

E8 - The Forest in Labour

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.)

[00:10] ---

Because of the existence
of magic in this world,

[00:12] ---

their technological systems seem
a little strange in my view.

[00:18] ---

For example,
there's the *Battleship Albert*.

[00:21] ---

It's the single ship possessed
by the Forbidden Army,

[00:23] ---

which bears the previous king's name.

[00:25] ---

Looking at it as a whole,
one might think it strange

[00:28] ---

that a world that hasn't even reached
the industrial revolution

[00:31] ---

should have a battleship such as this.

[00:34] ---

However, despite being made of iron,

[00:37] ---

as long as its buoyancy is taken
into account in its configuration,

[00:39] ---

it can still float on the water.

[00:41] ---

In other words, the outside of
a battleship can be fashioned,

[00:44] ---

even with the technological level
of the middle ages.

[00:47] ---

The reason they were not built
until after the industrial revolution

[00:50] ---

was that there were no engines
that could propel a heavy iron ship.

[00:54] ---

However, in this world,
there are sea dragons,

[00:56] ---

who have the brute force necessary
to tow an iron vessel.

[01:00] ---

By taming them and
having them pull the ships,

[01:02] ---

long-distance voyages become possible.

[01:05] ---

That is why they were able
to build iron ships.

[01:08] ---

The same goes for the cannons
mounted on the battleship.

[01:12] ---

This world already has gunpowder.

[01:14] ---

However, there are no firearms.

[01:17] ---

Since intermediate magic was used as
a means of launching long-range attacks,

[01:20] ---

guns were never developed.

[01:23] ---

Also, there is something
they call infusion spells,

[01:26] ---

and by imparting various effects
to an object using these spells,

[01:30] ---

you can make them stronger,

[01:31] ---

or increase their ability
to cut through things.

[01:34] ---

So, while they have no guns,
they did have cannons.

[01:38] ---

That's because for some reason,

[01:40] ---

any non-water magic is greatly
limited while on the water,

[01:44] ---

so cannons were developed
as a means to attack battleships.

[01:48] ---

It turns out that technology
is developed as it is needed.

[01:53] ---

And here in this world of unbalanced
technological systems,

[01:56] ---

I was attempting to advance
my own civic projects.

[02:11] ---

"Never mind, face forward,"

[02:16] ---

my heart just cried until it was hoarse

[02:22] ---

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

[02:27] ---

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

[02:33] ---

*Just as a line of clouds
moves off somewhere*

[02:39] ---

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

[02:44] ---

so does everything else

[02:49] ---

I never thought there was a version of me

[02:56] ---

that the world would have a need for

[03:01] ---

But when I believed in what I believe,

[03:07] ---

I found myself as I truly am

[03:13] ---

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

[03:18] ---

Hello, yes, is toward

the yet-unseen horizon

[03:30] ---

"The Forest in Labour"

[03:54] ---

Whoo... Man, why does the Forbidden Army
have to do road construction?

[03:59] ---

You there! No goldbricking!

[04:01] ---

Stop running your mouth
and get back to work!

[04:05] ---

Hey, Kaede--

[04:06] ---

Oh, no you don't!

[04:07] ---

Hal, you serve under me! You will
address me as "Site Foreman"!

[04:12] ---

Foreman, is this really a job
for the Forbidden Army?

[04:17] ---

There were unemployed people
from the capital hired to do this,

[04:20] ---

but they are extremely shorthanded.

[04:22] ---

After all, this project is to
build a network of roads

[04:25] ---

that goes throughout the kingdom,
starting from the newly-built port city.

[04:29] ---

Even so, is this something you'd
usually make the Forbidden Army do?

[04:33] ---

Our job is to protect the kingdom.

[04:48] ---

Mmm, this is good!

[04:49] ---

The sauce mixed in with the meat
has a nice salty sweetness to it!

[04:53] ---

This is a dish that the king thought up,
and he calls it "*shogayaki*."

[04:57] ---

I have to hand it to that king. He has

a talent for cooking, if nothing else.

[05:03] ---

After the mystic wolves came
to the country as refugees,

[05:07] ---

a settlement was set aside for them,
and that's where they make seasonings

[05:10] ---

called "shoyu" and "mirin,"
which are used in these.

[05:12] ---

The mystic wolves are able to
make their way in the kingdom

[05:15] ---

by manufacturing these seasonings,

[05:17] ---

and we get to eat this delicious food!

[05:20] ---

It's a policy that kills
two birds with one stone!

[05:25] ---

What's more, it's amazing that we can
eat some fresh vegetables.

[05:29] ---

These came from
the village closest to here,

[05:31] ---

which is connected by
the road to the capital.

[05:34] ---

The power of roads that make supply
lines easy to maintain is tremendous.

[05:39] ---

So the road we made
is already coming in useful?

[05:43] ---

With this kind of
transportation capability,

[05:44] ---

we're making a huge contribution
to solving the food shortage.

[05:48] ---

We are?

[05:50] ---

Once distribution gets smoothed out,

[05:51] ---

imbalances in supply and

demand will be eliminated,

[05:53] ---

and food prices will come down
to some extent.

[05:57] ---

The king has all that
in mind in doing this?

[06:00] ---

The king is an amazing man. He has
so much foresight, it's almost scary.

[06:06] ---

Once we finish eating,
are you going to take a nap?

[06:09] ---

Yeah, I guess. The king does
recommend sleeping after a meal

[06:13] ---

to increase efficiency, after all.

[06:15] ---

Given that the king comes
from a different world...

[06:18] ---

Oh, the king! And the princess, too!

[06:21] ---

Halbert, are you settled in
with the Forbidden Army?

[06:23] ---

Yes, sire! No problems at all!

[06:26] ---

That's so stiff. Where's that spirit
you had when you first laid into me?

[06:30] ---

I-I am terribly sorry about that, sire!

[06:33] ---

It was an awful act of rudeness
against Your Majesty--

[06:35] ---

This is a royal decree.
Stop being so formal.

[06:38] ---

And drop that "Your Majesty" business,
too. Call me "Souma."

[06:41] ---

Oh, but sire...

[06:43] ---

Hal, did you not hear me?
That was an order.

[06:46] ---

A-All right... Souma.

[06:49] ---

That's better. I've been
hoping to find a guy my age

[06:53] ---

that I can just chat informally with.

[07:01] ---

So this is how you make a road, huh?

[07:04] ---

I've walked on them many times,

[07:07] ---

but I've never even wondered
how roads were built.

[07:11] ---

This is ostensibly an inspection,

[07:13] ---

but watch closely,
and think of it as an education.

[07:20] ---

What's that mushy stuff?

[07:22] ---

A mixture of volcanic ash and lime.

[07:26] ---

In the world I come from,
they called it Roman concrete.

[07:30] ---

It has the property of
hardening over time.

[07:33] ---

Its toughness is such that one
of those can't make cracks in it,

[07:36] ---

even at a full gallop.

[07:38] ---

That's pretty amazing.
It's really that hard?

[07:41] ---

No, in fact, it has a certain
degree of flexibility,

[07:44] ---

which distributes the forces it takes.

[07:46] ---

Back in my world, there are
buildings made of this concrete

[07:49] ---

that are still standing after 2,000 years.

[07:55] ---

Are those streetlamps
on either side of the road

[07:58] ---

the same kind we have in the capital?

[08:00] ---

Yes. They're designed
so that when it gets dark,

[08:02] ---

the lightmoss inside them provides light.

[08:05] ---

Also, the roadside trees planted here
are "warding trees,"

[08:08] ---

from the God-Protected Forest.

[08:10] ---

Warding trees?

[08:11] ---

Aisha, would you mind explaining?

[08:13] ---

Right!

[08:17] ---

These warding trees
constantly emit a frequency

[08:19] ---

that monsters and wild animals
seem to find unpleasant.

[08:23] ---

It's probably to prevent giant boars
and such from devouring them.

[08:28] ---

In the God-Protected Forest, we plant
these warding trees around our villages,

[08:31] ---

in order to keep monsters and animals out.

[08:35] ---

Sort of like a rudimentary barrier, huh?

[08:38] ---

Yeah, but if we plant them
too close together,

[08:40] ---

there's no telling what
they will do to the ecosystem,

[08:43] ---

so we moderately space them apart,

[08:45] ---

making it just hard enough to keep

wild animals from getting too close.

[08:49] ---

But why? Wouldn't it be better
to keep them out completely?

[08:52] ---

Okay, Liscia,

[08:54] ---

what do you do when animals who
seasonally change hunting grounds,

[08:58] ---

such as gray wolves or red bears,
are unable to migrate because of the road,

[09:01] ---

get stuck where they are,
and their food runs out,

[09:03] ---

so they start attacking
livestock and people?

[09:06] ---

Or suppose instead that it's
giant apes or giant boars

[09:08] ---

who find themselves stuck in one place
and eat up all the food,

[09:12] ---

and have no choice but to descend
on settlements and eat up their farms.

[09:15] ---

Then what do you do?

[09:17] ---

I get it, we shouldn't stop them entirely.

[09:21] ---

But why are you being so specific?

[09:23] ---

Because animal control is an issue
that local authorities all share.

[09:29] ---

Local... authorities?

[09:31] ---

I didn't know you were thinking so far
ahead! Leave it to you, Your Majesty!

[09:42] ---

What's that?

[09:44] ---

A messenger kui.

[09:46] ---

A kui is a kind of bird that has more

than just a homing instinct.

[09:49] ---

It can detect the frequency
of its master from a distance.

[09:52] ---

I see. So that behavior makes them
useful as long-distance messengers.

[10:00] ---

It looks like it brought
a letter for Aisha.

[10:08] ---

Oh, no!

[10:09] ---

What is it, Aisha?

[10:11] ---

It's a message from my father,
the chief of the dark elves.

[10:15] ---

Last night, there was a large-scale
landslide in the God-Protected Forest,

[10:19] ---

and it swallowed up half of a village.

[10:23] ---

It says that the God-Protected Forest
has had a long stretch of rain...

[10:28] ---

...and that there are many
who are... missing...

[10:34] ---

Souma...

[10:38] ---

Hey, what do we--?

[10:39] ---

Shh! The king is thinking right now.
Do not disturb him.

[10:44] ---

Kaede...

[10:46] ---

...how many men do we have here right now?

[10:48] ---

Sire, there are 54
from the Forbidden Army,

[10:50] ---

and four engineers on loan
from the civil engineering guild!

[10:53] ---

Of those, there are six who are

earth mages, including myself!

[10:57] ---

All right, this group is going to go to the dark elves' village to rescue them.

[11:01] ---

Your Majesty!

[11:02] ---

Aisha, one-on-one,
I am far weaker than you are.

[11:07] ---

But I am in a position to mobilize a lot more manpower.

[11:10] ---

So let me handle this. We will save as many lives as we can.

[11:17] ---

Aisha, crying will have to wait.

[11:19] ---

If outsiders like us are to enter the God-Protected Forest

[11:22] ---

and carry out a rescue, it's best that we have you with us.

[11:26] ---

I need you to show us the way.

[11:28] ---

--Right!
--Mm-hmm.

[11:30] ---

Disaster relief is a race against time.

[11:33] ---

Luckily, this place is closer to the God-Protected Forest than the capital.

[11:36] ---

We'll head from here directly to the site.

[11:38] ---

As you wish, sire. I will get the soldiers ready to go at once.

[11:42] ---

Go to it.

[11:45] ---

Liscia, you go back to the capital and request that they send a rescue party.

[11:49] ---

Also, ask Hakuya to send relief supplies to the dark elves' village.

[11:53] ---

All right, I'm on it.

[11:58] ---

Aisha, how long will it take to get to
the God-Protected Forest from here?

[12:01] ---

Half a day by fast horse.

At a normal military march,

[12:04] ---

it will take two days,
no matter how fast we hurry.

[12:06] ---

Two days?

[12:08] ---

Assuming it happened around midnight,
about half a day has already passed.

[12:12] ---

And however fast we go,

[12:13] ---

we won't arrive until
two-and-a-half days after it happened.

[12:16] ---

Having only half a day before hitting the
72-hour threshold is going to be tough.

[12:20] ---

Seventy-two-hour threshold?

[12:22] ---

During natural disasters like this,

[12:24] ---

after three days from the incident,
which is to say, 72 hours,

[12:28] ---

the death rate of those who
need rescuing shoots way up.

[12:31] ---

Then let's head for the
God-Protected Forest right away!

[12:34] ---

I know! But a normal military march
will take too much time.

[12:38] ---

Is there any magic that can instantly
transport a large force to another place?

[12:42] ---

No! If there were such a thing,

[12:45] ---

we wouldn't need to be pouring so much
sweat into building these roads, right?

[12:49] ---

Damn, isn't there any
other way to move us?

[13:22] ---

"Star Dragon Mountain Range
Population: Several hundred dragons
An autonomous dominion created
by the Mother Dragon, Tiamat."

[13:25] ---

"Excel Walter: Displays an attachment
to whatever subject holds her
interest. Although seasoned,
there is also a girlish side to her."

[13:34] ---

My king, it is a pleasure
to make your acquaintance.

[13:37] ---

I am the dark elf chief and
Aisha's father, Wodan Udgard.

[13:43] ---

Let's dispense with the formal greetings.

[13:45] ---

Right now, rescue efforts come first.

[13:49] ---

For now, I brought about 50 Forbidden
Army soldiers who were with me.

[13:53] ---

In the coming days, a second unit
with relief supplies should be arriving.

[13:58] ---

You can start by explaining the situation.

[13:59] ---

Right.

[14:01] ---

The landslide occurred on a slope
to the east of this village.

[14:06] ---

We have already counted
over a hundred dead.

[14:10] ---

There are still more than
40 people unaccounted for.

[14:13] ---

In that case, please compile
a list of those who are missing.

[14:17] ---

If we cross them off the list once

we determine whether they're safe,

[14:19] ---

no one will slip through the cracks.

[14:20] ---

Very well. I will arrange for it at once.

[14:23] ---

Also, pull some people to have them
stand watch over the mountain.

[14:27] ---

If the mountain moves even a little bit,

[14:29] ---

or there are any unusual sounds,
have them report it.

[14:32] ---

It will be no laughing matter if there's
another slide while we're out rescuing.

[14:35] ---

Your Majesty, please allow me
to carry out that duty.

[14:40] ---

My daughter has played in
the God-Protected Forest

[14:43] ---

since she was a child,
and knows the area well.

[14:46] ---

I think it is safe to let her do this.

[14:49] ---

There are others whom you once
ran around the forest with, right?

[14:53] ---

They should know the forest
just as well as you do.

[14:58] ---

Reach out to them and take them with you.

[14:59] ---

Yes, as you wish.

[15:02] ---

We're counting on you, Aisha. Just make
sure you don't do anything crazy.

[15:07] ---

We are about to begin working
to search for those who are missing.

[15:11] ---

Listen close for voices in
the dirt asking for help,

[15:15] ---

and work cautiously to rescue them!

[15:17] ---

Time to show off the excavation skills
you developed while building roads!

[15:23] ---

But no matter what,
don't get in over your heads.

[15:25] ---

If you think another slide is coming,

[15:26] ---

get out of there,
even if in the middle of a rescue.

[15:29] ---

I will not have a single casualty
from my rescue detail! Understood?!

[15:34] ---

Yes, sire!

[15:45] ---

I heard a voice!

[15:46] ---

Huh?

[15:50] ---

Under this thick trunk!
They're still breathing!

[15:53] ---

Huh?!

[15:55] ---

I don't hear any voice--

[15:56] ---

They're here! Hurry and dig!

[16:04] ---

Are you serious?!

[16:21] ---

I'm surprised you could tell
anyone was buried there.

[16:24] ---

This is what told me.

[16:26] ---

What is that, a mouse?

[16:28] ---

Carved out of wood.

[16:37] ---

I'm controlling them to go around looking
in places where people can't get into.

[16:42] ---

Oh, so this is that Living whatever-it-is
power that I've heard about.

[16:46] ---

Yeah. I made up a few prototypes
for exploring dungeons,

[16:50] ---

but I didn't expect them
to be useful here--

[16:54] ---

What's wrong?

[16:57] ---

H-Hey, are you all right?
What suddenly came over you?

[17:03] ---

Oh, sorry...

[17:05] ---

One of my wooden mice out searching...

[17:08] ---

...just located some
horribly mangled remains...

[17:11] ---

You could tell from just a glance
that they were dead, then?

[17:18] ---

I see. All of the missing
have been accounted for.

[17:23] ---

Unfortunately, there are some among
them who are now cold, lifeless bodies,

[17:27] ---

but if Your Majesty had not
come rushing to our aid,

[17:29] ---

their numbers would
have been even greater.

[17:32] ---

As chief of the dark elves,
I once again express my thanks.

[17:37] ---

Majesty! Father!

[17:41] ---

The princess has arrived from the capital,

[17:42] ---

and so has the second relief unit.

[17:45] ---

They're here?

[17:46] ---

It's too late...

[17:59] ---

It's true, they aren't here
in time to search.

[18:02] ---

But the relief part is actually
just getting underway.

[18:06] ---

Tending to the wounded, removing the
sediment, building temporary housing--

[18:11] ---

there are any number
of things still to do.

[18:15] ---

But that won't bring the dead back.

[18:19] ---

Stop that, Robthor!

[18:21] ---

This man is my younger brother, Robthor.

[18:25] ---

He lost his wife in this disaster,

[18:27] ---

and his only daughter is still wandering
the border between life and death.

[18:32] ---

I know he must be somewhat distraught,
so I beg you to forgive him.

[18:36] ---

No, it's okay.

[18:37] ---

My king,

[18:38] ---

I've tried to keep the forest safe!
So now why...

[18:43] ---

...why has the forest taken my family?!

[18:45] ---

Robthor!

[18:47] ---

This is no time to be assigning blame.

[18:50] ---

That goes for yourself, as well.

[18:54] ---

Right now, mourn your wife's death.

[18:57] ---

And pray that your daughter's spirit
remains in this world.

[19:18] ---

My uncle opposed thinning the forest.

[19:21] ---

He felt that for dark elves,
guardians of the forest,

[19:24] ---

to log it instead was out of the question.

[19:26] ---

Ah, that explains it.

[19:29] ---

If my uncle had been more
cooperative toward thinning,

[19:32] ---

do you think his family
would have been spared?

[19:35] ---

There's... no way of knowing.

[19:39] ---

It's true that if some moderate trimming
is done and the undergrowth comes in,

[19:42] ---

allowing the soil's water-retaining
ability to increase,

[19:44] ---

we can create an environment
less prone to landslides.

[19:48] ---

But ultimately, it would
still only be "less prone."

[19:51] ---

In the case where
prolonged rains are the cause...

[19:54] ---

...then they could conceivably
happen anywhere.

[19:56] ---

Are you saying that he
merely had bad luck?

[20:00] ---

In regard to the location
of this landslide, yes.

[20:03] ---

However, thinning would be a
constant operation within the forest.

[20:07] ---

Hearing unusual sounds,
having the forest look like it's moving,

[20:11] ---

and other signs of an impending landslide

would be easier to notice, to be sure.

[20:14] ---

Once they're spotted,
plans can be formulated,

[20:17] ---

and evacuation would have been possible.

[20:19] ---

Protecting the forest--
it sounds so noble to say,

[20:22] ---

but the thought that he is
protecting it at all is mistaken.

[20:25] ---

Nature is not so weak that it
needs people to protect it.

[20:29] ---

If it's egotistical for people
to presume to destroy nature,

[20:31] ---

then it's also egotistical
to presume to protect it.

[20:35] ---

Nature typically goes through destruction
and rebirth all the time,

[20:38] ---

and we're just trying to keep it
in a state that suits us.

[20:43] ---

All mankind can do is
tweak things through thinning,

[20:46] ---

maintaining the forest in a way
that makes it possible to coexist.

[21:09] ---

I wasn't able to do anything
this time around, huh?

[21:13] ---

You went and brought back
the relief unit, didn't you?

[21:16] ---

Everyone gave their all.

[21:18] ---

On the contrary, *I* was the one
who couldn't do anything.

[21:22] ---

Nonsense! I heard you made
a huge difference.

[21:27] ---

My role is to be the king.

[21:30] ---

It's not the king's job to direct things
onsite during an emergency.

[21:34] ---

The king's job is to make
preparations ahead of time,

[21:37] ---

before the emergency happens.

[21:39] ---

I neglected to do that.

[21:41] ---

What are you talking about? Souma, you...

[21:44] ---

I think using the Forbidden Army
as a rescue team went pretty well.

[21:48] ---

But beyond that, there are plenty
of places where I've fallen short.

[21:52] ---

A means of information exchange,
a means of long-distance shipping,

[21:55] ---

stockpiling rescue supplies
in each area,

[21:57] ---

having medical teams assigned
to rescue parties...

[22:00] ---

None of it was sufficient.

[22:03] ---

I've been so occupied with the food
shortage and the Three Dukedoms...

[22:07] ---

...that I failed to prepare
for everything else...

[22:10] ---

Souma...

[22:18] ---

*The wind blowing by rushes
through the world,*

[22:22] ---

*connecting us when otherwise
we never would have met*

[22:26] ---

Unfurling wings that no one else can see,

[22:31] ---

*I take flight in search of a miracle
that no one else can find*

[22:43] ---

Seeking the courage to keep on choosing

[22:48] ---

the outcome of an ever-meandering morrow,

[22:52] ---

I never want to fear change

[22:56] ---

or doubt the blueness of the sky

[23:01] ---

More than any dreams I once had

[23:03] ---

and beyond any future I've imagined,

[23:05] ---

I want to keep on drifting along

[23:09] ---

*within this transcendently beautiful
moment I'm spending with you*

[23:13] ---

If I can make that come true...

[23:17] ---

*I shoot up through the blue
to the sky where we connect*

[23:22] ---

Grasp my destiny and reel it in

[23:25] ---

And through our joined hands,

[23:30] ---

you feel my helpless wish for eternity

[23:35] ---

Even if this is only an illusion

[23:37] ---

taking place within someone's dream,

[23:39] ---

I'll still take this blowing wind

[23:41] ---

and hold on tight as I take flight

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