

E1 - The Death Row Convict and the Executioner

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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.)

[00:30] Narration

Beheading requires a high degree of skill.

[00:34] Narration

The neck, which is composed of strong bones

[00:38] Narration

*and more than ten layers of muscles,
is not easily severed.*

[00:42] Executioner

Any last words?

[00:44] Gabimaru

No.

[00:47] Narration

*Furthermore, beheading a person
with a single blow is next to impossible.*

[00:50] Narration

*In most cases, several blows
are required to behead a person,*

[00:53] Narration

which makes executions a horrific spectacle.

[01:13] Executioner

Impossible.

[01:16] Gabimaru

Why? Why can't I die?

[01:18] Gabimaru

No, why won't I die?

[01:23] Gabimaru

I have no attachment to life.

[01:29] Gabimaru

I've killed countless people until now.

[01:33] Gabimaru

I don't expect to live a long life.

SIGN The Death Row Convict and the Executioner

[03:12] Sagiri

Your name is Gabimaru.

[03:15] Sagiri

Born a shinobi in the village of Iwagakure,

[03:17] Sagiri

you studied only assassination techniques
since you were a child.

[03:22] Sagiri

Many lose their lives during training,
but in exchange,

[03:24] Sagiri

those who survive develop
superhuman bodies.

[03:29] Sagiri

I see.

[03:30] Sagiri

For someone from Iwagakure,

[03:32] Sagiri

breaking a blade with your
own flesh is a simple task.

[03:36] Gabimaru

Well, yeah.

[03:38] Gabimaru

Someone that shitty
with a sword can't hurt me.

[03:40] Gabimaru

I didn't even have to use any ninjutsu.

[03:42] Sagiri

You can use ninjutsu?

[03:45] Sagiri

Could you show me some?

[03:47] Gabimaru

Why?

[03:48] Sagiri

As a matter of personal interest.

[03:50] Gabimaru

In that case, no.

[03:51] Police Sergeant

Burn him at the stake!

[03:53] Narration

*Being burnt at the stake is normally
the punishment for arson.*

[03:58] Narration

Searing the flesh inflicts incredible pain.

[04:01] Narration

The heat causes the muscles to shrink,

[04:03] Narration

*bending the body so severely
that bones break.*

[04:06] Narration

*Ultimately, the person dies
when they suffocate*

[04:08] Narration

*or are poisoned by
the smoke produced by the flame.*

[04:10] Narration

*It is an incredibly
painful execution method.*

[04:15] Narration

*Sometimes the person
is killed beforehand as a mercy.*

[04:21] Gabimaru

Uh, sorry.

[04:42] Jailer A

B-But the flames are enormous...

[04:47] Gabimaru

I'm not trying to resist.

[04:52] Gabimaru

If anything, I wish you'd kill me.

[04:54] Sagiri

I see.

[04:56] Gabimaru

If you're gonna look away,
then why not give me clothes?

[04:58] Gabimaru

C'mon, c'mon.

[05:01] Sagiri

My job is to record events,
and your nudity is no obstacle.

[05:06] Sagiri

Please continue.

[05:08] Gabimaru

My background's not
very interesting, you know.

[05:11] Sagiri

It's my job.

[05:16] Gabimaru

My parents? I dunno.

[05:19] Gabimaru

I was only told they were killed
by the village chief when I was a baby.

[05:23] Gabimaru

I don't know why.

[05:25] Gabimaru

I don't have any feelings about it.

[05:28] Gabimaru

Dreams? Don't have any.

[05:31] Gabimaru

Shinobi don't have any great purpose.

[05:34] Gabimaru

They just kill as they're told.

[05:39] Gabimaru

Why was I caught?

[05:41] Gabimaru

Well, uh...

[05:44] Gabimaru

I tried to leave the village.

[05:45] Gabimaru

I was captured on a job
when my cohorts betrayed me.

[05:49] Gabimaru

The village chief probably
put them up to it.

[05:52] Gabimaru

The village doesn't allow anyone to leave.

[05:54] Gabimaru

It's not like they had a choice.

[05:57] Sagiri

Why did you try to leave
the village in the first place?

[06:01] Police Sergeant

Have him torn apart by bulls!

[06:04] Narration

*In execution by bulls, ropes tied
to a person's legs are pulled by bulls.*

[06:09] Narration

*Human legs can withstand up
to 500 kilograms of force,*

[06:13] Narration

but bulls exert 950 kilograms of force.

[06:16] Narration

*The method not only
removes the person's legs,*

[06:18] Narration

but also splits them from groin to chest.

[06:40] Gabimaru

Oh, uh...

[06:45] Police Sergeant

At this rate, the magistrate's
office will be disgraced.

[06:48] Police Sergeant

Bring more bulls!

[06:51] Sagiri

It's strange.

[06:53] Gabimaru

My shinobi's body?

[06:55] Sagiri

No.

[06:57] Sagiri

Despite saying you want to be killed,
it seems to me as though you were resisting.

[07:02] Sagiri

Why would someone with no will to live...

[07:05] Sagiri

Never mind.

[07:06] Sagiri

Why did you try to leave the village?

[07:10] Sagiri

Will you answer the question
I asked you yesterday?

[07:14] Police Sergeant

Who cares about the record? Just kill—

[07:16] Sagiri

I'm working.

[07:18] Jailer A

Um, the bulls—

[07:19] Sagiri

I'm working.

[07:20] Gabimaru

Whatever.

[07:21] Sagiri

I'm work...

[07:22] Gabimaru

It wasn't for an interesting reason.

[07:25] Gabimaru

I was the best in Iwagakure.

[07:29] Gabimaru

I had the chief's recognition,
and married his daughter.

[07:35] Gabimaru

But his daughter was a real idiot.

[07:39] Gabimaru

I don't know how a shinobi's,

[07:41] Gabimaru

much less the chief's daughter,
ends up like that.

[07:46] Gabimaru

She was a carefree, naïve,

and sheltered girl.

[07:49] Gaibmaru

She turned my life upside down.

[07:53] (Flashback) Yui

Remove your shoes when you come inside.

[07:56] (Flashback) Yui

Pray once a day.

[07:59] (Flashback) Yui

Say "thanks for the meal" together and express gratitude for the life we've taken.

[08:05] Gabimaru

I was totally bewildered,
and I got fed up with her.

[08:08] Gabimaru

I didn't want to lose my edge.

[08:12] (Flashback) Village Chief

If that's the case,
then there's no helping it.

[08:15] (Flashback) Village Chief

But could you do one last job for me?

[08:25] Gabimaru

I knew I'd been set up.

[08:28] Gabimaru

But I also knew the people of Iwagakure would follow me everywhere, even if I escaped.

[08:33] Gabimaru

It was over the moment
I was caught in their trap.

[08:36] Gabimaru

It was stupid of me to defy the chief
in the first place, so I gave up.

[08:43] Gabimaru

Well? Not a very interesting reason, is it?

[08:51] Jailer B

Perhaps I should mind my own business,

[08:54] Jailer B

but a woman shouldn't
get involved with him.

[08:58] Jailer B

Do you know what his name is?

[09:02] Sagiri

Isn't he Gabimaru,
former shinobi of Iwagakure?

[09:06] Jailer B

I mean his other name.

[09:13] Jailer B

Gabimaru the Hollow.

[09:15] Jailer B

He's a hollow man, without blood or tears.

[09:20] Jailer B

A monster who killed 20 men
when he was arrested.

[09:25] Jailer B

Rumor is the shinobi of Iwagakure
consume an Elixir of Life.

[09:30] Jailer B

The medicine of immortality
that comes from Shinsenkyo.

[09:34] Sagiri

The Elixir...

[09:36] Jailer B

Forgive me for speaking such nonsense.

[09:39] Jailer B

In any case, he's dangerous.

[09:42] Sagiri

Are you sure about that?

[09:45] Sagiri

Why would a hollow man fight back so
hard that he killed 20 people?

[09:54] Sagiri

*Despite saying you want to be killed,
it seems to me as though you were resisting.*

[10:01] Gabimaru

She's right. What am I doing?

[10:05] Gabimaru

Why don't I just die?

[10:08] Gabimaru

I have no attachment to life.

[10:11] Gabimaru

Tomorrow. I'll end it all tomorrow.

[10:15] Gabimaru

With tomorrow's execution...

[10:23] Narration

*Death by boiling, also known as death
by cauldron, uses a large quantity of oil.*

[10:32] Narration

*Because oil combusts at a temperature
of over 370 degrees, however,*

[10:37] Narration

*it could not be kept boiling long in
the earthen pots used during the Edo period.*

[10:43] Gabimaru

Why won't I die?

[10:46] Gabimaru

Why am I still enduring this?

[10:49] Gabimaru

I should have no lingering attachments.

[10:51] Gabimaru

I should be empty.

[10:54] Police Sergeant

Damn it! Why won't you *die*?

[11:03] Sagiri

Sir, the arrangements have been made.

[11:07] Sagiri

I'm ready to start at any time.

[11:16] Gabimaru

What kind of execution is it this time?

[11:18] Gabimaru

Honestly, I'm getting tired of this.

[11:21] Gabimaru

When are you going to...

[11:24] Police Sergeant

This will shut you up.

[11:36] Gabimaru

What is this?

[11:39] Police Sergeant

She's no mere inspector.

[11:44] Police Sergeant

She's a sword-tester sent here from Edo.

[11:50] Police Sergeant

The executioner Yamada Asaemon Sagiri.

[12:04] Narration

*Yamada Asaemon is the trade name
of the Yamada Clan ronin*

[12:11] Narration

*who have served as sword-testers
and executioners for generations.*

[12:16] Narration

*They are master swordsmen
capable of testing swords*

[12:19] Narration

*and beheading criminals
with a single blow.*

[12:21] Gabimaru

You're an Asaemon... and a woman?

[12:24] Sagiri

Yes, a woman.

[12:27] Sagiri

Runaway shinobi Gabimaru from Isshu,

[12:29] Sagiri

the shogunate has charged me

with your execution.

[12:33] Sagiri

You said you wanted someone to kill you.

[12:36] Sagiri

I shall grant you your wish.

[12:46] Gabimaru

She's the real deal.

[12:53] Police Sergeant

Sagiri-dono, kill him, quickly.

[12:55] Sagiri

At once.

[13:05] Sagiri

Why did you evade my blow?

[13:07] Sagiri

You'd have died if you hadn't moved.

[13:11] Gabimaru

Could I have died?

[13:18] Gabimaru

Do I not want to die?

[13:25] Sagiri

Through my job, I've been present during the final moments of many.

[13:29] Sagiri

I've learned to identify how people truly feel when they're dying.

[13:33] Sagiri

A person's true nature is reflected in the blade.

[13:37] Sagiri

Some put up a brave act until just before their death.

[13:41] Sagiri

Some desperately beg for mercy.

[13:44] Sagiri

And some lie to themselves and claim to have accepted death.

[13:50] Gabimaru

What?

[13:51] Sagiri

Gabimaru the Hollow.

[13:53] Sagiri

There's certainly a great emptiness inside you.

[13:57] Sagiri

I'm certain of it after listening to you describe your history.

[14:01] Sagiri

But you lied about one thing.

[14:05] Sagiri

You *do* have an attachment to life.

[14:07] Sagiri

No, you love your wife.

[14:13] Sagiri

To you, is she not your reason to live?

[14:21] (Flashback) Yui

Pray once a day.

[14:24] (Flashback) Yui

Say "thanks for the meal."

[14:26] (Flashback) Yui

We should always strive to be ordinary,

[14:29] (Flashback) Yui

so that we can be a married couple,
like normal people.

[14:33] (Flashback) Yui

You...

[14:42] Sagiri

I'm right.

[14:44] Sagiri

Why do you lie to yourself?

[14:46] Sagiri

You couldn't die during your executions
because of your feelings for her.

[14:51] Sagiri

Are you not just telling yourself
that you have no attachment to life?

[14:57] Gabimaru

Shut up!

[14:59] Gabimaru

I have no attachments!

[15:01] Gabimaru

You know nothing about
the world I've lived in!

[15:06] Gabimaru

I am hollow!

[15:09] (Flashback) Yui

You're not hollow.

[15:13] (Flashback) Gabimaru

No, the nickname suits me.

[15:17] (Flashback) Gabimaru

I've grown too accustomed
to terrible, ugly things.

[15:20] (Flashback) Gabimaru

I can only show you the same.

[15:28] (Flashback) Yui

That's not true at all.

[15:31] (Flashback) Yui

You're kind.

[15:32] (Flashback) Yui

After all, you're the only one
who wasn't repulsed by this face.

[15:40] (Flashback) Yui

Maybe being accustomed to ugly
things isn't so bad after all.

[15:46] (Flashback) Yui

In Iwagakure, men are soldiers,
and women bear children.

[15:51] (Flashback) Yui

We're not allowed to live as people.

[15:55] (Flashback) Yui

That's what happened to my face.

[15:59] (Flashback) Yui

My father burned it so I'd give up on trying
to live like an ordinary woman.

[16:05] (Flashback) Yui

But people's hearts don't die so easily.

[16:11] (Flashback) Gabimaru

But...

[16:22] (Flashback) Gabimaru

What are you...

[16:25] (Flashback) Yui

Look at how much you're blushing.

[16:27] (Flashback) Yui

Someone like you couldn't
possibly be hollow.

[16:31] Gabimaru

I am Gabimaru the Hollow!

[16:36] Gabimaru

I'm a heartless monster!

[16:40] Gabimaru

Try as I might, I can never be human!

[16:55] Gabimaru

*I'll quit making
a living by killing people.*

[16:57] Gabimaru

The two of us will live a quiet life.

[17:01] Gabimaru

*It's what's best for his daughter.
The chief will understand.*

[17:07] Gabimaru

I won't kill anyone.

[17:09] Gabimaru

We'll live in a quiet place.

[17:12] Gabimaru

And live an ordinary life.

[17:19] Gabimaru

Like normal people.

[17:21] Gabimaru

It's impossible!

[17:24] Sagiri

It's possible!

[17:28] Gabimaru

What?

SIGN Official Pardon

[17:31] Sagiri

This is an official pardon.

[17:34] Sagiri

Not only does it dismiss all charges,

[17:37] Sagiri

but it even grants you
the shogun's protection.

[17:40] Sagiri

With this, neither the magistrate's office
nor the village's shinobi could harm you.

[17:47] Gabimaru

What are you talking about?

[17:48] Sagiri

But it comes with a condition.

[17:51] Sagiri

You will go to the Underworld.

[17:53] Gabimaru

What?

[17:55] Gabimaru

The Underworld? You mean the Other Side?

[17:58] Sagiri

Yes.

[17:59] Gabimaru

Are you telling me to die?

[18:01] Sagiri

No.

[18:03] Sagiri

There is a land brimming with fertility
and joy, where there is no pain:

[18:07] Sagiri

Shinsenkyo.

[18:09] Sagiri

Believed in since ancient times, people have

[18:12] Sagiri

called it Paradise,

the Other Side, and Heaven.

[18:16] Sagiri

It was said to be far to the southwest,
beyond the Ryukyu Kingdom.

[18:22] Sagiri

And it's finally been found.

[18:27] Sagiri

Butterflies and flowers dance.

[18:29] Sagiri

Beautiful voices can be heard singing.

[18:33] Sagiri

It is as the legends describe.

[18:37] Sagiri

It is said that the immortality-granting
Elixir of Life can be found in Shinsenkyo.

[18:42] Sagiri

The shogunate sent a search party
there to acquire the Elixir.

[18:47] Sagiri

However...

[19:16] Sagiri

Five more expeditions were sent,
but no one returned...

[19:25] Sagiri

except for the things they became.

[19:29] Gabimaru

W-Wait a minute.

[19:31] Gabimaru

What kind of story is that?

[19:33] Gabimaru

It sounds like a fairy tale.

[19:34] Sagiri

Yes.

[19:36] Sagiri

Everyone believed it was
merely a fairy tale

[19:39] Sagiri

until they saw *that*.

[19:42] (Flashback) Nariyoshi

Humans became flowers?

[19:46] (Flashback) Nariyoshi

How mysterious. How mystical.

[19:48] (Flashback) Nariyoshi

That land must be real.

[19:51] (Flashback) Nariyoshi

The Elixir of Life must be there.

[19:54] (Flashback) Nariyoshi

Choose expendable people
for the next expedition.

[19:57] (Flashback) Nariyoshi

Gather criminals condemned to death from

[19:59] (Flashback) Nariyoshi

around the country
and send them to the island.

[20:02] (Flashback) Nariyoshi

Whoever brings back the Elixir
of Life will be pardoned.

[20:06] Sagiri

I came here looking
for potential candidates.

[20:11] Sagiri

Someone with skill
and a fierce desire to live.

[20:16] Sagiri

On my way here, I heard your
wife is still in Iwagakure.

[20:23] Sagiri

Since the day you were captured,

[20:25] Sagiri

she closed herself off
and hasn't spoken to anyone.

[20:29] Sagiri

She must believe you'll return.

[20:35] Sagiri

I'll ask you again.

[20:36] Sagiri

Do you have any attachment to life?

[20:39] Sagiri

Traveling to a mysterious island
with heinous criminals

[20:43] Sagiri

condemned to death and competing
with them for a pardon

[20:45] Sagiri

is the only way for you
to be reunited with her.

[20:50] Sagiri

Will you risk that

[20:52] Sagiri

for a life with her, Gabimaru the Hollow?

[20:58] Police Sergeant

This is ridiculous.

[21:00] Police Sergeant

I'm not releasing him over such nonsense.

[21:06] Sagiri

The shogunate has commanded it.

[21:08] Police Sergeant

He's merely a man condemned to death.
There are plenty more like him.

[21:12] Police Sergeant

If you interfere, you'll go down with him.

[21:17] Police Sergeant

Are you listening, Hollow?

[21:19] Gabimaru

Heartless, hollow...

[21:22] (Flashback) Yui

People's hearts don't die so easily.

[21:35] Gabimaru

You said you wanted to see ninjutsu.

[21:48] Gabimaru

If this'll do, then watch this.

[21:51] Gabimaru

Ninpo: Ascetic Blaze.

[22:08] Sagiri

Impressive.

[22:14] Gabimaru

I'll do it. I'll find this Elixir of Life.

[22:22] Gabimaru

So, what should I do now?

[22:25] Sagiri

Come with me. First, we'll go to Edo—

[22:28] Gabimaru

What?

[22:29] Gabimaru

Why don't we go directly to the island?

[22:32] Gabimaru

Edo's a detour. What a pain.

[22:34] Sagiri

*He's complaining more now that
he's out of his funk.*

[22:37] Sagiri

If you don't want to go,
then we can call off the deal.

[22:39] Gabimaru

I'll do it, I'll do it.

[22:41] Gabimaru

I'll do anything now.

[22:44] Gabimaru

It doesn't matter if I have to face
condemned criminals or mysterious islands.

[22:48] Gabimaru

I'll make it back alive.

[22:52] Gabimaru

For you.

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