleasing your customers?

[08:49] ---

You don't know anything about me,

[08:52] ---

so don't make that stuff up!

[08:54] ---

H-hey, wait!

[09:12] ---

Yo! If it isn't Ryunosuke!

[09:14] ---

What's up?

[09:19] ---

You moron!

[09:22] ---

What was that for?!

[09:23] ---

You actually said that crap
to that nice little MAIKO?

[09:27] ---

No wonder she gave you that handprint.

[09:33] ---

Unbelievable... We're going.

[09:35] ---

Go? Go where?

[09:37] ---

You're gonna go apologize
to that little lady, duh!

[09:41] ---

Ow, ow! Why should I?!

[09:42] ---

Just apologize!

[09:43] ---

Wait, wait! That hurts!

[09:45] ---

Come on, moron!

SIGN Shimabara

[09:46] ---

Hey, mind if I ask you something?

[09:49] ---

We're searching for a MAIKO.

[09:51] ---

Okay. What is the girl's name?

[09:54] ---

Ryunosuke?

[09:57] ---

Like I said, I'm not apolo--Ow!

[09:59] ---

Be good and answer the question!

[10:02] ---

What's her name?

[10:04] ---

Pretty sure it's Kosuzu.

[10:06] ---

Oh, if you're looking
for Kosuzu-chan...

[10:13] ---

No, no! Stop, stop!

[10:15] ---

Kosuzu, how many times must I tell you?

[10:18] ---

Did I not tell you to slowly
turn to the right at that part?

[10:21] ---

You did. I apologize.

[10:23] ---

Mother, please let me try again.

[10:28] ---

Okay. Turn there and bow.

[10:32] ---

Right. Be sure to bow low.

[10:34] ---

She is currently in the
middle of practice...

[10:36] ---

Do it again!

Okay. Then we'll wait here for a bit.

[10:38] ---

Okay!

Okay. Then we'll wait here for a bit.

[10:40] ---

Okay, now turn and bow.

[10:44] ---

Right.

[10:46] ---

Thank you kindly.

[10:50] ---

Ma'am, there is a customer
here to see Kosuzu-han.

[10:55] ---

Sorry for the wait.

[10:58] ---

Sorry to disturb ya.

[11:00] ---

Apparently he said some
pretty rude stuff to you,

[11:03] ---

so he came to apologize.

[11:04] ---

Do it, Ryunosuke!

[11:07] ---

Fine!

[11:09] ---

Bowing in apology means nothing if

[11:11] ---

he does not regret what he said.

[11:13] ---

You've got a point.

[11:15] ---

Sorry, but could you explain to

[11:18] ---

this idiot why you got so mad?

[11:22] ---

He's truly an ignorant idiot!

[11:25] ---

Quit calling me an idiot.

[11:28] ---

Ibuki-han, you said
that we should casually

[11:31] ---

try to please our banquet guests,

[11:35] ---

but since arriving in Kyoto,

[11:37] ---

I have not missed a single day of dance,

[11:40] ---

SHAMISEN or music lessons.

[11:45] ---

And not just me.

[11:47] ---

The same is true of the other women.

[11:50] ---

This place has been soaked
with our sweat and tears.

[11:56] ---

All of us live by selling the arts

[11:58] ---

we have worked so hard to master!

[12:07] ---

I...

[12:09] ---

Now do you get it?

[12:11] ---

Everyone has something that
they will stand up for.

[12:17] ---

I'm really sorry!

[12:21] ---

I said something horrible

[12:23] ---

when I didn't know a thing about you!

[12:26] ---

I'm sorry!

[12:30] ---

That is enough.

[12:32] ---

Please raise your head, Ibuki-han.

[12:36] ---

I am sorry I slapped you.

[12:39] ---

Are you all right?

[12:41] ---

Uh, yeah, I guess...

[12:43] ---

Although I was surprised
when it came out of nowhere.

[12:50] ---

If you do not mind, could you ask for me

[12:52] ---

the next time you visit a banquet room?

[12:55] ---

Huh? But...

[12:58] ---

There's no way I'll
get to visit one again.

[13:02] ---

Please watch me perform my arts.

[13:05] ---

No, like I said--

[13:07] ---

Sheesh! Just say, "Okay!" already!

[13:09] ---

What gives?! Let go of me!

[13:11] ---

Be a man!

[13:15] ---

Everyone, listen to this!

[13:17] ---

We have been granted an audience

[13:19] ---

with the lieutenant
general of Aizu tomorrow.

[13:22] ---

All of the Roshigumi will visit

[13:24] ---

the Kyoto Military
Commissioner's headquarters.

[13:26] ---

Awesome!

[13:28] ---

That means they've finally
acknowledged how cool we are!

[13:31] ---

What should I do?

[13:32] ---

Y'know, I don't have a thing to wear!

[13:35] ---

Men, calm down!

[13:37] ---

He's not done talking!

[13:39] ---

So here's the deal:

[13:40] ---

Since we will be in the presence of the

[13:43] ---

Aizu Domain's lieutenant general,

[13:45] ---

I would like to hold some
matches for him to watch!

[13:48] ---

Some matches for him?

[13:50] ---

You mean we get to fight
in front of a lord?

[13:53] ---

Yeah! It'd be a waste if we just

[13:55] ---

went to meet him and ended at that.

[13:59] ---

Why should we go through
all of that trouble?

[14:02] ---

Indeed!

[14:03] ---

The Aizu Domain hardly even
cough up money to fund our work.

[14:07] ---

Leave all of that sweaty work to us.

[14:11] ---

This job isn't big enough
to concern two chiefs over it.

[14:16] ---

We've already decided
who will face who.

[14:19] ---

The first match will be
between Heisuke and I.

[14:23] ---

I-I'm fighting Hijikata-san...?

[14:25] ---

And the second match will be
between Shinpachi and Saito.

[14:28] ---

Saito, eh?

[14:30] ---

This should make for
a pretty interestin' match!

[14:32] ---

The final match will be
between Sannan-san and...

[14:35] ---

...Souji, you.

[14:40] ---

The Aizu Domain's
assessment of us depends

[14:44] ---

on the skills displayed in the matches,

[14:46] ---

so please put your heart your practice!

[14:49] ---

Yessir!

[14:55] ---

Everyone's all excited, huh?

[14:57] ---

That's because we finally
get our chance to shine.

[15:01] ---

Oh, right! Ikubi-kun, why don't you

[15:04] ---

take advantage of this opportunity

[15:05] ---

to start training with the sword?

[15:07] ---

Me?!

[15:08] ---

Yeah! I'd be willing to
personally instruct you.

[15:11] ---

I-I'll pass.

[15:13] ---

I mean, with those important
matches coming up

[15:16] ---

shouldn't you overlook
everyone's training instead?

[15:19] ---

You think?

[15:20] ---

In that case, I might do just that.

[15:24] ---

What's this?

[15:26] ---

And here I thought you were going

[15:27] ---

to refuse 'cause
"it'd be a hassle."

[15:29] ---

You've matured a bit, haven't ya?

[15:31] ---

Hey, knock it off!

SIGN Headquarters of the Kyoto Military Commissioner Konkaikoumyouji Main Temple

[15:39] ---

Kondou-kun, I take it the men from your

[15:42] ---

dojo will put on a show worth watching.

[15:46] ---

I am confident that they will.

[15:51] ---

You may now begin!

[16:00] ---

What's he doing?

[16:02] ---

It's called the "Wagtail Sword."

[16:04] ---

He keeps the sword constantly moving

[16:06] ---

so that his opponent cannot
read when he will strike.

[16:50] ---

Dang it! And here I was so close.

[16:53] ---

Oh, Heisuke...

[16:55] ---

Huh?

[16:56] ---

Forget it. That was a good match.

[17:02] ---

Begin!

[17:05] ---

Isn't that man's stance backwards?

[17:08] ---

Right, he is left-handed.

[17:11] ---

Aren't you going to make
him learn the right way?

[17:13] ---

There are essentially no
left-handed warriors out there.

[17:17] ---

In other words, there are no sword

[17:20] ---

techniques to counter
a left-handed opponent.

[17:24] ---

Nothing could be more
advantageous in actual combat.

[17:27] ---

That makes sense.

[17:39] ---

Most impressive, Saito!

[17:41] ---

Have you improved some more?

[17:43] ---

You have as well.

[17:47] ---

But I'm going to win with my next move.

[17:50] ---

I do not intend to lose!

[18:14] ---

Stop there!

[18:17] ---

His movement was amazing!

[18:20] ---

Dammit! I lost.

[18:23] ---

Good job!

[18:26] ---

Is that the Wagtail Sword again?

[18:27] ---

Yeah.

[18:29] ---

But Sannan-san...

[18:30] ---

Is that going to work on Souji?

[18:39] ---

I can read your moves, Sannan-san.

[18:42] ---

I see you've grown strong, Okita-kun.

[18:46] ---

Souji's stance has
changed a bit after all.

[18:53] ---

I'm going to wrap this up, Sannan-san!

[19:01] ---

Thanks to all of you, the
Aizu lieutenant general

[19:04] ---

gave us wonderful words of praise.

[19:07] ---

We're partying today!

[19:09] ---

Drink as much as you like!

[19:20] ---

Hey, you guzzlin' the booze, Ryunosuke?

[19:23] ---

Not a sip.

[19:24] ---

What, you can't drink?

[19:27] ---

Isn't that bad for a warrior
who speaks of politics?

[19:32] ---

Dude, that's Niimi-san!

[19:33] ---

You sounded just like him.

[19:39] ---

When they get like this,
they won't stop until morning,

[19:41] ---

so you should turn in for
the day before too long.

[19:44] ---

Yeah...

[19:46] ---

Everyone's psyched that the lord from

[19:48] ---

Aizu complemented them, aren't they?

[19:50] ---

Yes.

[19:52] ---

After all, it just increased the chances

[19:54] ---

of Aizu becoming our patron.

[19:57] ---

But the real trials are yet to come...

[20:05] ---

Awesome! Too cool!

[20:10] ---

So that's our new uniform, eh?

[20:12] ---

Yeah!

[20:15] ---

In order to spread the Roshigumi's
name throughout Kyoto,

[20:17] ---

Serizawa-sensei had these made

[20:19] ---

with the money he collected in Osaka.

[20:21] ---

Hey, let's go ahead and try 'em on!

[20:25] ---

Would that be okay, Serizawa-san?

[20:27] ---

Sure, go ahead!

[20:28] ---

Try them on.

[20:29] ---

Sweet!

[20:32] ---

Gen-san, get the scissors! The scissors!

[20:33] ---

We gotta cut off the tacking thread!

[20:34] ---

Just give me a moment.

[20:35] ---

Hurry! Hurry!

[20:37] ---

I'll cut it for you, so
sit still for a moment!

[20:39] ---

Mine, too!

[20:40] ---

Sano-san, what do you
think of these coats?

[20:42] ---

I think they're a bit flashy...

[20:45] ---

Right, Saito?

[20:46] ---

You have a point.

[20:47] ---

This is one way to spread word about the

[20:50] ---

Roshigumi throughout Kyoto.

[20:54] ---

Besides, if we're all in the same
uniform when we go on patrol,

[20:58] ---

no one will confuse us
with those rogue samurai

[21:00] ---

and it prevents us from accidentally
cutting down one of our own.

[21:03] ---

Makes sense.

[21:06] ---

Serizawa-san, do you have a moment?

[21:09] ---

Henceforth, we may receive

[21:12] ---

numerous opportunities
to guard Aizu's elite.

[21:15] ---

In which case, recruiting more men
will be a matter of great urgency.

[21:19] ---

We already thought of that
and came up with a plan to--

[21:24] ---

As long as we sell the
Roshigumi's name,

[21:26] ---

soldiers will come flocking to us.

[21:28] ---

That's what these uniforms are for.

[21:30] ---

Hijikata!

[21:40] ---

Okay, guys,

[21:43] ---

let's go!

[21:44] ---

Yeah!

[23:26] ---

The Shogunate ordered us to do this!

[23:28] ---

Run for it, Ryunosuke!

[23:29] ---

The way he looked...

He was definitely a Fury.

[23:32] ---

If you lack any real resolve,

[23:34] ---

don't waltz out onto a battlefield.

[23:37] ---

NEXT EPISODE:

Howling from the Darkness

[23:42] ---

Revision #1

Created 2026-06-23 01:11:19 UTC by whimsee

Updated 2026-06-23 01:11:19 UTC by whimsee