

E20 - Aping the Frown of Beauty

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

Translator:

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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.)

[00:09] ---

Our story jumps back to before Souma
Kazuya was summoned to this world.

[00:15] ---

Up to then, the capital of Parnam had
expanded out in an unplanned fashion,

[00:18] ---

with its streets zigzagging in winding
and convoluted directions.

[00:22] ---

Souma laid out main roads and rebuilt
the city to make rapid logistics possible.

[00:28] ---

Moreover, he built water
and sewage systems,

[00:31] ---

and put efforts into beautifying the city.

[00:34] ---

He further improved on public sanitation

[00:36] ---

by constructing large sedimentation
basins to purify the sewage.

[00:41] ---

During the excavation work,
the bones of gargoyles, giants,

[00:45] ---

and countless other monsters
were discovered.

[00:49] ---

Among them were the bones of a dragon.

[00:52] ---

Just as they were about to be
taken to the Royal Academy,

[00:55] ---

they suddenly turned up missing.

[01:00] ---

Genia, you were the one behind that?

[01:03] ---

I am terribly sorry about this.

[01:05] ---

But this was a long time ago.

[01:07] ---

It would have been forgotten
if no one had mentioned it.

[01:09] ---

Why bring it up now?

[01:11] ---

The fault rests with me in that regard.

[01:14] ---

I was sorting through some of my papers,
and this was mixed in with them.

[01:19] ---

"Dear Lu, I'm taking the dragon bones,

[01:22] ---

so take care of the details
for me. Genia." Ah...

[01:26] ---

You just found that?
Took you long enough, Lu.

[01:29] ---

After you stole the dragon bones
with a single scrap of paper,

[01:32] ---

I don't want to hear it.

[01:34] ---

It's mean of you to say I stole them.
That's why I left the note.

[01:38] ---

Could you save the couple's
squabble until afterward?

[01:41] ---

W-W-We are not a couple!

[01:43] ---

You don't want me as your wife?

[01:46] ---

N-No, I mean, we are not yet a couple!

[01:50] ---

So, what were you going to do
with the dragon bones?

[01:53] ---

I'm so glad you asked!

[01:58] ---

"...Keep on going anyway"

[02:00] ---

Our bond strikes deep into my left breast

[02:13] ---

*We enjoy a fleeting happiness
after weathering one fog,*

[02:18] ---

until our vision becomes obscured again

[02:24] ---

*Bitterly betrayed, we grow
disgusted by our destiny*

[02:29] ---

But why does the dawn still come?

[02:34] ---

We close our eyes and try to remember

[02:39] ---

the chance of stopping, of never meeting

[02:44] ---

From boundless zero to infinity,

[02:50] ---

dreaming is the heartbeat of believing

[02:56] ---

We'll move along alone and in pairs

[02:59] ---

*Don't stay put; our small,
though by no means helpless steps*

[03:06] ---

*will open uncharted territory
for each of us*

[03:10] ---

*Realize we will never again
let our dreams die on the vine*

[03:16] ---

*The tear tracks that run down
our cheeks are shooting stars*

[03:23] ---

We're going to grab hold of them

[03:30] ---

*"Aping the Frown of Beauty"
This one's name is "Mechadra."*

[03:32] ---

*"Aping the Frown of Beauty"
It's a mechanical dragon I made
from monster components*

[03:35] ---

*and mystery parts that
I discovered in dungeons,*

[03:39] ---

patched onto a dragon skeleton.

[03:41] ---

Going off of "monster components"
and "dungeon mystery parts,"

[03:45] ---

I can't help but have
a bad feeling about this.

[03:48] ---

This isn't going to
start rampaging, is it?

[03:51] ---

There's no way it could rampage.
It doesn't even move in the first place.

[03:55] ---

Huh? It doesn't?

[03:57] ---

Of course not. There's no critical
system to relay orders to each part.

[04:03] ---

In that case, why did you make it?

[04:05] ---

I made it as an experiment to study
how the joints of living things work.

[04:11] ---

See? The motion itself is this smooth.

[04:15] ---

It doesn't take any strength
at all to move it.

[04:18] ---

Yeah, that's amazing. It's amazing, but...

[04:21] ---

G-Genia, what kind of
monstrosity did you make?

[04:24] ---

If the Star Dragon Mountain Range
finds out about this,

[04:26] ---

it could become an international incident.

[04:28] ---

It could?

[04:30] ---

When we get back, let's send a letter of
apology to the Star Dragon Mountain Range.

[04:33] ---

Right. We might have to rebury the bones,
or have them sent back there.

[04:39] ---

Mm-hmm.

[04:51] ---

Whoa, King! Did you do something?!

[04:53] ---

Souma, you used your
Living Poltergeist, huh?

[04:57] ---

Yeah, I was just a little curious.

[05:02] ---

I knew it! My calculations were correct!

[05:05] ---

Lu, take a look at how
the movements just flow!

[05:08] ---

That's not what the issue is here!

[05:11] ---

And as for you, Your Majesty, moving
around a mechanical dragon like that

[05:14] ---

can only be taken as
a threat to other nations!

[05:20] ---

Still, can it even be weaponized?

[05:23] ---

Does the Mechadra have any armaments?

[05:25] ---

Not even I am crazy enough
to deliberately arm a model.

[05:31] ---

Which means that there
really isn't any way to use it.

[05:34] ---

It sucks to have something that
other countries would be wary of,

[05:37] ---

but have it be completely useless,
doesn't it?

[05:43] ---

For now, we will treat the Mechadra
as a top-secret internal matter,

[05:47] ---

and keep it locked down tight
until we hear

[05:49] ---

from the Star Dragon Mountain Range.

[05:50] ---

Huh?

[05:51] ---

Consider yourself lucky you aren't being thrown into a cell!

[05:54] ---

Genia Maxwell, we're going to build a state research lab for you.

[05:58] ---

I'll leave the theme of your research there up to you.

[06:01] ---

Do you mean it?

[06:02] ---

However, you'll have to provide ten percent of the research funding.

[06:06] ---

Ten percent? As the one who has been paying for all her research up to now,

[06:11] ---

I would be grateful if you would pay the whole amount.

[06:14] ---

What if I did pay the whole amount?

[06:16] ---

There's no telling what she'd start researching.

[06:24] ---

The Poncho Bridge got demolished.

[06:27] ---

Huh? But that was convenient when I had to go shopping.

[06:30] ---

Things have been a lot stricter since Prince Julius returned.

[06:33] ---

The Gemstone Broadcasts have been prohibited, too.

[06:36] ---

And food is now being rationed. I don't have enough to feed my children.

[06:42] ---

Word going around is that those rations are going to get reduced even more.

[06:45] ---

Huh?

[06:47] ---

Aw, I wish His Majesty Souma

would occupy us again.

[06:55] ---

There are a lot of complaints
among the people?

[06:59] ---

That's just because I've returned lax
public morals to the way they were.

[07:02] ---

They say a breach in the levee
starts with one ant hole, right?

[07:05] ---

The people will get too puffed up
if we don't clamp down on them.

[07:08] ---

If they want to blame someone,

[07:09] ---

they can blame Elfrieden for
demanding so much in reparations.

[07:12] ---

Don't blame the state;
that's barking up the wrong tree.

[07:17] ---

What is it?

[07:21] ---

Huddles, Lord of Galua, isn't it?

[07:24] ---

Your Highness, please help!
There's been an uprising!

[07:29] ---

What?

[07:30] ---

As you know, Galua is on
the outskirts of the country.

[07:33] ---

We have little food, and some of my
people have even starved to death.

[07:38] ---

Their discontent has exploded.

[07:41] ---

Hmph, as I recall, Lord Huddles,

[07:44] ---

you refused to put your
trust in the young prince,

[07:47] ---

and instead reinforced your
own soldiers, did you not?

[07:50] ---

You can go ahead and defend yourself.

[07:52] ---

But Your Highness!

The longer the riots continue,

[07:55] ---

the more discord will spread to
other quarters of the principality!

[07:58] ---

Besides, if you make

a show of strength now...

[08:03] ---

Hmm...

[08:05] ---

I am now taking lead of all of our forces
and putting down the rebellion in Galua!

[08:14] ---

King, play with us!

[08:16] ---

King!

[08:18] ---

Your Majesty, I'm happy that you are
here entertaining Rou and the others,

[08:22] ---

but aren't you too busy for this?

[08:23] ---

It's all right. I don't have a whole
lot of work at the moment.

[08:27] ---

Is that right?

[08:29] ---

Then you can play with him
all you like, Rou!

[08:32] ---

Right!

[08:34] ---

Now cut that out!

[08:36] ---

This is quite the sight, Master.

[08:40] ---

Oh, you're the last one to
be calling me out, Carla.

[08:48] ---

You look so out of place
in a maid outfit it's scary.

[08:51] ---

Please don't say that!

That's what I think, myself.

[08:55] ---

Isn't that skirt awfully short on you?

[08:58] ---

Please don't stare!

[09:00] ---

Th-The head chambermaid
told me to wear this.

[09:04] ---

Ah, so this is what Serina likes.

[09:07] ---

Have you finished your
chambermaid training yet?

[09:10] ---

Tr-Training?

[09:12] ---

Wh-What happened?

[09:14] ---

She... She whipped me, with a real whip.

[09:18] ---

A whip?

[09:19] ---

What's more, since it was a special whip,
enchanted with magic,

[09:23] ---

it didn't leave a mark on me,
even where it hit me.

[09:27] ---

The whip is love. Love must be accepted.

[09:35] ---

If Carla, whom even Gaius
himself trained, is afraid of her,

[09:39] ---

how bad must she be?

[09:41] ---

Carla...

[09:42] ---

Yes?!

[09:43] ---

I thought I asked you to make up
His Majesty's bed in his office.

[09:47] ---

C-Collecting the sheets of a man
I know is asking too much.

[09:52] ---

What are you talking about?
If you are a chambermaid,

[09:56] ---

then in due time, when His Majesty and the princess engage in [...],

[09:58] ---

and [...] their [...],

[10:00] ---

--L-Let's all go play over there, okay?

--you're going to have to make up their soaking-wet bed

[10:02] ---

--Okay.

--Okay.

--you're going to have to make up their soaking-wet bed

[10:03] ---

like it was no concern of yours at all.

[10:09] ---

I see. So, did they put down the uprising?

[10:14] ---

Yes. They suppressed them in a fairly brutal manner,

[10:17] ---

probably to make an example of them.

[10:20] ---

That's the wrong way to use brutality.

[10:24] ---

That is only going to make public discontent increase.

[10:27] ---

Hakuya, what does the emissary from Van say?

[10:31] ---

The people's representative from Van gave me this.

[10:38] ---

"We, the people of Van, express allegiance to the Kingdom of Elfrieden,

[10:43] ---

and request reinforcements"?!

[10:51] ---

Souma, was this something you figured on?

[10:54] ---

I'll admit, I expected some movement.

[10:57] ---

But I can't determine what conclusion the people of Van will come to.

[11:02] ---

However, now that we have

received a formal request,

[11:05] ---

the kingdom will accept it
and send reinforcements.

[11:17] ---

Damn it! I never thought Van, of all
places--the city where I was born--

[11:22] ---

would betray me and start wagging
its tail for that despicable Souma!

[11:29] ---

I bring word that the grand
nobleman Lord Cutlass

[11:32] ---

appears to have risen up to overthrow
the Amidonian royal family.

[11:36] ---

He's what?!

[11:39] ---

Lord Schadler, who took in
the people who fled from Galua,

[11:42] ---

now defies our request for their return,

[11:44] ---

and is rising up in revolt
against Your Highness!

[11:46] ---

The faction of nobles loyal
to Roroa are banding together

[11:49] ---

and demanding Your Highness's abdication!

[11:51] ---

Lord Schadler?!

[11:53] ---

He's rebelling?

[11:54] ---

The people are rising up
and moving on Galua!

[11:57] ---

What... is happening?

[12:03] ---

I see, so Julius's forces have fallen.

[12:08] ---

It would be simply impossible
to put down rebellions like these,

[12:11] ---

when they come about all at once.

[12:14] ---

Julius has allegedly taken a small force
with him and fled to the empire.

[12:18] ---

So far, everything is going
as we expected...

[12:22] ---

...but haven't they gone
a little *too* well?

[12:24] ---

Watching the way that all of
these uncoordinated rebellions

[12:27] ---

have come about in unison the way they
have is something we never counted on.

[12:31] ---

The "some other will at work"
that you mentioned?

[12:44] ---

After the expulsion of Julius, Amidonia
became a state without a leader.

[12:49] ---

Seeking to take advantage of this

[12:50] ---

were the Lunarian Orthodox
Papal State to the north,

[12:54] ---

and the Republic of Turgis to the south.

[12:57] ---

"Mercenary State Zem"

[12:58] ---

"Mercenary State Zem"

The Mercenary State Zem to the west

[13:00] ---

"Mercenary State Zem"

showed no sign of invading, in order
to maintain their perpetual neutrality,

[13:04] ---

but did send mercenaries
to the other two countries.

[13:08] ---

"Lunarian Orthodox Papal State"

[13:08] ---

"Lunarian Orthodox Papal State"

The Lunarian Orthodox Papal State

[13:10] ---

is home to the Lunarian Orthodox Church,

[13:12] ---

which worships the moon goddess Lunaria,

[13:15] ---

and is a religious movement whose pope presides over both church and state.

[13:20] ---

In response to the rebellion in the Principality of Amidonia,

[13:23] ---

they dispatched forces along their border with Amidonia

[13:25] ---

to defend the adherents within their nation.

[13:30] ---

"Republic of Turgis"

[13:30] ---

"Republic of Turgis"

On the other hand, the Republic of Turgis was a bitterly cold land.

[13:34] ---

"Republic of Turgis"

The southern peninsula, in particular,

[13:36] ---

"Republic of Turgis"

was bound by ice and snow for most of the year,

[13:40] ---

"Republic of Turgis"

and any land where it does not snow is the envy of the nation.

[13:44] ---

The principality is currently in disarray, and ripe for invasion.

[13:49] ---

Luckily, the advance of the Republic of Turgis's forces

[13:52] ---

was halted by the brave fighting of the aged General Herman

[13:55] ---

who boasted a century of experience in war, and was the lord of Nelva,

[13:58] ---

a fortified city in the south.

[14:00] ---

However, there was no telling

how long that would last.

[14:03] ---

The Principality of Amidonia
without its crown prince

[14:06] ---

was now in an extremely
precarious position.

[14:09] ---

They want the Kingdom of Elfrieden
to annex all of Amidonia?

[14:13] ---

Yes, sire. A joint request from
General Herman Neumann

[14:16] ---

and the former finance minister,
Gatsby Colbert,

[14:20] ---

has been officially delivered.

[14:23] ---

I guess it's only natural

[14:25] ---

that they'd rather give themselves
over to the kingdom

[14:28] ---

than be divided up and conquered.

[14:29] ---

If General Herman, the one
who stopped Turgis in its tracks,

[14:32] ---

and Colbert, the former finance
minister, support annexation,

[14:36] ---

then I doubt that anyone
would oppose them.

[14:39] ---

Hakuya, is this your "other will at work"?

[14:42] ---

I cannot be certain, sire.

[14:44] ---

So, what do we do?

[14:46] ---

What do we do, you're asking me?

[14:49] ---

There's a whole lot of downside
to annexing Amidonia.

[14:52] ---

Let's start by looking for the upside.

Our population would increase,
[14:56] ---
and in the long run,
so would our national strength.

[15:00] ---
Furthermore, Amidonia is rich
in material resources,

[15:03] ---
so we could look forward
to a stable supply of those.

[15:09] ---
Now for the downside.
First, there's the food crisis.

[15:13] ---
Things were going well
in Van, weren't they?

[15:16] ---
Van may be the capital,
but it's only one city.

[15:18] ---
When it comes to Amidonia as a whole,

[15:21] ---
it's a lot to ask of our kingdom, when we
just barely solved our own food crisis.

[15:28] ---
On top of that, it was a hostile
nation until just days ago,

[15:31] ---
so governing it will be difficult.

[15:33] ---
Up to now, the Union of Eastern Nations,

[15:35] ---
the Principality of Amidonia,
and the Republic of Turgis

[15:38] ---
are the only nations that
we've shared a border with,

[15:41] ---
but now we'd have the Mercenary State Zem

[15:43] ---
and the Lunarian Orthodox
Papal State at our borders.

[15:46] ---
The more countries we are adjacent to,
the more difficult diplomacy becomes.

[15:51] ---
Mm-hmm. Also, while I wasn't

counting on them in the first place,

[15:56] ---

if we annex Amidonia, we won't be
receiving our war reparations any longer.

[16:03] ---

Then we aren't annexing them?

[16:07] ---

I'd prefer it if possible,

[16:09] ---

but it seems that we have
no choice but to agree.

[16:13] ---

If we refuse, it will
upset our justification

[16:15] ---

that we integrated Van into the kingdom
at the request of its people.

[16:21] ---

Mm-hmm. While we can admit Van,
we can't very well ignore the rest.

[16:27] ---

Also, if the people of Van end up
forsaking their countrymen,

[16:31] ---

they will be disenchanted
with the kingdom.

[16:33] ---

If we leave them to the invading
forces of the Republic of Turgis

[16:36] ---

and the Lunarian Orthodox Papal State,

[16:39] ---

our own country will be
overrun with refugees.

[16:42] ---

In that case, it's better to
take them all in to begin with,

[16:45] ---

and start looking after them.
It may be a lot of work now,

[16:49] ---

but in the long run,
it's sure to be worth it.

[16:53] ---

Seriously though, good grief.

[16:56] ---

It is hereby decided that all of Amidonia

is to be admitted into the kingdom,

[17:00] ---

and all other nations are
to be made aware of this.

[17:02] ---

Yes, sire.

[17:03] ---

The naval forces under Excel's command

[17:06] ---

are to be sent alongside the border
with the Republic of Turgis,

[17:09] ---

where they will stand ready
to attack at any time.

[17:13] ---

And so, the territories of
Amidonia were formally,

[17:17] ---

as well as peacefully, annexed
into the Kingdom of Elfrieden.

[17:24] ---

Gatsby Colbert!

[17:26] ---

Sire!

[17:28] ---

Colbert, I commend you for bringing
the people of Amidonia together.

[17:32] ---

Without your efforts, this turmoil
would have been prolonged,

[17:35] ---

and the people of Amidonia would
have suffered much misery.

[17:40] ---

Your words are too kind, sire.

[17:42] ---

Be that as it may, Your Majesty,
I have something to deliver to you.

[17:49] ---

These are the Principality of Amidonia's

[17:51] ---

internal income and expenditure reports,
as well as documentation of rights.

[17:55] ---

They were kept in a safe place out
of fear of losing them during the war.

[17:59] ---

Whoa, hey, Julius was left in charge of running the principality without those?

[18:03] ---

I kind of feel sorry for him now.

[18:06] ---

That is a wonderful gift.

Governing will be much easier now.

[18:10] ---

However, you should take those back with you.

[18:15] ---

Huh?

[18:16] ---

Colbert, former finance minister of Amidonia, are you willing to serve me?

[18:23] ---

Y-Yes, sire.

[18:25] ---

You are hereby made finance minister of the Kingdom of Elfrieden,

[18:29] ---

and charged with maintaining the nation's finances.

[18:31] ---

Just a moment, please! Don't you mean overseeing Amidonia's finances?

[18:36] ---

You are the finance minister for the Kingdom of Elfrieden.

[18:39] ---

B-But sire, I am an Amidonian.

[18:43] ---

It doesn't matter. Using whomever is useful, no matter who they are,

[18:47] ---

is now the Elfrieden way.

[18:49] ---

Y-Your Majesty...

[18:51] ---

Amidonia was not very well-off as it was,

[18:54] ---

and then had much of its budget taken for military expenses. Nonetheless,

[18:58] ---

your skill in keeping the government from going bankrupt has been marvelous.

[19:02] ---

You are the kind of person I want,
by all means.

[19:05] ---

Kingdom of Elfrieden
Finance Minister Colbert,

[19:09] ---

those documents will be
the tools of your trade.

[19:13] ---

Take them with you, and work
to rebuild the lands of Amidonia.

[19:17] ---

Y-Yes, sire. I understand.

[19:22] ---

Herman Neumann!

[19:27] ---

I commend you for stopping
the army of the Republic of Turgis.

[19:30] ---

Without your efforts, our relief efforts
would not have been in time,

[19:34] ---

and things would have been
consumed in terrible chaos.

[19:36] ---

Warriors are those who defend the people.

[19:39] ---

That remains unchanged,
whether there is a ruler or not.

[19:42] ---

I only did what I had to do.

[19:49] ---

I, too, have something I'd like
to offer Your Majesty.

[19:53] ---

However, once you receive it,
I hope that you will not return it.

[20:01] ---

The southern region of Amidonia
has a thriving wool industry,

[20:04] ---

and produces fine quality wool.

[20:07] ---

These are bolts woven from that wool.
I do hope that you will accept them.

[20:12] ---

Ho... Do you mind if I

look at them up close?

[20:16] ---

As you please.

[20:24] ---

It kind of feels like a carpeting, maybe.

[20:27] ---

Hmm? Carpeting?

[20:31] ---

A rug, given as a gift...

[20:33] ---

Now why is it that it seems like
I've heard of this set-up before?

[20:38] ---

Tell me, Herman...

[20:40] ---

What is it, sire?

[20:42] ---

There wouldn't happen to be
a woman hiding in these rugs?

[20:48] ---

Huh?! Seriously?!

[20:55] ---

No way, no way! This was gonna be
the surprise of a lifetime!

[20:59] ---

You're no fun!

[21:01] ---

Leaping out, ready or not,
♪ bum-ba-ba-bum! ♪

[21:04] ---

It's Roroa!

[21:08] ---

Wait, what gave me away?
I was sure you wouldn't be able to notice.

[21:12] ---

Oh, there was a woman once in
my world who did something similar.

[21:16] ---

Gah! You mean I stole someone
else's act? That's my screw-up.

[21:21] ---

Incidentally, this woman
was supposedly naked.

[21:24] ---

What kind of woman was this? Some sicko?

[21:26] ---

Actually, depending on how

prominent you like your noses,

[21:30] ---

it's said that she possessed a beauty
that might have changed history.

[21:34] ---

History could have changed
because of the size of her nose?

[21:38] ---

What are you, taking a shot at my breasts?

[21:40] ---

So, um, may I call you "Roroa"?
The sister of Julius?

[21:46] ---

Sure. With these fine looks,
having both brains and beauty,

[21:49] ---

I'm the stone-wearingly stunningly
attractive prettiest girl in Amidonia,

[21:54] ---

Roroa! That's who I am!

[21:57] ---

I am the daughter of the former
Amidonian crown prince, Gaius VIII.

[22:01] ---

My name is Roroa Amidonia.

[22:04] ---

And what, exactly, would
Princess Roroa be doing here?

[22:10] ---

I'm here to get married to you.

[22:13] ---

Oh, you're here to marry me.

[22:16] ---

Wait, huh?!

[22:29] ---

"What are we supposed to choose?"

[22:33] ---

Our voices imploring the future are hoarse

[22:38] ---

*We've become so afraid
of what we could lose*

[22:44] ---

that we're just frozen in place

[22:49] ---

How many times have we made mistakes

[22:53] ---

because we wanted to check our "answers"?

[22:59] ---

*Before we knew it we were in love,
we had fallen in love*

[23:07] ---

*I'll hold fast to you
in the times we're in*

[23:11] ---

*We who set alight
our finite lives to fight*

[23:17] ---

are noble and beautiful above all

[23:22] ---

*As long as we create
as many bright tomorrows*

[23:26] ---

as the indelible wounds we suffer,

[23:31] ---

*we can be proud of all
we've woven together*

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