

E24 - Meiji 11, May 14th

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Timer:

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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.)

[00:04] ---

I see.

[00:06] ---

So the mastermind
behind Hajime Saito was you.

[00:10] ---

Former Revolutionary warrior
from Satsuma...

[00:13] ---

and Home Minister
of the Meiji government...

[00:15] ---

Toshimichi Okubo.

[00:22] ---

That said, I have no idea who that is!

[00:26] ---

Of course little kids
who don't read newspapers wouldn't know.

[00:30] ---

Alongside Takamori Saigo
and Kogoro Katsura,

[00:34] ---

he's the last of
the Great Trio of the Revolution,

[00:36] ---

who achieved the most
in the Meiji Revolution.

[00:39] ---

The leader of the Home Ministry
that controls the entire government.

[00:43] ---

In other words, he's the minister who sits
at the top of national power in Japan.

[00:47] ---

Sorry for the rough handling.

[00:50] ---

But there was a need for us
to know your current strength.

[00:56] ---

Will you listen to us?

[00:59] ---

Yeah, even if by force.

[01:03] ---

Th-This has turned into a huge ordeal.

[01:06] ---

I didn't think someone as big as Okubo
from the Home Ministry would show up.

[01:10] ---

It's no time to be talkin'
about Battosai anymore.

[01:15] ---

Hmph. What a wet blanket.

[01:18] ---

I'll have to leave settling this score
for our next opportunity.

[01:21] ---

Looks like someone escaped death.

[01:23] ---

Yeah, you did.

[01:30] ---

Saito!

[01:31] ---

Operations report!

[01:33] ---

Kenshin Himura is completely useless.

[01:37] ---

However, Himura Battosai
seems to do fairly well.

[01:41] ---

That is all!

[01:43] ---

Sheesh, that guy.

[01:45] ---

He's the best spy
in the Metropolitan Police.

[01:48] ---

But I just can't figure out
what the Wolf of Mibu is thinking about!

[01:52] ---

Himura, come with me.

[01:54] ---

Stop daydreaming.

[01:56] ---

I'm not the only one
that got roped into—

[02:01] ---

Kenshin?!

[02:06] ---

I'm not the only one roped
into this situation, that I'm not.

[02:11] ---

Everyone here will listen
to what you have to say.

[02:14] ---

"I"...

[02:16] ---

Oh...

[02:17] ---

I'm so glad! You're back
to your normal self, Kenshin!

[02:21] ---

Oro...

[02:23] ---

- Miss Megumi, hurry!
- Sir Okubo...

[02:24] ---

- What are you doing, you idiot!
- Let's do as he says.

[02:27] ---

Right now, I need Himura's power
more than anything else.

[02:29] ---

Kenshin!

[02:30] ---

How long are you gonna be
a stupidly powerful girl?

[02:30] ---

Oro...

[02:32] ---

You say that, but...

[04:03] ---

EPISODE 24:
MEIJI 11, MAY 14TH

[04:10] ---

Himura, I'll cut to the chase.

[04:14] ---

Shishio is active
behind the scenes in Kyoto.

[04:18] ---

You went so straight to the point
that I don't get it, Mr. Okubo.

[04:22] ---

Who the hell is this Shishio guy?

[04:23] ---

Hey! Watch your tongue!

[04:26] ---

Makoto Shishio.

[04:28] ---

After I accepted the role
of mercenary swordsman

[04:31] ---

and came out into the limelight
from the shadows,

[04:33] ---

another Revolutionary warrior from Choshu
took over the role of Shadow Hitokiri.

[04:39] ---

You could say he is the successor
to Hitokiri Battosai, that he is.

[04:44] ---

As he completely stayed in the shadows,
very few know of his existence.

[04:50] ---

Even I, his predecessor, have never
met him in person, that I haven't.

[04:54] ---

But what does this mean, that is?

[04:56] ---

I had heard Shishio died ten years ago
during the Boshin War.

[05:03] ---

I see.

[05:05] ---

Shishio didn't die.

[05:07] ---

His existence was eradicated
by his comrades, that it was.

[05:12] ---

Secretly snuffing out
the one executing shady deeds

[05:15] ---

that can't ever be leaked
for our own safety.

[05:19] ---

Back in those days,
it wasn't anything unusual.

[05:23] ---

Makoto Shishio had just as much talent
as you in sword skill and in quick wits.

[05:30] ---

But he was also a dangerous one

[05:32] ---

with incomprehensible levels of ambition
and desire for domination.

[05:37] ---

He accepted the role of Shadow Hitokiri

[05:39] ---

only to display his talent
and existence to the world.

[05:43] ---

Some of the assassinations
Shishio committed

[05:45] ---

would overturn the Meiji government
from its foundation.

[05:50] ---

If we were to ring in the new era
with Shishio still alive,

[05:53] ---

he would take advantage of such weakness
and become arrogant

[05:57] ---

We might even end up
with the entirety of Japan

[05:59] ---

becoming a plaything for just Shishio.

[06:01] ---

That's why you killed him in the chaos
of the Boshin War, that you did?

[06:07] ---

Right. We definitely killed him.

[06:10] ---

We even had oil poured on his corpse
and lit it on fire.

[06:14] ---

However, even with his entire body
engulfed in flames,

[06:18] ---

Makoto Shishio was still alive.

[06:21] ---

And now he has taken a multitude
of treasonous subordinates under his wing

[06:25] ---

to create a giant army

[06:27] ---

and has made a base in Kyoto to plot a war
that splits this nation in two as revenge.

[06:35] ---

Countless squads we sent in
to take him down have been eradicated.

[06:39] ---

You are the only one left
that we can count on.

[06:43] ---

It's for the people
of this country, Himura.

[06:47] ---

I want you to head to Kyoto once more.

[06:52] ---

In other words...

[06:54] ---

are you saying you want Kenshin
to assassinate Makoto Shishio?

[06:59] ---

That's what it would mean, yes.

[07:01] ---

We will pay more than enough in reward.

[07:04] ---

On top of that,
we will go outside the law

[07:06] ---

and overlook
all of your previous illegal activities.

[07:08] ---

For instance, we can acquit Megumi Takani
from her illicit sales of opium.

[07:13] ---

You've got to be kidding me.

[07:15] ---

If you're going to use me for negotiation,
turning me into shackles for Ken-san,

[07:19] ---

I would rather choose the gallows.

[07:24] ---

Basically, all of this
is because of your nasty doings, right?

[07:29] ---

And you want Kenshin
to clean up your mess?

[07:32] ---

Ain't you askin' for a bit much?

[07:34] ---

Ignorant youngsters keep out of this!

[07:37] ---

The Meiji government
is on the brink of extinction!

[07:39] ---

Filthy governments
can go ahead and become extinct.

[07:43] ---

Though, I don't like how people living
ordinary lives are troubled by all of it.

[07:47] ---

Without the prosperity
of the Meiji government,

[07:50] ---

the people cannot be at peace, idiot!

[07:52] ---

And that's where you guys
are being conceited!

[07:55] ---

If you keep spouting nonsense,

[07:56] ---

- I'll arrest you!
- Try me, Mr. Huge Forehead!

[07:58] ---

I'm just a kid,
so I don't get it too well.

[08:02] ---

But I can understand
that if things had gone wrong,

[08:05] ---

Kenshin may have been eradicated
just like Shishio.

[08:08] ---

Both then and now,

[08:10] ---

you guys are assassinating
and eradicating for your own purposes.

[08:14] ---

All you old guys are a bit crazy.

[08:18] ---

Sir Okubo.

[08:20] ---

I understand that you are all in need
of Hitokiri Battosai right now.

[08:25] ---

But the current Kenshin
is a rurouni who refuses to kill.

[08:29] ---

We will never, ever
let Kenshin go to Kyoto!

[08:37] ---

Are you all stupid?! Do you not understand
just how dire the situation—

[08:40] ---

Stop it, Kawaji.

[08:45] ---

Think about it for a week.

[08:48] ---

In one week, on May 14th,
I will come again to hear your answer.

[08:58] ---

Mr. Okubo.

[09:01] ---

You have gotten quite haggard
compared to a decade ago.

[09:06] ---

It is far more difficult to establish
a new era than to break an old one.

[09:12] ---

That's what this means.

[09:14] ---

I'm looking forward
to a favorable reply from you.

[09:25] ---

Toshimichi Okubo?!

[09:27] ---

I'm gonna bail and head to Shanghai,
where it's safe!

[09:30] ---

Got that?

[09:31] ---

There is a safer place to escape to
than Shanghai.

[09:38] ---

A place called hell.

[09:42] ---

It seems all you Imperialists think you
created the Meiji Era all by yourselves.

[09:48] ---

But we on the Shogunate side
risked our lives

[09:50] ---

for the foundation of Meiji
through the role of the losers.

[09:55] ---

I'm obedient to the government as a spy

[09:58] ---

so I can eradicate
the mites that feed upon Meiji

[10:01] ---

as an obligation of the Shinsengumi
who lived on into the Meiji Era.

[10:06] ---

Okubo or otherwise,
if they drown in self-interest

[10:09] ---

and bring calamities
to the people of this nation,

[10:12] ---

I will slay them under the doctrine
of Evil-Immediate-Slaughter.

[10:15] ---

W-Wait. I can pay as much as you want.

[10:18] ---

You can own a dog with food.

[10:21] ---

You can own people with money.

[10:23] ---

But nobody can own
the Wolves of Mibu.

[10:35] ---

A wolf is a wolf.

[10:37] ---

The Shinsengumi is the Shinsengumi.

[10:40] ---

And a hitokiri is a hitokiri.

[10:46] ---

Right, Battosai?

[10:50] ---

RUROUNI KENSHIN

[10:54] ---

MEIJI 11, MAY 14TH

[11:02] ---

There. Spotless!

[11:04] ---

- Hey.

- Oro!

[11:07] ---

I thought I was going to die, that I did.

[11:09] ---

This isn't time
to be leisurely doing your laundry.

[11:12] ---

What's your answer gonna be?

[11:14] ---

I say don't do such a shady deal.

[11:17] ---

The leader of the government
that is addicted to personal gain

[11:21] ---

can't be trusted at all.

[11:24] ---

Sano, you really detest
the Meiji government

[11:26] ---

from the bottom of your heart,
that you do.

[11:28] ---

I do. Got a problem?

[11:31] ---

No. But if Sir Okubo was one that would
be acting only out of self-interest,

[11:37] ---

Saito would have slain him long ago,
that he would have.

[11:41] ---

That punk officer would have?

[11:43] ---

He's a government dog, ain't he?

[11:46] ---

Before he fought me, Saito definitely
uttered the word "justice."

[11:51] ---

One who has sunken to become a dog
in both mind and body

[11:56] ---

would never utter such a word.

[11:58] ---

That man is still
one of the Wolves of Mibu to this day.

[12:02] ---

He bares his fangs
of Evil-Immediate-Slaughter

[12:05] ---

in the darkness
where the sun doesn't shine.

[12:09] ---

That said, he's not someone
I can become friendly with, that he isn't.

[12:13] ---

Right!

[12:14] ---

Of course not!

[12:15] ---

I hate him!

[12:20] ---

Oh, my, Mr. Fujita. So filthy!

[12:22] ---

Excuse me.

[12:24] ---

Four times.
Looks like I have gathered much hatred.

[12:28] ---

Ah, well. It is the destiny
Of the Shinsengumi to be hated in any era.

[12:34] ---

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[12:35] ---

Now...

[12:36] ---

what's your move, Battosai?

[12:43] ---

I will head right now
to go see Sir Okubo, that I will.

[12:48] ---

Why? If I recall,
he said he would come over.

[12:51] ---

Sir Okubo is quite a busy man, that he is.

[12:55] ---

- Besides—
- There you are.

[12:57] ---

Good morning, Ken-san.

[12:59] ---

Today is the day
you're going to give your answer.

[13:02] ---

It's been on my mind, so I came here.

[13:04] ---

I thank you for that. But I am about
to head out right now, that I am.

[13:09] ---

Huh?

[13:10] ---

Do you know where Okubo's mansion is?

[13:12] ---

No. But I did hear
that he was headed for Dajokan in Akasaka,

[13:17] ---

so I will likely bump into him if I headed
over to the Kioizaka area, that I should.

[13:20] ---

Then we should go, too—

[13:22] ---

No, this will likely be
a very complicated conversation,

[13:25] ---

so I prefer to go alone, that I do.

[13:30] ---

It's okay.

[13:31] ---

Kenshin won't leave you behind
and run off to Kyoto.

[13:35] ---

That's right. There's no way he'd lend
a hand to assassination after all this.

[13:39] ---

I'll never let him go.

[13:45] ---

Kenshin...

[13:52] ---

*Will Himura actually
perform an action for us?*

[13:57] ---

*No, I need him to,
no matter what the cost.*

[14:03] ---

If Himura doesn't act,
this country will fall to ruin.

[14:09] ---

The fate of this nation is something a man
who is about to die need not worry about.

[14:15] ---

Wha—

[14:18] ---

A message from Mr. Shishio.

[14:21] ---

"It was quite a brilliant idea

[14:23] ---

to try sending Himura Battosai
as an assassin,

[14:26] ---

but ultimately a futile resistance.

[14:28] ---

I will take this country for myself,"
so he says.

[14:37] ---

I am a samurai from Ishikawa,
Ichiro Shimada!

[14:40] ---

Likewise, Tsurahide Cho!

[14:42] ---

Hateful villain Okubo, brace yourself!

[14:47] ---

Okubo!

[14:49] ---

H-He's been murdered.

[14:53] ---

Who would do this before us?

[14:55] ---

We have already sent
the vindication notes of assassination

[14:58] ---

to the government and the press already.

[15:00] ---

This is just how it's gonna be.

[15:03] ---

We were the ones that killed Okubo.

[15:05] ---

Shimada!

[15:09] ---

There are no witnesses!

[15:10] ---

The seven of us killed Okubo!

[15:15] ---

Y-Yeah!

[15:18] ---

Meiji 11, May 14th.
The Kioizaka Incident.

[15:23] ---

The great case of the man
reigning at the top of Meiji

[15:26] ---

being assassinated in broad daylight

[15:28] ---

thus became the deed

of a group of assassins

[15:32] ---

with Ishiakwa samurais at the core,

[15:34] ---

*and the existence of Shishio and his group
did not come out into the open.*

[15:40] ---

Mr. Okubo...

[15:42] ---

It's in your best interests
to not oppose Mr. Shishio as well.

[15:53] ---

Makoto Shishio.

[15:57] ---

This is how Shishio does things!

[15:59] ---

They never come out into the open,

[16:01] ---

and until that day
where everyone riots at once,

[16:03] ---

they will gradually shave off
the power of the Meiji government!

[16:08] ---

Sir Okubo...

[16:11] ---

Excuse me.

[16:13] ---

Governor of Fukushima, Sir Yamayoshi.

[16:16] ---

He is the last person to have
a conversation with Sir Okubo.

[16:20] ---

After finishing
my business meetings in Tokyo,

[16:23] ---

I went to the Okubo mansion
for final greetings this morning.

[16:28] ---

It has already
been ten years since the Revolution.

[16:31] ---

If you ask me what I have achieved,

[16:33] ---

it's embarrassing to say,
but I have very few results.

[16:36] ---

But this is where things begin.

[16:39] ---

To solidify the foundation of a nation,
you need 30 years' worth of time.

[16:44] ---

The ten years until now

[16:45] ---

have been the first phase,
the time for establishment.

[16:48] ---

The next ten years
will be time for development.

[16:51] ---

We will tidy up internal affairs
and enrich this nation.

[16:55] ---

These are the most important times.

[16:58] ---

Though unworthy, I would like to carry out
those middle ten years at any cost.

[17:05] ---

I will leave the third and final years
of building and maintaining

[17:08] ---

to the younger generation

[17:09] ---

and at the same time set up a congress

[17:11] ---

to shift our government
into a civil government.

[17:14] ---

Japan will then be reborn
as a nation-state,

[17:18] ---

and the revolution
will reach true completion.

[17:22] ---

"Nation-state."

[17:24] ---

Nation-state, you say.

[17:26] ---

A nation where the citizens
choose their own path,

[17:30] ---

unlike the past,
where authorities decided on everything.

[17:34] ---

Way too magnificent an ideal.

[17:37] ---

But it was an ideal worth believing in.

[17:41] ---

Only if Sir Okubo
was still alive and well.

[17:45] ---

Extra! Extra!

[17:47] ---

Lord Okubo was assassinated!
Home Minister's assassination!

[17:49] ---

Extra! Extra!

[17:52] ---

Thus, the last
of the Great Trio of the Revolution

[17:54] ---

and biggest leader was lost,

[17:57] ---

and the government is left with only scum
who are unfit to serve the role.

[18:03] ---

Japan will surely stray off its tracks
from now on.

[18:08] ---

And Shishio
will never let this chance slip by.

[18:13] ---

The times are starting to flow once again.

[18:22] ---

Of all nights, tonight is when
I have an emergency patient.

[18:25] ---

I'll walk her down to the station.

[18:27] ---

Yeah. Please be careful.

[18:34] ---

Kenshin sure is late.

[18:39] ---

Kenshin!

[18:47] ---

Where's Yahiko?

[18:49] ---

Oh, um...

[18:50] ---

right, he got tired of waiting
and fell asleep.

[18:53] ---

I see.

[18:55] ---

Kenshin?

[18:57] ---

Sir Okubo was murdered this morning.

[19:00] ---

Yes. I know from the extra.

[19:04] ---

The true culprit is Shishio, that it is.

[19:08] ---

I can't leave Shishio at large like this.

[19:12] ---

I will be heading to Kyoto, that I will.

[19:19] ---

Are you going to assassinate
Makoto Shishio?

[19:22] ---

No...

[19:24] ---

but I don't know.

[19:27] ---

After coming here,
so many calming days continued...

[19:32] ---

I felt like I could really change into an
ordinary swordsman instead of a manslayer.

[19:39] ---

However, I had a realization
during my battle with Saito.

[19:43] ---

At the bottom of my heart,

[19:46] ---

there resides an insane hitokiri
who will never change his ways.

[19:52] ---

But you come back so quickly!

[19:54] ---

No matter how close you get
to being Battosai, Kenshin,

[19:56] ---

you're still Kenshin!

[19:58] ---

It was the same way
with Jine and with Saito!

[20:01] ---

You'll be fine!

[20:03] ---

It was different, that it was.

[20:06] ---

For Jine's case, I reverted to Battosai

[20:09] ---

as I wholeheartedly wanted
to save you, Miss Kaoru.

[20:11] ---

I was able to return to myself
with your voice as well.

[20:14] ---

But in Saito's case,
I had reverted sheerly to fight.

[20:20] ---

And your voice did not reach me at all.

[20:24] ---

There is a crucial difference there.

[20:28] ---

The times have started to flow again.

[20:33] ---

When we first met,
you kept me from leaving

[20:35] ---

despite knowing the fact
that I was Hitokiri Battosai.

[20:38] ---

You said, "I'm not particular
about people's pasts."

[20:44] ---

That made me really happy.

[20:50] ---

KAMIYA KASSHIN
SCHOOL OF KENDO

[20:50] ---

If I stay here any longer,

[20:52] ---

I will rope all of you into danger
at every single opportunity,

[20:56] ---

and each time,
I will return to being Battosai.

[21:01] ---

Furthermore, for government officials
and the Shisho clan,

[21:04] ---

and for everyone
across this nation

[21:06] ---

with a grudge

[21:07] ---

against

Hitokiri Battosai,

[21:08] ---

which I feel

there are many of,

[21:09] ---

I am no person other than Battosai.

[21:13] ---

I am not allowed

[21:15] ---

to remain here

any longer.

[21:22] ---

Thank you for everything.

[21:24] ---

And...

[21:26] ---

farewell.

[21:28] ---

I am a rurouni.

[21:31] ---

I will wander once again, that I will.

[21:48] ---

Ken... shin.

[21:56] ---

Kenshin!

[22:00] ---

Meiji 11, May 14th.

[22:04] ---

*On this day, Kenshin Himura
returned to being a rurouni*

[22:09] ---

*and disappeared alone
into the pitch-black shadows.*

[22:15] ---

Where did Battosai disappear to?

[22:17] ---

*I'll take that Japanese katana
in lieu of money!*

[22:21] ---

*You decide to nonchalantly
show up after all this time.*

[22:25] ---

What do you want with me?

[22:28] ---

Mr. Shishio has been expecting you.

[22:30] ---

Now, please.

[22:33] ---

So you're... Makoto Shisho, that you are?

[22:40] ---

You can at least add an honorific.

[22:42] ---

What a rude predecessor.

Revision #1

Created 2024-06-24 19:39:51 UTC by whimsee

Updated 2024-06-24 19:39:52 UTC by whimsee