

E23 - Orchestrated Catastrophe and Appropriate Retribution

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.)

[00:04] Sem

A shoemaker living in Enberch
died after eating some bread.

[00:08] Sem

The wheat that was used to
make that bread was from this village.

[00:15] Lawrence

Rideliu's Hellfire...

[00:17] Holo

Ride... what now?

[00:19] Lawrence

It's wheat that's been poisoned by disease.

[00:22] Lawrence

You can't tell if it's poisoned a wheat field
until someone dies from eating it.

[00:27] Sem

An official representative will be coming soon.

[00:30] Sem

Enberch plans to return
all of the wheat from our village.

[00:33] Baker

R-Return all the wheat? That means...

[00:36] Sem

That's right. We have to return the money.

[00:39] Villager A

Village Head, what should we do?

[00:41] Villager B

We've already used the money

[00:43] Villager B

to buy pigs and chickens,
as well as mend our sickles and spades!

[00:45] Ima

That's not all.

[00:47] Ima

We had a bumper harvest this year.

[00:50] Ima

The quality of food and alcohol
went up at my place.

[00:54] Ima

Your money's been spent there, too.

[00:57] Ima

And there's another problem...

[00:58] Lawrence

The scary thing about this is that it
doesn't end with just a few deaths.

[01:03] Lawrence

There's no telling if other stalks
have snuck their way in,

[01:06] Lawrence

so the entire harvest can no longer be eaten.

[01:10] Sem

We have no stores of wheat in the village.

[01:13] Baker

What are we going to do?!

[01:14] Villager A

We can bear being poor, but we can't starve!

[01:16] Sem

Exactly, however...

[01:19] Villager B

These two mixed poisonous
wheat into our harvest!

[01:22] Villager B

I heard they brought wheat to this village!

[01:24] Baker

That's right!

[01:24] Baker

Didn't you go to the waterwheel
and grind your wheat into flour?!

[01:27] Villager A

You conspired with the miller
boy to destroy this village!

[01:30] Villager B

That's right! Where'd that liar go?!

[01:32] Baker

Tie them both up and make them confess
which batches of wheat they poisoned!

[01:35] Elsa

Please hold on!

[01:37] Baker

Stay out of this, woman!

[01:39] Iima

Excuse me?

[01:42] Elsa

Evan is in the church.

[01:44] Sem

What matters most right now

[01:46] Sem

is that the wheat will be returned
and how we can pay them back.

[01:50] Baker

We can't pay back money we don't have.

[01:53] Baker

We'll have to ask them
to wait until next year...

[01:55] Sem

I hope things will be that simple.

[01:57] Villager A

What do you mean?

[01:58] Sem

Enberch might use this as an excuse to
change our relationship back to how it was...

[02:03] Villager B

Wh-What are you saying?!

[02:04] Baker

Those guys shouldn't be able
to lay their hands on us.

[02:06] Villager C

Didn't Father Franz set it up that way?

[02:09] Villager A

It was impossible for Elsa from the start!

[02:11] Villager A

Of course they'd look down on her!

[02:13] Baker

That's right! She stays in the church all day
and never comes out to help in the fields!

[02:17] Villager B

The wheat harvest this year
was all thanks to Lord Truyeo!

[02:20] Villager A

A church girl like her is completely useless!

[02:22] Sem

That's enough.

[02:24] Sem

Every villager needs to check how much money
they have left after selling the harvest

[02:28] Sem

and how many provisions
they already have prepared.

[02:30] Sem

At the earliest, the messenger
will reach our village by daybreak.

[02:34] Sem

Let's disperse for now.

[02:43] Sem

Elsa.

[02:45] Sem

I'm sure this is painful for you,
but please endure it for now.

[02:49] Sem

Ms. Ima, please go to the church with Elsa.

[02:52] Sem

Some of the hot-blooded villagers
may come pounding on the door.

[02:55] Ima

Leave it to me.

[02:56] Sem

Mr. Lawrence, I'm just as suspicious
of you as the villagers are.

[03:02] Sem

Even so, please don't think that I'm foolish
enough to immediately believe that as truth.

[03:06] Lawrence

I would say the exact same thing
if I were in your place, Village Head Sem.

[03:10] Sem

In order to ensure your safety
and prevent further suspicion,

[03:16] Sem

I'd like the two of you to come to my home.

SIGN Spice and Wolf

SIGN Episode 23

Orchestrated Catastrophe
and Appropriate Retribution

[04:54] Lawrence

The situation seems to be
too much of a coincidence.

[04:57] Lawrence

The more I think about it, the more
I feel like Enberch orchestrated all of this

[05:00] Lawrence

in order to control Tereo.

[05:02] Holo

I agree.

[05:03] Lawrence

Even so, Elsa's backer wouldn't stay
silent if the village gets trapped like that.

[05:08] Lawrence

That's why they needed a scapegoat.

[05:11] Lawrence

Then we happened by,
giving them the perfect opportunity.

[05:14] Lawrence

They'll surely offer the village this deal.

[05:17] Lawrence

"We'll delay the return payment for
the wheat if you hand over the culprits to us."

[05:22] Holo

Are you going to allow that?

[05:24] Lawrence

Of course not.

[05:25] Lawrence

However...

[05:27] Holo

Yes. If we run, it would be like
admitting we poisoned the wheat.

[05:30] Holo

Your image would be posted everywhere and...

[05:32] Lawrence

My life as a merchant would be over.

[05:38] Holo

Could we seek help
from that association of yours?

[05:41] Lawrence

The association, huh? If only...

[05:45] Lawrence

Oh, that's right.

[05:49] Lawrence

If I rode on your back,

[05:51] Lawrence

we could flee to another
town faster than on horseback.

[05:53] Holo

Of course.

[05:54] Lawrence

It would be a huge problem if news got out
that a merchant poisoned some wheat.

[05:58] Lawrence

The association would
fervently deny such accusations.

[06:00] Holo

If that is the case, the ones
trying to entrap us may give up.

[06:06] Lawrence

But then, who would take the blame instead?

[06:09] Lawrence

They'd blame Evan, since he could
poison the wheat at any time

[06:12] Lawrence

and the villagers have
always been suspicious of him.

[06:15] Holo

Then, I shall carry him on my back as well.

[06:17] Lawrence

But then...

[06:19] Holo

If that girl is in danger,
I shall carry her as well.

[06:22] Holo

You are foolishly good-natured, after all.

[06:25] Holo

Goodness, how troublesome...

[06:27] Lawrence

I'm sorry. Thank you.

[06:29] Sem

Well, then.

[06:31] Sem

Please tell me who in the world
the two of you are.

[06:34] Lawrence

I have already told you.

[06:36] Sem

Yes, you have.

[06:39] Sem

And you probably speak the truth.

[06:41] Sem

However, the two of you were seeking
Diendran Abbey. For what reason?

[06:47] Lawrence

A person I met in Kumerson
introduced me to the abbot of that abbey.

[06:51] Sem

So, you didn't come here at
the request of the town of Enberch?

[06:56] Lawrence

It's true that we stopped by the town
of Enberch, but we only passed through.

[07:00] Lawrence

We came in search of Diendran Abbey
only for our own selves.

[07:05] Sem

Y-You're lying!

[07:09] Lawrence

We have absolutely nothing to do with
the feud between Enberch and this village.

[07:14] Lawrence

I only found out about the feud
after coming to this village

[07:18] Lawrence

and I used my own experience
to deduce the situation.

[07:21] Sem

You absolutely, truly,
have nothing to do with any of this?

[07:24] Lawrence

Yes.

[07:25] Sem

If that's truly the case...

[07:28] Sem

If that's truly the case, can you lend us
some wisdom and perhaps some money?

[07:32] Lawrence

I can lend you my wisdom, however...

[07:35] Sem

I won't ask you to lend it to us
free of charge.

[07:37] Sem

In exchange, I can guarantee your safety.

[07:40] Lawrence

Is that a threat?

[07:42] Sem

The only reason I did not simply
tie you up as the culprit was

[07:45] Sem

because you brought wheat as a gift
when you came to greet me.

[07:50] Lawrence

It looks like I have no choice but to agree.

[07:54] Lawrence

However.

[07:55] Lawrence

I will ask for appropriate compensation
if I'm able to turn this situation around.

[08:01] Sem

I understand.

[08:04] Lawrence

Then, let me say this first.

[08:07] Lawrence

This commotion was all orchestrated
by the town of Enberch itself.

[08:11] Sem

Please continue.

[08:12] Lawrence

Yes.

[08:13] Lawrence

This is what I expect Enberch's plan to be.

[08:15] Lawrence

You will not be able to pay back
the money for all the wheat.

[08:19] Lawrence

So, they will demand you credit them
towards the wheat you harvest next year.

[08:25] Sem

What does that mean?

[08:26] Lawrence

They will negotiate the price of next year's
wheat and buy it at that price now.

[08:31] Lawrence

However, since they're buying
something that doesn't exist yet,

[08:35] Lawrence

they'll haggle down the price.

[08:38] Lawrence

You'll be forced to make up the difference
with the following year's wheat.

[08:42] Lawrence

Repeating this cycle will become
increasingly difficult for your village.

[08:45] Lawrence

In the end, they will probably
take advantage of your weakness

[08:48] Lawrence

to end the contract made with Father Franz.

[08:53] Sem

We only wished to avoid
heavy taxation in our village.

[08:56] Sem

Thinking that, we desperately
protected what Father Franz left us.

[09:01] Sem

I can't believe they used
Ridelius' Hellfire against us...

[09:04] Lawrence

Is there really no chance the poisonous
wheat made it into your harvest?

[09:09] Sem

That cursed wheat is black and sticky.

[09:13] Sem

Everyone in the village can recognize it.

[09:15] Sem

It's unlikely that enough to kill someone
was carelessly mixed into our harvest.

[09:22] Sem

I spoke with Elsa a bit, and she
immediately suspected Enberch.

[09:30] Sem

I am so pathetic.

[09:32] Sem

I thought our livelihood would be secure
as long as we had someone to buy our wheat,

[09:35] Sem

so I didn't consider anything else.

[09:39] Sem

I can't believe they'd
attack us in such a way...

[09:42] Lawrence

I'd like to speak with Ms. Elsa.

[09:53] Ima

You want to meet with Elsa?

[09:54] Lawrence

Village Head Sem has promised our safety
in exchange for my wisdom and money.

[10:00] Lawrence

I need to speak with Miss Elsa
to gain some accurate information.

[10:05] Ima

Elsa! Elsa!

[10:08] Elsa

What is it?

[10:10] Lawrence

I've come to talk with you.

[10:12] Ima

You all right?

[10:14] Elsa

We cannot depend on them,
but we can trust them.

[10:17] Elsa

At the very least, the two of them
know the proper method of prayer.

[10:22] Ima

Got it.

[10:26] Elsa

Please come in.

[10:29] Elsa

Please stay outside.

[10:30] Evan

Wh-Why?

[10:31] Elsa

Please.

[10:33] Evan

Fine...

[10:34] Lawrence

Evan.

[10:37] Lawrence

Any merchant would cry
if they dropped this purse.

[10:42] Lawrence

Think of it as proof that you can trust me.

[10:52] Elsa

I can't believe Enberch
would use such underhanded tricks...

[10:55] Elsa

My backer is merely supporting me
because of my father.

[11:00] Elsa

If I ask for much more,
I risk losing my backer completely...

[11:03] Lawrence

As expected...

[11:05] Lawrence

So, what do you think will happen
to us after this, Ms. Elsa?

[11:10] Elsa

You're asking me?

[11:11] Lawrence

I think only you, and perhaps Ms. Ima,

[11:14] Lawrence

are able to tell how Enberch
plans to play this out.

[11:17] Elsa

As well as the two of you, right?

[11:24] Lawrence

We are thinking of running.

[11:26] Elsa

I cannot believe you'd be able to escape,
even with a horse.

[11:31] Lawrence

That would be the case if my companion
was a mere girl like she seems.

[11:38] Elsa

Then, why haven't you fled?

[11:41] Lawrence

First, we haven't finished reading
through the books in this church.

[11:45] Lawrence

The next reason is that we know
who will be blamed if we disappear.

[11:53] Elsa

Are you confident
you'll be able to escape with Evan?

[11:55] Lawrence

Not just him, but you as well.

[12:00] Elsa

There is no reason for me to refuse
your request to read the books.

[12:03] Elsa

But there isn't much time...

[12:04] Lawrence

There is only one book
we'd like to read, no matter what.

[12:09] Holo

It has been hidden under the altar.

[12:11] Holo

As long as I can read that book...

[12:13] Holo

Well, considering the current
predicament, I will not wish for more.

[12:24] Elsa

Goodness.

[12:26] Elsa

There should be a book
under the alter. Go get it.

[12:31] Evan

Y-Yeah.

[12:34] Elsa

I will neither encourage
nor discourage you from escaping.

[12:37] Elsa

However, will you lend me your
merchant's wisdom until that time?

[12:43] Lawrence

I'm not sure if I can
give you a satisfactory answer.

[12:46] Elsa

It seems merchants really like that phrase.

[12:49] Lawrence

We are a cautious lot.

[12:52] Evan

I brought the book.

[12:54] Evan

But this...

[12:56] Evan

Isn't this one of Father Franz's
books on pagan legends?

[12:58] Evan

Whoa!

[13:01] Lawrence

Ms. Elsa, please excuse me.

[13:11] Holo

Hey.

[13:12] Holo

If I tear this book apart in anger,
will you apologize on my behalf?

[13:17] Lawrence

I don't mind apologizing, but don't tear
the book apart just to wipe your tears.

[13:22] Holo

You would happily buy my tears at a high price.

[13:27] Holo

It would be a waste not to cry before you.

[13:29] Lawrence

Such expensive gems,
I'll have to make sure they're not fake.

[13:36] Holo

I would like to read alone.

[13:38] Lawrence

Tell me your thoughts after you finish.

[13:40] Holo

Yes...

[13:46] Lawrence

Oh.

[13:57] Evan

I'll be by your side no matter what happens...

[13:59] Evan

There's no need for you to worry, Elsa!

[14:02] Elsa

Yeah...

[14:08] Evan

If I shouldn't be here, I'll step out.

[14:12] Lawrence

So, what can my knowledge
and experience help you with?

[14:17] Elsa

According to Village Head Sem,

[14:19] Elsa

we'll be seventy Rimmer coins short
if they return all the wheat to us.

[14:22] Lawrence

Seventy Rimmer. That's a lot.

[14:25] Elsa

That's not all.

[14:28] Elsa

Since the wheat we stored can no longer
be used, we'll also need money for food...

[14:33] Elsa

I thought things wouldn't come to this
as long as we still had father's contract.

[14:38] Lawrence

That way of thinking isn't wrong.

[14:40] Lawrence

However, the villagers never understood
the greatness of that blessing.

[14:45] Elsa

I heard from my father that
farmers in other villages work hard

[14:50] Elsa

doing odd jobs throughout the winter.

[14:52] Elsa

They try to earn as much money as possible,
so their land isn't taken from them.

[14:57] Elsa

But here...

[14:58] Lawrence

That's right. However,
nothing will change if we just grieve.

[15:02] Elsa

Yes, you're right.

[15:04] Elsa

If I merely grieve, my father...
Father Franz will get angry with me...

[15:09] Lawrence

Ms. Elsa!

[15:10] Evan

Elsa! Elsa!

[15:11] Lawrence

Ms. Elsa!

[15:20] Evan

Hey, Mr. Lawrence.

[15:21] Evan

Everyone in the village
suspects the two of us, don't they?

[15:24] Lawrence

That's right.

[15:25] Evan

Of course they do...

[15:27] Evan

I eavesdropped, but... you said you can escape?

[15:32] Lawrence

That?

[15:33] Lawrence

Yeah, we can.

[15:35] Lawrence

I'd like to selfishly
take the two of you with me, too.

[15:38] Evan

That's not selfish at all.

[15:40] Evan

I don't want to die
in a place like this. Elsa, too.

[15:42] Evan

I'm sure she wants to leave this village, too.

[15:45] Evan

Everyone says Mr. Franz is their benefactor,

[15:47] Evan

but no one in the village
really appreciates it...

[15:52] Evan

They never listen to his teachings.

[15:55] Evan

They've always given
their god a ton of offerings

[15:58] Evan

but have never offered a single
piece of bread to the church.

[16:00] Evan

Without the village head or Ms. Lima, we
would have starved to death a long time ago.

[16:05] Lima

It's true that the outside world isn't easy,

[16:08] Lima

but it might be easier than this village.

[16:10] Evan

Ms. Lima...

[16:11] Lima

You're, um...

[16:12] Lawrence

My name is Lawrence.

[16:14] Ima

Mr. Lawrence, if you want to escape with the two of them, I think you should.

[16:21] Ima

No, I hope you do.

[16:23] Evan

Yeah.

[16:24] Evan

Then, I'll need to convince Elsa.

[16:31] Ima

I know what I said, but how do you all plan on escaping?

[16:36] Lawrence

If a man can come across a maiden brewing beer in the mountains,

[16:41] Lawrence

it wouldn't be odd for another man to encounter something else equally strange.

[16:47] Ima

Did you meet a fairy or something?

[16:49] Lawrence

Something like that.

[16:59] Holo

Have you finished talking?

[17:01] Lawrence

More or less.

[17:03] Holo

I have already accomplished my goal.

[17:05] Lawrence

I see.

[17:08] Holo

If you are curious, you should read it as well.

[17:10] Lawrence

Yeah.

[17:15] Lawrence

"The gods of the land all fled in terror."

[17:18] Lawrence

"In the time it took for nuts of a tree to fall,

[17:20] Lawrence

Yoitsu was shredded apart by the bear's claws."

[17:25] Lawrence

That's all there is?

[17:32] Holo

I sense an infuriating gaze on me.
Is it my imagination?

[17:37] Lawrence

I'm not...

[17:39] Lawrence

No, I am. You're right. I'm sorry.

[17:42] Lawrence

Don't get so angry.

[17:45] Holo

I am satisfied to hear that my old
friends seemed to have gotten away.

[17:49] Holo

There was nothing else.

[17:51] Lawrence

Nothing in the world ever goes as one wishes.

[17:55] Holo

I cannot agree more.

[17:56] Holo

So, what are we going to do?

[17:58] Holo

We should escape quickly,
if we plan to do so.

[18:01] Lawrence

Of course, we'll escape.

[18:05] Holo

You are taking a great loss this time.

[18:07] Lawrence

It can't be helped.

[18:08] Lawrence

We can't take the wheat with us.

[18:11] Lawrence

If the goods were expensive and
more portable, we'd have options.

[18:16] Holo

Are you speaking of the pepper
you sold once before?

[18:18] Lawrence

There is something more valuable
and easier to carry than spices.

[18:23] Holo

Oh?

[18:25] Lawrence

Trust.

[18:26] Holo

It seems I will have to sell your trust
once it grows higher in value.

[18:29] Lawrence

Do you know how paranoid of you I've become now that you've teased me so much?

[18:36] Holo

Then, I'll just have to regain that trust.

[18:39] Lawrence

This is the very reason
I'm always suspicious of you!

[18:42] Holo

Lies will only lower the value of your trust.

[18:45] Lawrence

Well, you have never once blamed me
for the trouble we are in.

[18:49] Lawrence

I am honestly grateful for that.

[18:51] Lawrence

Huh?

[18:52] Holo

You would not have taken a loss
if I had not wished to come here.

[18:56] Lawrence

Then, it looks like we'll have to tighten your
food and drinking budget to make up for it.

[19:00] Holo

You have grown quite unrestrained lately.

[19:05] Villagers

Hand over that merchant!

[19:07] Villagers

This is definitely their fault!

[19:09] Villagers

Hand over the miller, too!

[19:17] Ima

Don't come over. Go deeper inside.

[19:20] Lawrence

But...

[19:21] Elsa

I'll go out and persuade them.

[19:22] Ima

Don't be stupid.

[19:24] Elsa

But...

[19:29] Ima

You'll just add oil to the fire.

[19:32] Ima

You're close with Evan.

[19:35] Ima

They might hand you over to Enberch
as a heretic to get on the town's good side.

[19:40] lima

Listen to me.

[19:41] lima

The two of you can't stay
in this village any longer.

[19:45] lima

If it's hard to make a living everywhere,

[19:47] lima

but it's better to look for a new life
out there with someone you trust.

[19:53] lima

You might have to give up a lot of things,

[19:55] lima

but there should be a lot
of things you'll gain on the way.

[19:58] lima

No matter the journey,

[20:01] lima

choosing your path at a fork
takes only an instant.

[20:03] Lawrence

I couldn't agree more.

[20:11] Elsa

I'd like to run.

[20:14] Evan

Yeah.

[20:19] Holo

I have one condition,
if you'd like to leave it to me.

[20:26] Holo

Think of everything that happens
after this as a dream before the dawn.

[20:32] lima

I'm a fairy that brews beer, after all.
I'm so drunk I won't remember a thing.

[20:37] Holo

Then, leave it all to me.

[20:39] Holo

Just...

[20:40] Holo

I can easily jump over the crowd
with all of you on my back,

[20:45] Holo

but I am not sure if you can
withstand such a thing.

[20:48] Lawrence

Is there a back door in this church?

[20:51] Elsa

I heard from Father Franz that there was an underground passage in the basement...

[20:55] Lawrence

Let's use that.

[20:56] Lawrence

Ms. Elsa and Evan should prepare to leave immediately.

[20:59] Elsa

Y-Yes.

[21:01] Iima

Well, it's lucky enough to be able to make some preparations for your escape.

[21:05] Holo

It is not as though your hometown will disappear tomorrow. Be glad it still exists.

[21:09] Iima

Oh? You, too, Ms. Fairy?

[21:12] Holo

Do not lump me together with such weak creatures.

[21:16] Elsa

We will prepare immediately.

[21:19] Iima

All right, then. Off you go!

[21:22] Holo

Even I have lost to her strong sense of presence.

[21:27] Holo

Do not worry.

[21:29] Holo

This is the only human form I can take.

[21:32] Lawrence

That's unfortunate.

[21:34] Lawrence

I prefer a woman with a more ample figure.

[21:39] Lawrence

Ouch!

[21:41] Holo

Hurry up and open the door to the basement.

[22:04] Lawrence

Then, are you ready?

[22:06] Evan

Y-Yeah.

[22:08] Elsa

Yes.

SIGN Episode 24

SIGN Path of the Snake God and Answer of the Wise Wolf

[23:45] Holo

Next Episode: Path of the Snake God
and Answer of the Wise Wolf

Revision #1

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