

E1 - First Begin with a Hero

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.)

[00:25] ---

Kazuya,

[00:27] ---

why do you think people have families?

[00:33] ---

Huh?

[00:35] ---

So that they don't die alone.

[00:38] ---

As I was attending to your grandmother,
I dwelt on that thought.

[00:42] ---

We lost our son and your mom
much too early, but you were still here.

[00:48] ---

It was because of you that we
found fulfillment in our lives.

[00:56] ---

Grandpa...

[00:58] ---

Once I go to join your grandma,
you're going to be all alone.

[01:05] ---

Kazuya, start a family. And no matter what
comes your way, keep them safe.

[01:13] ---

Do that, and when the end comes,

[01:16] ---

I promise you, you will consider
your life to have been a good one.

[01:20] ---

These will be the final words of wisdom
I leave to you, my grandson.

[01:27] ---

When he said those words, I thought

they sounded like a dying wish.

[01:30] ---

"Ancestral resting place"

When he said those words, I thought
they sounded like a dying wish.

[01:33] ---

Grandpa has now joined
Grandma where she is.

[01:43] ---

And now I... am all alone.

[01:58] ---

"Never mind, face forward,"

[02:03] ---

my heart just cried until it was hoarse

[02:09] ---

*When you lose something,
is that the end of it?*

[02:14] ---

*Is there no putting things back
the way they were?*

[02:20] ---

*Just as a line of clouds
moves off somewhere*

[02:26] ---

*when you take your eyes
off of them for a moment,*

[02:31] ---

so does everything else

[02:36] ---

I never thought there was a version of me

[02:43] ---

that the world would have a need for

[02:48] ---

But when I believed in what I believe,

[02:54] ---

I found myself as I truly am

[03:00] ---

*Hello, yes, the first step
I take after nodding*

[03:05] ---

*Hello, yes, is toward
the yet-unseen horizon*

[03:18] ---

"First Begin with a Hero"

[03:24] ---

Hmm, what do we do?

[03:27] ---

Mm-hmm, whatever shall we do?

[03:33] ---

What can we do about this?

[03:38] ---

Your Majesty,

[03:39] ---

at this point, I believe our
only move is to summon a hero.

[03:49] ---

"The Prince"

"Niccolo Machiavelli"

[03:54] ---

You do understand the procedure, right?

[03:56] ---

Yes.

[03:58] ---

Very well, we will now perform
the Hero Rite of Summoning.

[04:34] ---

Huh? Whoa!

[04:39] ---

"The Prince"

"Niccolo Machiavelli"

[05:09] ---

Huh? Eh?

[05:11] ---

I can't believe we actually
summoned someone.

[05:15] ---

Everything is worth trying at least once.

[05:17] ---

Whoa, hey...

[05:35] ---

O hero!

[05:37] ---

Thank you for answering our call!

[05:40] ---

I didn't answer anything. I was summoned
here without my say-so.

[05:46] ---

I-I suppose you were. From your
standpoint, it must seem that way.

[05:52] ---

You aren't, by any chance, angry that
we summoned you here, are you?

[05:55] ---

Can you imagine that I *wouldn't* be angry?

[06:00] ---

Could I at least ask you
to explain the situation?

[06:03] ---

I'll decide whether to lose
my temper after that.

[06:05] ---

Y-Yes indeed... an explanation...

[06:10] ---

...mm-hmm, allow me to explain...

[06:14] ---

This is the supercontinent Landia.

[06:16] ---

Many races--including humans,
elves, dwarves, and dragonewts--

[06:21] ---

have made their homes here, forming
a number of countries of various sizes.

[06:28] ---

However, roughly ten years ago, on
the northernmost end of the continent,

[06:32] ---

a horde of monsters arrived from a void
that appeared, called the Demon World,

[06:37] ---

and all hell broke loose among
the northern countries.

[06:42] ---

Centered around the Gran Chaos Empire,

[06:44] ---

which boasted the largest
territory on the continent,

[06:46] ---

the various nations united together
to form a punitive force,

[06:49] ---

and mounted an invasion
of the Demon World.

[06:52] ---

However, that punitive force
was wiped out.

[06:56] ---

With these nations losing their main
military force on this expedition,

[07:00] ---

they no longer had the strength to repel
the monsters from the Demon World,

[07:04] ---

and the Demon World's forces have
now occupied a third of the continent.

[07:09] ---

At present, this territory is known
as the Demon Lord's Domain.

[07:11] ---

"Demon Lord's Domain"
At present, this territory is known
as the Demon Lord's Domain.

[07:14] ---

"Demon Lord's Domain"
Perhaps because the number
of monsters attacking

[07:15] ---

Perhaps because the number
of monsters attacking

[07:16] ---

"Union of Eastern Nations"
has been divided due to
the expansion of the battle lines,

[07:19] ---

"Elfrieden Kingdom"
has been divided due to
the expansion of the battle lines,

[07:20] ---

"Elfrieden Kingdom"
the nations of mankind have been
able to barely keep them in check.

[07:21] ---

"Gran Chaos Empire"
the nations of mankind have been
able to barely keep them in check.

[07:25] ---

That deadlock remains
in place to this day.

[07:30] ---

So then, I hope you're not telling me
to go and defeat those monsters.

[07:34] ---

No, not that, exactly.

[07:39] ---

Ahem...

[07:41] ---

Hero, this is truly difficult
for me to say...

[07:48] ---

"Gran Chaos Empire"

[07:51] ---

"Gran Chaos Empire,
capital city, Valois"

[07:52] ---

"Gran Chaos Empire,
capital city, Valois"

At the moment, there is no large-scale
movement in the Demon Lord's Domain.

[07:56] ---

However, the forces
stationed along the border

[07:59] ---

have been informed
to remain ever vigilant.

[08:02] ---

The soldiers' morale is high, with
the charge to protect the world of men,

[08:06] ---

but as their postings become drawn out,

[08:09] ---

their toll on the nation's treasury grows
heavy, and is becoming problematic.

[08:14] ---

So, about that other matter...

[08:17] ---

Other matter?

[08:20] ---

The matter of our request
to the Elfrieden Kingdom

[08:23] ---

to contribute financially
to the war effort.

[08:24] ---

The deadline is approaching,
but they have yet to respond.

[08:28] ---

You're going to turn me over to
the empire in the place of financial aid?

[08:33] ---

I'm so sorry about this!
I hope you will forgive me!

[08:37] ---

Currently, the nation who is primarily
containing the Demon Lord's Domain

[08:40] ---

is the Gran Chaos Empire, who shares

the longest border with them.

[08:45] ---

Our own Elfrieden Kingdom is being greatly benefited by their efforts,

[08:49] ---

which is why the empire has sought financial assistance

[08:54] ---

from those countries who do not share a border with the Demon Lord's Domain.

[08:57] ---

If money will do, then why not pay it?

[09:01] ---

It sounds far preferable to fighting these monsters, right?

[09:04] ---

The thing is, we can't.

[09:07] ---

Yes. In addition to our nation facing a chronic shortage of food,

[09:11] ---

the expansion of the Demon Lord's Domain

[09:12] ---

has sent us an influx of refugees who were chased from their homes,

[09:15] ---

and it is costing us much to deal with them.

[09:17] ---

Oh, we are in no position to pay any financial assistance.

[09:22] ---

However, within the empire's request for aid

[09:25] ---

is a clause that states that if we cannot contribute any assistance,

[09:28] ---

then we may perform the Hero Rite of Summoning

[09:32] ---

that has been handed down through our nation,

[09:35] ---

and send the hero thereby summoned to the empire.

[09:38] ---

So it is with the utmost
reluctance that we--

[09:40] ---

...would sell off your own daughters
to pay your debts, would you?

[09:47] ---

So, what happens to me after
I'm turned over to the empire?

[09:51] ---

Well, we aren't sure what happens to you.

[09:54] ---

And what is a hero in the first place?

[09:57] ---

It is said that a hero is the one who will
lead the revolution into a new age.

[10:02] ---

Th--

[10:06] ---

That's more than a little vague, isn't it?

[10:08] ---

Er, you see, our information is scarce,

[10:11] ---

and he is someone
shrouded in mystery, so...

[10:14] ---

I hope the reason the empire
wants you to hand me over to them

[10:17] ---

isn't to unravel the mystery of what
a hero is through dissection...

[10:20] ---

...or anything like that, is it?

[10:24] ---

So it *could* be?

[10:25] ---

Th-There isn't a chance in a million
that they would do such a thing!

[10:29] ---

That's right! Not a chance in a thousand,
not one in a hundred, I'd say.

[10:33] ---

Why is that possibility rising?

[10:38] ---

Still, I'm stuck here. My life plan
was to become a local civil servant,

[10:44] ---

and now I'm at risk of being dissected

in this outlandish place?

[10:50] ---

I could run, but that's going to be easier said than done.

[10:54] ---

If I screw up and get captured, the situation will only get worse and worse.

[10:58] ---

Which means that everything hangs on the next thing I say.

[11:04] ---

Sire, may I ask you a question?

[11:07] ---

Wh-What is it?

[11:09] ---

Are the requests for assistance from the empire limited to just this once?

[11:13] ---

W-Well, of course, they--

[11:15] ---

No, I believe that the requests will keep coming

[11:19] ---

for as long as the monsters continue to attack.

[11:22] ---

I'm sure you're right. One other question...

[11:26] ---

This has to do with hero summoning.

[11:28] ---

Is it the sort of thing where you can summon as many people as you like,

[11:31] ---

so long as you perform the ritual?

[11:33] ---

Oh, well, you see...

[11:38] ---

According to our records, the last time a hero was summoned

[11:42] ---

was nearly 500 years ago. It took place only once, at our nation's founding.

[11:47] ---

We are unable to perform summonings very often at all.

[11:50] ---

Assuming that's true,

[11:52] ---

then I am the one card this country
has to play under the circumstances.

[11:57] ---

Is that about right?

[11:58] ---

Th-That seems about right.

[12:00] ---

In that case, wouldn't it be a vacuous
move to give me up right now?

[12:05] ---

V-Vacuous?

[12:07] ---

Dear, "vacuous" means something foolish.

[12:11] ---

O-Oh, *that* "vacuous."

[12:15] ---

I think it might be working.

[12:17] ---

If we are thinking ahead, should we not
first review the country's finances,

[12:21] ---

adopt policies to increase its might,

[12:24] ---

and build up enough national strength
to reject these sorts of imperial demands?

[12:29] ---

E-Enough national strength
to reject imperial demands?

[12:34] ---

B-But the idea of us being able
to accomplish that is completely--

[12:37] ---

I was told that heroes are those who will
lead the revolution into a new age.

[12:45] ---

You never know, we might be able to bring
about some change in this country.

[12:51] ---

"Elfrieden Kingdom: A multiethnic state
with various races coexisting.
To prevent human supremacy,
a tripartite system is in place."

[12:54] ---

"Souma Kazuya: Age: 18 years old
Considers things realistically and acts

rationally, but can behave impractically
when family is involved."

[12:57] ---

...or so I said, but at the moment,
I don't have a plan.

[13:02] ---

Whatever the case, I just have to find
a way to come up with this aid money.

[13:07] ---

Can we start by having you tell me
everything about the country's finances?

[13:11] ---

I need budget reports, and any data on
agriculture, forestry and fisheries,

[13:14] ---

on your economy, trade, and industry,

[13:16] ---

and on your land, infrastructure,
and transport, if you please.

[13:19] ---

Marx, if you would?

[13:22] ---

At once.

[13:25] ---

And so, a wide range of
topics were discussed,

[13:28] ---

as the conference between
the Elfrieden king, Albert,

[13:30] ---

the prime minister, Marx,
and the hero, Souma,

[13:34] ---

went on for three days and nights.

[13:40] ---

All of you present,
I would like your attention.

[13:44] ---

I, Albert Elfrieden,
the 13th King of Elfrieden,

[13:51] ---

hereby abdicate the throne,

[13:53] ---

and give it over to our summoned hero,
Souma Kazuya!

[13:58] ---

H-Huh?!

[14:02] ---

Further, I am also announcing
the engagement of my daughter,

[14:07] ---

Liscia Elfrieden, to Souma!

[14:13] ---

Huh?!

[14:15] ---

April 1546 by the Continental Calendar.

[14:18] ---

The throne of the Elfrieden Kingdom
is given over to Souma Kazuya.

[14:23] ---

This news reaches the Three Dukedoms--

[14:26] ---

the trio of dukes who head
the kingdom's armed forces--

[14:29] ---

"Vargas Duchy,
Red Dragon City"
where it creates no small stir among them.

[14:33] ---

Albert has stepped down?!

[14:35] ---

Yes, sir. Further, he has ceded the throne
to Souma, the summoned hero.

[14:43] ---

"Walter Duchy,
Lagoon City"

[14:49] ---

That's quite the bold move,
coming from him.

[14:53] ---

"Carmine Duchy,
Randel"

[14:56] ---

I will wager that Liscia will be beside
herself when this news reaches her.

[15:08] ---

Father, Mother, please be all right.

[15:14] ---

Ah, right there, right there,
that's the spot...

[15:18] ---

Father! Are you all... right?

[15:22] ---

Father!

[15:23] ---

I heard that the throne had been
usurped and came flying here!

[15:26] ---

And then I find the two of you in there,
casually carrying on like that!

[15:29] ---

The throne has not exactly been usurped.

[15:32] ---

I abdicated it in favor of Souma
of my own free will.

[15:36] ---

But why would you
suddenly do such a thing?

[15:39] ---

Because I am convinced that he is more fit
to be king of the country than I am.

[15:45] ---

I made my decision responsibly,
as one who was in charge of the kingdom.

[15:50] ---

And I won't have any arguments!

[15:52] ---

B-But Father, how could you declare
my engagement without asking me?!

[15:56] ---

That's something the two of you
can discuss between yourselves.

[16:00] ---

This marriage arrangement
originated with me.

[16:04] ---

If you don't want to go through with it,

[16:06] ---

I doubt that Souma will insist.

[16:09] ---

Mother!

[16:10] ---

You should go and meet Souma first.

[16:14] ---

This is your life, after all,
so you should decide for yourself.

[16:23] ---

What does he mean, the two of us
should discuss it ourselves?

[16:26] ---

Obviously this guy can't

be up to anything good.

[16:29] ---

I'm coming in.

[16:32] ---

Hey, whoever just came in...

[16:35] ---

Huh? Me?

[16:38] ---

Are you able to read?

[16:41] ---

D-Don't take me for an idiot!

I've had my share of education!

[16:45] ---

--Okay, what's three plus two?

--Five.

[16:47] ---

Six times two?

[16:48] ---

Twelve, of course.

[16:50] ---

Forty-two divided by seven?

[16:51] ---

Seven! No, I mean six!

[16:54] ---

Good. Come over here

and help me with this work.

[16:58] ---

Help you? Who do you think I am, anyway?

[17:02] ---

Fresh manpower.

[17:04] ---

I am Liscia Elfrieden,
daughter of the king--

[17:07] ---

I mean, the former king, Albert Elfrieden.

[17:12] ---

You're a princess?

[17:14] ---

Don't I look it?

[17:15] ---

Oh, no, you're wearing what
looks like a military uniform, so...

[17:18] ---

Not "like" a military uniform,
it "is" one!

[17:22] ---

I'm stationed with the army under

command of Duke Carmine.

[17:25] ---

I was out performing my duties on patrol,
until I came rushing back here.

[17:29] ---

O-Oh, is that right? But, mm-hmm,
now that you mention it,

[17:33] ---

there is something princess-y about you.

[17:37] ---

I'm Souma Kazuya.
For better or worse, I'm the king now.

[17:43] ---

I'm not a princess anymore.
Thanks to you stealing the throne away,

[17:48] ---

my position right now
is really up in the air.

[17:51] ---

Stole it away? Your old man
all but dumped his throne on me.

[17:56] ---

What happened, anyway? I know
that you're the hero they summoned,

[18:02] ---

but how did that turn into you suddenly
ending up being delegated the throne?

[18:05] ---

That's what *I'd* like to know. I was
just looking out for my own safety.

[18:11] ---

Huh?

[18:15] ---

I wonder if those two will get along well.

[18:19] ---

They'll be fine. I'm sure of it.

[18:23] ---

When I brought up fiscal reforms,

[18:25] ---

I knew I might end up being tasked
with overseeing financial management,

[18:29] ---

but I never expected to be made the king.

[18:32] ---

Uh, listen, I'm sorry
for how I acted earlier.

[18:35] ---

There's nothing you need to apologize for.
Actually, you're the victim here.

[18:39] ---

You've been engaged to me out of the blue.

[18:42] ---

A-About that matter...

[18:43] ---

You don't have to give our
engagement another thought.

[18:46] ---

Huh?

[18:47] ---

I'm only keeping the throne warm for now.

[18:49] ---

After a few years of this,
I'll probably give up being the king.

[18:52] ---

Huh?

[18:54] ---

I never wanted to do anything more than
put in the work to raise enough funds

[18:58] ---

to keep me from being
handed over to the empire.

[19:01] ---

Then again, now that I've been
shown the throne, I'll at least do

[19:03] ---

what it's going to take to get
the country's finances back on track.

[19:08] ---

But beyond that, I'll leave any further
decisions in the hands of the people.

[19:13] ---

And of course, you can
cancel our engagement.

[19:18] ---

I meant that when you say you will quit
being the king after a few years,

[19:22] ---

do you really think you can do anything
about this country in a few years?

[19:25] ---

And before you answer that, what are you
doing about the aid to the empire?

[19:29] ---

Hmm? Oh, I've already

secured the aid money.

[19:34] ---

"Principality of Amidonia"

[19:36] ---

"Van"

[19:38] ---

"Principality of Amidonia,
capital, Van"

[19:43] ---

It looks like a custodian for the items
coming out of Elfrieden has been found.

[19:48] ---

There is a great demand among
the wealthy when it comes to jewelry

[19:52] ---

sourced from royal families.

[19:54] ---

Investing all those funds to snap up
the standout pieces first

[19:58] ---

was the right call to make.

[20:00] ---

And as a result,
we did a fair bit of business.

[20:03] ---

I must say, this new king
is taking some rather bold action.

[20:07] ---

Right now, their country doesn't
need jewels that nobody can eat.

[20:11] ---

They need money to get the economy moving.

[20:14] ---

I wasn't sure what they were thinking,
making their summoned hero their king,

[20:17] ---

but if he knows that much,
he could be a formidable opponent.

[20:21] ---

Yes.

[20:23] ---

Huh?! You sold off
our national treasures?!

[20:26] ---

The national treasures belong
to the whole country!

[20:28] ---

You can't sell them just like that!

[20:30] ---

Oh, take it easy. If they belong
to the whole country,

[20:34] ---

then it's fair to sell them for the sake
of the country's subjects, right?

[20:37] ---

Maybe so, but there are so many
cultural and historic pieces!

[20:40] ---

Yeah, I made sure to hold those back.

[20:44] ---

I put the national treasures that have
historic or cultural value in Group A,

[20:48] ---

those with no historic or cultural
value went into Group B,

[20:51] ---

and the rest got put into Group C.
Only Group B got sold off.

[20:56] ---

Group A would have more
long-term fundraising value

[20:57] ---

by being put on display in
a museum or something,

[21:00] ---

rather than selling them off, after all.

[21:03] ---

Okay, that might be true...
But what about Group C?

[21:08] ---

That's magic stuff, which frankly,
I'm not sure how to handle.

[21:11] ---

I'd have to say those
were more like weapons.

[21:14] ---

We can't just carelessly sell them,
nor can we put them on display.

[21:18] ---

Though the full set of antique hero gear
looks like it would go for a lot.

[21:25] ---

Mind if I sell that?

[21:26] ---

Don't you dare. You're supposed
to be a hero, remember?

[21:46] ---

Regardless of his sudden
ascension to the throne,

[21:49] ---

on the surface, the country
appears to be tranquil.

[21:52] ---

But how long will that last?
Anyhow, Canaria...

[21:58] ---

Go and determine with your
own eyes just how capable

[22:02] ---

this new hero-turned-king is.

[22:04] ---

Selling the national treasures like
that--you really are a surprising hero.

[22:08] ---

Don't be like that. If I hadn't, they
would have handed me over to the empire.

[22:13] ---

That's true, but still...

[22:15] ---

Tell me, have you already sent
that aid money to the empire?

[22:18] ---

No, not yet. I told them to hold out
paying until the very last day.

[22:23] ---

Then how about if instead of
paying it to the empire,

[22:26] ---

you redirected it to the military?

[22:28] ---

Your plan is to position ourselves
to be able to resist the empire, right?

[22:32] ---

At the military academy, they taught us
to spend heavily on defense,

[22:36] ---

but to spend not a pittance on tribute.

[22:38] ---

You're saying that rather than offering
tribute for a momentary peace,

[22:41] ---

in the long run, we'd be better off
building up the military?

[22:46] ---

Allow me to chain your adage
and immediately activate my own!

[22:50] ---

"Time is money"!

[22:51] ---

The financial assistance takes on this
card's effect, and by sacrificing it,

[22:54] ---

we gain time, which is what our country
needs most in this situation!

[22:58] ---

Why are you talking like that?

[23:00] ---

Never mind. The point is,
even if we build up our military,

[23:04] ---

if we neglect all of our domestic
problems, it won't mean anything.

[23:07] ---

Until we resolve our food shortage
and refugee issues,

[23:11] ---

we'll continue to lose
the support of the people.

[23:13] ---

In which case, it won't take much for
outside forces to instigate an uprising.

[23:17] ---

We'd be creating a more
vulnerable country.

[23:19] ---

They wouldn't! The people of this nation
love their country! They wouldn't revolt!

[23:24] ---

That's idealistic thinking.

[23:26] ---

In the long run, people with empty bellies

[23:28] ---

have neither morals nor patriotism.

[23:31] ---

You can't show concern for others if you
have no breathing room yourself.

[23:34] ---

Isn't that right?

[23:37] ---

You really are a huge realist, huh?

[23:41] ---

Yeah. Perhaps I am.

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