

# 5 - Chapter Five: Ailing Empire

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**[00:21]** ---

Lord Keiro has returned!

**[00:37]** ---

I have returned.

**[00:39]** ---

Welcome back.

**[00:40]** ---

It looks like your manliness  
has gained quite a bit of polish, Keiro.

**[00:48]** ---

They were quite tough,  
despite being bandits.

**[00:51]** ---

Don't play innocent!

**[00:52]** ---

Why have I heard reports of you  
attacking Lian Tong Temple?!

**[00:55]** ---

I had no choice; the bandits  
in Tai Shan had fled into the temple.

**[00:59]** ---

What?

**[01:00]** ---

Subduing rebels was the duty  
given to me by His Majesty.

**[01:07]** ---

I...

**[01:10]** ---

I shall take my leave now.

**[01:17]** ---

Why don't you pay Lady Taki a visit?

**[01:21]** ---

You've not seen your daughter  
in some time, after all.

**[01:35]** ---

Do you think Tokaku suspects?

**[01:37]** ---

Never mind him.

**[01:38]** ---

The plan will need to be  
revised a little, however.

**[01:42]** ---

Yes. We will need to reformulate  
the plan from square one,

**[01:46]** ---

given that you can't unsheathe  
the Xian Jia Lan Wu--

**[01:50]** ---

My apologies.

**[01:51]** ---

No matter.

**[01:53]** ---

Even without the Xian Jia Lan Wu,

**[01:55]** ---

I will not be shaken from  
my path to domination.

**[02:11]** ---

*I'll never say good-bye  
to our prime forever*

**[02:20]** ---

*And I feel like dumb,  
I don't know why*

**[02:29]** ---

*I'll never say good-bye  
'cos I can't forget her°*

**[02:38]** ---

*But I feel like dumb,  
I don't know why*

**[02:47]** ---

*Try to scream*

**[02:50]** ---

*Shattered dreams are  
made of stone and desperation*

**[02:59]** ---

*Broken hearts blown in a  
freezing wind during winterlong*

**[03:04]** ---

*Unspoken words floating on  
freezing wind during winterlong*

**[03:14]** ---

*During winterlong*

**[03:28]** ---

"Chapter Five: Ailing Empire"

**[03:57]** ---

Oh! Incredible!

**[04:00]** ---

Don't gawk at everything. It's disgraceful.

**[04:03]** ---

This *is* the biggest city in Jing Province.

**[04:06]** ---

Wow! You know a lot, Hosei!

**[04:09]** ---

Well, I *have* spent a long time on the road because of my master's orders.

**[04:13]** ---

I've accomplished my objective now, though,

**[04:18]** ---

so I guess I'll have to report back...

**[04:20]** ---

Oh, man. I don't wanna go back there...

**[04:24]** ---

What's your master like?

**[04:28]** ---

A dumb ol' hag.

**[04:30]** ---

She's a horrible old lady with a terrible, twisted personality!

**[04:34]** ---

She's a monster! She works tender boys like a slave driver

**[04:37]** ---

morning, noon, and night while simply saying, "It's training!"

**[04:42]** ---

She sounds intense...

**[04:44]** ---

Yeah! I'm just a poor little boy!

**[04:48]** ---

Let me cry my eyes out pressed against your chest, Laila!

**[04:52]** ---

I'm hungry!

**[04:54]** ---

Oh, Laila!

**[04:55]** ---

What are you doing?

**[04:58]** ---

Why are *you* standing there?!

**[05:01]** ---

Oh, I wound up hugging a guy...

**[05:05]** ---

What are you people doing?

**[05:07]** ---

Oh, right! Laila! Gimme money!

**[05:10]** ---

Oh, all right.

**[05:13]** ---

Here. But don't waste it.

**[05:16]** ---

Yeah, I know!

**[05:18]** ---

Sheesh. He acts like a child.

**[05:20]** ---

Run!

**[05:23]** ---

Hey, you brats!

**[05:26]** ---

Ugh! Those kids do it every time!

**[05:31]** ---

Ma'am!

**[05:32]** ---

I'll take all the sweet buns you have!

**[05:35]** ---

Sorry, there's only one left.

**[05:38]** ---

Huh?!

**[05:41]** ---

Oh, well. Gimme one, then!

**[05:45]** ---

Here you are!

**[05:48]** ---

--Down the hatch--!

**[05:48]** ---

--Hey! Coming through!

**[06:03]** ---

Looks like business is pretty good!

**[06:05]** ---

Y-yes...

**[06:07]** ---

Anyway, we're having a bit  
of a money problem, you see...

**[06:12]** ---

You said the same thing yesterday...

**[06:13]** ---

Huh? You want your shop ruined again?

**[06:17]** ---

This is all I've made so far today...

**[06:23]** ---

This is it?

**[06:25]** ---

I wouldn't hold out on us if I were you!

**[06:27]** ---

You don't want your shop ruined, do you?

**[06:30]** ---

I'm telling the truth!

**[06:31]** ---

Well, whatever.

**[06:33]** ---

Let's go.

**[06:40]** ---

There you are, Mo Brothers!

**[06:42]** ---

Who the hell are you?!

**[06:44]** ---

We're going to claim the 100  
silver piece bounty on your heads!

**[06:49]** ---

100 silver pieces?

**[06:50]** ---

I'm pretty sure we don't have  
a bounty in these parts yet!

**[06:55]** ---

The man you killed three days ago  
was a provincial official!

**[06:58]** ---

Three days ago, you say?

Do you remember, Mo Han?

**[07:02]** ---

We've killed so many that I can't recall!

**[07:05]** ---

Laugh while you can!

**[07:08]** ---

Killing officials only increases  
the bounty on your heads!

**[07:15]** ---

Oh? Think you can win  
five against three, do you?

**[07:20]** ---

There's more to it than just sheer numbers!

**[07:22]** ---

Charge!

**[07:24]** ---

Oh, scary! Keep your

filthy faces away from me!

**[07:32]** ---

That leaves just three of you.

**[07:36]** ---

Damn you!

**[07:40]** ---

Did you see that?

**[07:41]** ---

Yeah. These guys are skilled.

**[07:46]** ---

Let's go!

**[07:56]** ---

This is terrible! How could they do this?

**[07:59]** ---

They didn't need to kill them...

**[08:01]** ---

You're too soft. This isn't a rare sight.

**[08:05]** ---

But we can't let those people  
push everyone around.

**[08:09]** ---

Don't be stupid. We can't take on  
everyone like them we come across.

**[08:12]** ---

We're not on a journey to make  
the world right. Right, Taito?

**[08:19]** ---

What are you doing, anyway?

**[08:21]** ---

My sweet bun...

**[08:24]** ---

Ma'am! Give me another!

**[08:25]** ---

I told you, that was the last one.

**[08:31]** ---

Thief!

**[08:32]** ---

Bastard! Get back here! Hey, you!

**[08:41]** ---

Damn kid! Get down here!

**[08:46]** ---

Why, you...

**[08:49]** ---

Fine!

**[08:50]** ---

You're going to be sorry for  
mocking the great Taito!

**[09:15]** ---

You're not getting away now!

**[09:19]** ---

Now, then! What sort of  
punishment shall I give you?

**[09:22]** ---

I wouldn't if I were you.  
You'll get hurt.

**[09:25]** ---

Yeah, whatever. That's *my* line!

**[09:30]** ---

Wh-what is this?!

**[09:33]** ---

Told you so.

**[09:34]** ---

You!

**[09:36]** ---

Well, bye! Thanks for the gift!

**[09:38]** ---

Hey! Give that back, you! Give it back!

**[09:52]** ---

Stop laughing!

**[09:53]** ---

But it's just so...!

**[09:56]** ---

Oh, man! I'm gonna die  
from laughing too much!

**[09:59]** ---

You guys...!

**[10:00]** ---

How unfortunate for you...

**[10:04]** ---

Hey, now! Ryuko!

**[10:07]** ---

Damn it!

**[10:11]** ---

Does he know where he's going?!

**[10:14]** ---

I'm guessing he does,  
out of wild intuition or something...

**[10:17]** ---

I'm coming for you, damn brat!  
I'm coming for you, damn brat!

**[10:20]** ---

He repeated himself again...

**[10:29]** ---

No doubt about it. It smells

like sweet buns up ahead.

**[10:33]** ---

What do you mean?

**[10:34]** ---

That brat smelled like sweet buns.

**[10:37]** ---

What are you, a dog?

**[10:38]** ---

An abandoned temple...

**[10:40]** ---

I know you're there!

**[10:42]** ---

Just give yourself up  
and come out, you damn thief!

**[10:48]** ---

Well, if it isn't that  
stupid guy from before!

**[10:52]** ---

I found you! You'll pay  
for what you did earlier!

**[10:55]** ---

You never learn, do you? Do you  
wanna wind up in another world of hurt?

**[10:58]** ---

*You're* the one who's gonna hurt!

**[11:01]** ---

Stop! Up ahead is--!

**[11:05]** ---

Taito!

**[11:09]** ---

Think he kicked the bucket?

**[11:11]** ---

Told you you'd get hurt!

**[11:15]** ---

Who said I'm hurt?

**[11:17]** ---

No way...!

**[11:20]** ---

Is that all you got?

**[11:28]** ---

Don't bully Lien!

**[11:37]** ---

Who are you?

**[11:43]** ---

That looks good!

**[11:45]** ---

Wait, wait! Don't rush,

there's enough for everyone!

**[11:49]** ---

Get in line, guys.

**[11:52]** ---

Okay!

**[11:59]** ---

My money, my sweet buns...

**[12:02]** ---

Just forget about it.

**[12:03]** ---

There's nothing that can be done;  
he says it's all been used.

**[12:07]** ---

I can't believe this...

**[12:11]** ---

Here! I'm Shulan! What's your name?

**[12:16]** ---

Taito.

**[12:17]** ---

Have some too, Taito!

**[12:20]** ---

Thanks.

**[12:23]** ---

We humbly accept this!

**[12:32]** ---

Mom...

**[12:37]** ---

Thanks to you guys, I was able  
to feed them until they were full.

**[12:41]** ---

Oh, uhh, no problem.

**[12:44]** ---

Do you children live by yourselves?

**[12:46]** ---

We're all orphans.

**[12:48]** ---

Orphans...

**[12:49]** ---

What about the government officials?

**[12:51]** ---

Their job is tying us up and beating us.

**[12:55]** ---

They won't help us.

**[12:56]** ---

That's because you steal.

**[12:59]** ---

Are we supposed to just starve to death?!

**[13:01]** ---

Stop. You'll wake up Shulan.

**[13:05]** ---

Anyway, I thank you.

But just forget about us.

**[13:11]** ---

These kids have always lived  
on their own, haven't they?

**[13:15]** ---

I sympathize with their situation.

**[13:18]** ---

But that doesn't mean  
it's all right for them to steal.

**[13:21]** ---

Only someone who's never  
starved could say that.

**[13:25]** ---

What?

**[13:26]** ---

I bet you've had a pretty  
nice and spoiled life...

**[13:30]** ---

You're saying I should overlook  
him because he's an orphan?

**[13:33]** ---

I didn't say that.

**[13:35]** ---

I'm just saying we're in  
no place to say anything.

**[13:39]** ---

Especially not certain naïve people  
with a self-centered sense of justice!

**[13:43]** ---

Hosei!

**[13:50]** ---

Come on. Knock it off, you two...

**[13:52]** ---

I'm not sure this is about  
someone being at fault...

**[14:20]** ---

Whoa!

**[14:21]** ---

Did you see that?!

**[14:22]** ---

Wow!

**[14:24]** ---

With proper energy control,

even iron can be cut through like paper.

**[14:29]** ---

I see...

**[14:30]** ---

Energy Manipulation is a secret  
technique of the Eight Great Styles.

**[14:33]** ---

I hear General Keiro of the Xian  
Empire is an accomplished user of it,

**[14:36]** ---

despite being self-taught.

**[14:38]** ---

If you can't at least do this much,  
you won't even stand a chance.

**[14:43]** ---

I *am* trying to do it how you taught me...

**[14:49]** ---

...but I just can't figure out  
how to transfer energy into a weapon...

**[14:55]** ---

Oh. Still no good...

**[14:57]** ---

Again?

**[14:58]** ---

Just what kind of energy control  
are you doing to pull off that trick?

**[15:02]** ---

That was amazing, Taito!

**[15:04]** ---

Do it again!

**[15:06]** ---

Hold on, now! Don't push!

**[15:07]** ---

Hey! Quit pulling my hair!

**[15:09]** ---

What is he doing?

**[15:15]** ---

Taito!

**[15:16]** ---

There you are!

**[15:17]** ---

Did you forget you were  
supposed to gather water?!

**[15:19]** ---

O-oops!

**[15:21]** ---

Get going!

**[15:27]** ---

Found you, you damn brat!

**[15:30]** ---

This is him, Big Bro!

This is the brat who stole my wallet!

**[15:35]** ---

Oh, he's an adorable boy!

**[15:38]** ---

You've made fools out of us Mo Brothers.

**[15:41]** ---

I hope you're ready for what you deserve.

**[15:44]** ---

You guys can't get me!

**[15:54]** ---

No way...

**[15:56]** ---

Childish tricks like this don't work on us!

**[16:07]** ---

Nuh-uh! Let's play a little more!

**[16:10]** ---

You made me mad, kid.

**[16:14]** ---

Now you're gonna pay the price.

**[16:15]** ---

Let go! Let go, dammit!

**[16:19]** ---

Lien!

**[16:20]** ---

Shulan! Run!

**[16:22]** ---

Stop bullying Lien!

**[16:25]** ---

Who's this kid?

**[16:30]** ---

Yuck. I got my clothes dirty.

**[16:33]** ---

How dare you guys...!

**[16:35]** ---

You wouldn't be in this mess now  
if you hadn't screwed with us!

**[16:41]** ---

Dammit!

**[16:44]** ---

Who did that?!

**[16:45]** ---

What do you think you're doing?!

**[16:47]** ---

Huh? You his friend too?

**[16:49]** ---

Take your foot off him!

**[16:51]** ---

Huh? What did you say?

**[16:53]** ---

Take it off him, damn it!

**[16:55]** ---

Don't get the wrong idea, kid.

This brat's a thief.

**[16:59]** ---

Shut up! So are you!

**[17:02]** ---

I hate it when people bully weaker people!

**[17:07]** ---

He's...

**[17:07]** ---

...no ordinary boy, it seems.

**[17:10]** ---

Let's do the usual routine.

**[17:24]** ---

I'll start with you!

**[17:29]** ---

What's the matter, kid?

**[17:30]** ---

Now it's *my* turn!

**[17:39]** ---

Crap!

**[17:43]** ---

Ryuko!

**[17:46]** ---

Hey! Let me join the party too!

**[17:50]** ---

There's another one?!

**[17:51]** ---

Dunno what's going on,  
but I'll back you up!

**[17:55]** ---

Taito!

**[17:57]** ---

Yeah! Thanks!

**[17:59]** ---

So many cutie-pies!

**[18:01]** ---

Yikes! Who is *that*?!

**[18:03]** ---

Hey, Ryuko! You can handle that one!

**[18:06]** ---

Wha--?! I don't want to either!

**[18:08]** ---

Oh, come on! I'm sure  
you'll make a good match!

**[18:11]** ---

Don't be creepy!

**[18:14]** ---

You'll pay for saying that!

**[18:16]** ---

Don't get cocky, you brats!

**[18:19]** ---

Say your prayers!

**[18:22]** ---

That idiot!

**[18:23]** ---

Taito!

**[18:27]** ---

Fool!

**[18:31]** ---

Stay sharp! They're tough!

**[18:33]** ---

Idiot!

**[18:35]** ---

Do you not have the ability to learn?!

**[18:38]** ---

Don't charge at 'em all by yourself!

**[18:40]** ---

B-but...

**[18:42]** ---

Listen. Individually, they are  
nothing but average martial artists.

**[18:46]** ---

But when working together,  
they become somewhat dangerous foes.

**[18:50]** ---

Then what do we do?

**[18:51]** ---

There are three of us as well.

**[18:54]** ---

Fine. I'll keep 'em busy.

**[18:58]** ---

Then I will create an opening.

**[19:00]** ---

Then what about me?

**[19:01]** ---

Isn't it obvious? Finish them with one blow!

**[19:04]** ---

Leave it to me!

**[19:05]** ---

I am Ryuko, an ascetic monk of the Liu Jia Sect  
Tong You Temple and user of the Eight Great Styles!

**[19:10]** ---

Here I come!

**[19:11]** ---

You won't be so lucky this time, kid!

**[19:21]** ---

Not bad, boy.

**[19:23]** ---

Whoa...

**[19:24]** ---

Big Bro! I got him!

**[19:27]** ---

Whoops! I don't think so!

**[19:34]** ---

Oh! Mo Han?!

**[19:36]** ---

Big Bro?!

**[19:37]** ---

Ryuko!

**[19:40]** ---

Now, Taito!

**[19:44]** ---

This is for the pain of the sweet bun...

**[19:47]** ---

...and for what you did to Lien!

**[20:03]** ---

A-are they monsters?

**[20:07]** ---

Lights out!

**[20:18]** ---

Hey. Are you really leaving?

**[20:20]** ---

Yeah, we have to get to the capital.

**[20:25]** ---

Then take me with you too!

**[20:28]** ---

I wanna be strong like you guys too!

**[20:31]** ---

What about the kids?

**[20:37]** ---

In that case, take them  
with you to Lian Tong Temple.

**[20:41]** ---

Good idea. If you ask Master Sonnei...

**[20:44]** ---

Lian Tong Temple?

I can get strong if I go there?

**[20:49]** ---

Well, at the very least you probably  
won't have to steal to survive.

**[20:57]** ---

Okay. We'll go.

**[20:59]** ---

Good. In that case, here.

**[21:03]** ---

This is the bounty from catching  
those guys. Are you sure?

**[21:06]** ---

You can't travel if you're flat broke.

**[21:09]** ---

We'll write you a letter of  
introduction too. Well, Laila will.

**[21:12]** ---

Hey, now...

**[21:16]** ---

Bye, big sis!

**[21:20]** ---

Take care!

**[21:22]** ---

Thanks! Let's meet again!

**[21:25]** ---

Yeah! Good luck!

**[21:47]** ---

The Alkaid boy doesn't understand at all.

**[21:50]** ---

He doesn't understand  
just how big a star he is...

**[21:54]** ---

Now, then. I guess it's time to make my move.

**[22:12]** ---

*In those days,  
you believed in more dreams*

**[22:23]** ---

*than could fit in your little hands*

**[22:31]** ---

*Don't look like that,  
don't give in°*

**[22:42]** ---

*Even inside me you're shining brightly now*

**[22:52]** ---

*Please notice*

**[22:56]** ---

*You can stay your more  
honest, open self*

**[23:02]** ---

*I'll be by your side  
and act as a signpost*

**[23:12]** ---

*So we can just walk beneath  
this great big sky together*

**[23:22]** ---

*because you aren't alone*

**[23:33]** ---

*An encounter brings forth  
a new power in Taito.*

**[23:37]** ---

*This is Hosei's master?*

**[23:39]** ---

*Is this "inner-channel" the other type  
of Energy Manipulation we don't know of?!*

**[23:43]** ---

*I did it! Praise me!*

**[23:45]** ---

*I am Hosei, Koei's best pupil!*

**[23:47]** ---

*I won't let you have  
your way on this mountain!*

**[23:50]** ---

*Interesting! Using you sounds like fun!*

**[23:54]** ---

*During a short-lived reprieve,  
a deep darkness creeps close!*

**[23:58]** ---

*On Hero Tales,  
"Chapter Six: The Red Champion."*

**[24:12]** ---

*"See you next time!"*

**[24:12]** ---

*I'm going to make my master  
acknowledge my skills!*

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