

# M0 - Sword Art Online -FULLDIVE-

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.)

**[00:18]** ---

THE NAME OF THE CASTLE IS AINCRAD.

**[00:23]** ---

A WORLD OF SWORDS AND BATTLES, IT CONTINUES  
TO FLOAT WITH 6,000 PEOPLE TRAPPED INSIDE.

**[00:30]** ---

IT IS ALSO KNOWN AS...

**[00:37]** ---

This castle is made up of numerous floors.

**[00:41]** ---

And on each floor you'll find a town,  
a forest, and a vast plain.

**[00:52]** ---

You climb up a long staircase between each floor

**[00:56]** ---

to find a palace at the very top.

**[01:03]** ---

And who would you find there?

**[01:08]** ---

I don't know.

**[01:19]** ---

PRESS THIS BUTTON TO DISEMBARK

**[01:30]** ---

EVEN NOW, I STILL BELIEVE...

**[01:35]** ---

THAT THAT CASTLE STILL TRULY EXISTS.

**[01:53]** ---

Link Start!

**[03:59]** ---

SEPTEMBER 30, 2024  
AINCRAD FLOOR 50, MAIN CITY - ALGADE

**[04:24]** ---

All right, all right!  
I'm getting up.

**[04:28]** ---

I'm getting up, okay?

**[04:35]** ---

Hey, it's only 6:00 in the morning!

**[04:39]** ---

Did my alarm malfunction?

**[04:42]** ---

Huh?

**[04:44]** ---

No... That's right.

**[04:47]** ---

Today's the day, huh?

**[04:56]** ---

My lodgings are in a back alley in Algade,  
the main city on Floor 50 in Aincrad.

**[05:06]** ---

I get home every day at 2:00 or 3:00 a.m.,

**[05:11]** ---

head straight to bed,  
get up at 8:50,

**[05:16]** ---

then get breakfast.

Lately, that's been my daily routine.

**[05:23]** ---

But today of all days, the reason why  
my alarm went off three hours early

**[05:28]** ---

wasn't because of a system malfunction,

**[05:31]** ---

but because I'd set it to go off,  
ages ago.

**[05:36]** ---

And that's because today, September 30th,  
just might be a special day.

**[05:45]** ---

Not for me, but for Asuna.

**[05:53]** ---

But the thing is...

I might also be wrong about that.

**[06:05]** ---

For now, I guess I'll get breakfast.

**[06:26]** ---

I guess jewelry's the go-to choice for presents?

**[06:32]** ---

But she probably has tons already.

**[06:36]** ---

Something more practical,  
like a box of makeup items?

**[06:41]** ---

Or maybe I should just go with food?

**[06:48]** ---

It's been a while since we've seen each other,

**[06:52]** ---

so giving her a present out  
of the blue might put her on the spot.

**[06:57]** ---

We never really did that kind of thing,  
even when we were a team.

**[07:04]** ---

You know what, maybe I'll just head home  
and catch some more z's.

**[07:09]** ---

Whoa! Nearly had a heart attack!

**[07:13]** ---

Oh, it's a text.

**[07:17]** ---

Who sends texts at this hour?

**[07:20]** ---

Hey... it's from Asuna herself. Um...

**[07:27]** ---

"Morning, Kirito.  
Wanna grab lunch together for a change?"

**[07:36]** ---

Well, no reason to turn that down, right?

**[07:41]** ---

"Sure, where should we go?"

**[07:50]** ---

"I found a place I want to try in  
the MAIN CITY on Floor 42."

**[07:55]** ---

"Does 11:30 at the Teleport Gate work for you?"

**[08:02]** ---

Is she just asking me to lunch?

**[08:05]** ---

Or... could this be an advanced mind game?

**[08:09]** ---

Oh, well, I'll just say, "Roger that."

**[08:17]** ---

It's 6:30 right now,  
so that gives me five hours, huh?

**[08:22]** ---

I'd better hurry if I'm going  
to get her a present.

**[08:25]** ---

But first of all,

I've got to decide what to get her.

**[08:38]** ---

AINCRAD, FLOOR 61 MAIN CITY - SELMBURG

**[08:47]** ---

All right!

Phase 1, cleared!

**[08:52]** ---

Now I just have to figure out how to get to Floor 42 without my bodyguards noticing.

**[08:58]** ---

Seriously, guild sub-leader or not,

**[09:03]** ---

keeping that security detail on me on my days off is beyond overprotective!

**[09:08]** ---

They don't have anyone guarding the commander.

**[09:10]** ---

Well, not that he ever leaves headquarters.

**[09:16]** ---

Let's disable the guild member tracking function in settings.

**[09:22]** ---

And this house only has one exit, right?

**[09:26]** ---

What are the odds that he just happened to oversleep today?

**[09:32]** ---

Zero, right?

**[09:34]** ---

Oh, boy, if I'd known this would happen,

**[09:38]** ---

I would've leveled up my Hiding skills like Kirito.

**[09:43]** ---

No, wait, crying for the moon's not going to get me anywhere.

**[09:47]** ---

I've got to find a way to escape this room by the time I'm supposed to meet him.

**[09:55]** ---

I could disguise myself in full plate armor...

**[09:59]** ---

...but one look at my cursor and I'd be busted.

**[10:03]** ---

I could probably climb up to the roof from my window,

**[10:06]** ---

but if my guard happened to look up,  
it would be game over.

**[10:10]** ---

Ten seconds...  
no, even five would do.

**[10:13]** ---

Can't I somehow divert  
my guard's attention for that long?

**[10:17]** ---

Hmm...

**[10:26]** ---

AINCRAD, FLOOR 50 MAIN CITY - ALGADE

**[10:39]** ---

I think I've had enough of this bread!

**[10:42]** ---

Something like a moist, fluffy sandwich stuffed  
with all kinds of fillings would be great.

**[10:48]** ---

No, wait, first things first. I've got to make up my mind  
on what to give Asuna.

**[10:55]** ---

I guess I'll look for something in Agil's shop,

**[10:58]** ---

and if I find anything promising,  
I'll have him hold it for me.

**[11:06]** ---

Huh?

**[11:08]** ---

Hold up, it's business hours,  
but it's closed?

**[11:11]** ---

I see a sign on the door.

**[11:14]** ---

Let's see.

**[11:16]** ---

"The shop owner is out today,  
so we're temporarily closed"?

**[11:22]** ---

Are you kidding me?  
Where did he go?

**[11:28]** ---

Well, between the Assault Team  
and running his business,

**[11:33]** ---

Agil does seem busy every day.

**[11:36]** ---

Of course he'd want a day off once in a while.

**[11:40]** ---

Still, whose brain am I supposed to pick now?

**[11:45]** ---

Klein... no, it would probably turn into a hassle.

**[11:50]** ---

Argo... would probably charge me with a huge commission.

**[11:57]** ---

Silica... doesn't even know Asuna, right?

**[12:02]** ---

Lisbeth... I think it would get awkward if I asked her.

**[12:09]** ---

Who else...

**[12:17]** ---

Wait a second...

**[12:20]** ---

Do I have too few friends?

**[12:24]** ---

No, no... this is something I should decide on by myself.

**[12:27]** ---

I mean, I've known Asuna for a long time.

**[12:29]** ---

If I just put my mind to it, I should be able to come up with at least one thing!

**[12:34]** ---

Um, let's see...

**[12:42]** ---

But it was from November, the year before last, when SAO officially launched...

**[12:50]** ---

to March, the following year, that Asuna and I were teamed up.

**[12:55]** ---

So just under five months.

**[12:58]** ---

Since we disbanded...

**[13:02]** ---

It's been a year and eight months already, huh?

**[13:07]** ---

That day, if I'd...

**[13:13]** ---

No.

**[13:15]** ---

There's no point in dwelling on that now.

**[13:24]** ---

AINCRAD, FLOOR 61 MAIN CITY - SELMBURG

**[13:35]** ---

It's such an important day...

what am I doing?

**[13:40]** ---

If I'd known this was going to happen,

**[13:42]** ---

then I should've gotten brave last year,

and contacted...

**[13:45]** ---

No, before that, even.

On Floor 24.

**[13:57]** ---

Well, no use crying over spilt milk now, right?

**[14:00]** ---

Anyway, I've got to figure out what to do today.

**[14:03]** ---

To get up to the roof from my window unnoticed,

**[14:06]** ---

I'll have to create some kind

of commotion in front of the house,

**[14:09]** ---

and divert my guard's attention.

**[14:12]** ---

If we weren't in the safe zone,

I could provoke some monsters, or toss a magic potion.

**[14:17]** ---

There'd be plenty of options.

**[14:20]** ---

But I can't use those methods in town.

**[14:23]** ---

Maybe I could get in touch with someone,

and have them come here...

**[14:28]** ---

But then... how am I supposed

to explain what's going on?

**[14:34]** ---

Seriously... next time I move,

I'm going to get a place with a back door!

**[14:40]** ---

Or maybe I could live deep inside a forest,

where nobody would ever find me.

**[14:45]** ---

Or else do the unexpected and go back

to the Town of Beginnings.

**[14:56]** ---

AINCRAD, FLOOR 50 MAIN CITY - ALGADE

**[15:04]** ---

Well, I bought up all kinds  
of stuff at the NPC shop,

**[15:07]** ---

but nothing really seems right.

**[15:10]** ---

Here's an assortment of beef jerky...

**[15:13]** ---

Some 10-shot fireworks...

**[15:16]** ---

This is a Kobold disguise set...

**[15:22]** ---

Why did I buy these things?

**[15:26]** ---

I mean, I don't have a clue what Asuna's into  
right now, or what she's interested in!

**[15:35]** ---

I need to start with some research.

**[15:42]** ---

So Asuna's still at her place in Selmburg, huh?

**[15:47]** ---

All right, why don't I head over  
to her house now?

**[15:55]** ---

AINCRAD, FLOOR 61 MAIN CITY - SELMBURG

**[16:03]** ---

Why does leaving my own house  
have to be such a headache?

**[16:08]** ---

Maybe I'll just storm out the front door,  
and race away at top speed?

**[16:13]** ---

They might give me an earful later,  
but I can deal with that when it happens.

**[16:19]** ---

But what if I can't make a clean getaway?

**[16:23]** ---

I'm pretty sure there aren't that many people  
who can catch up to me,

**[16:28]** ---

but I don't really know much about that guard.

**[16:33]** ---

Well, I'm sure it can't be easy,  
standing around all day like that,

**[16:38]** ---

and I should be grateful to him for that.

**[16:42]** ---

Tomorrow, I'm going to ask the commander  
to lay off the security unless I leave the safe zone.

**[16:49]** ---

Wait, what?

**[16:51]** ---

That guy in the black coat,  
walking this way...

**[16:56]** ---

Wait, is that Kirito?

**[16:59]** ---

No way! What's he doing here?

**[17:04]** ---

Don't tell me he came here to pick me up?

**[17:09]** ---

No, hold on! If Kirito and my guard  
run into each other, there's going to be trouble.

**[17:13]** ---

I have to tell him to stay away  
from the front of the house!

**[17:18]** ---

No, wait.

**[17:21]** ---

This just might be my chance!

**[17:26]** ---

Okay, so Asuna's place is up there.

**[17:32]** ---

The house is gorgeous,  
and there's a vast lake.

**[17:37]** ---

What a far cry from my own place in Algade.

**[17:42]** ---

Hey, it's from Asuna.

**[17:47]** ---

Huh?

**[17:48]** ---

"Make some kind of huge commotion right now,  
and run for your life to the Teleport Gate!"

**[17:56]** ---

What's she talking about?

**[17:58]** ---

Sounds like an emergency,  
but seriously, huge commotion?

**[18:02]** ---

Let's see... um... Hey, I got it!

**[18:05]** ---

I'll use that thing I just bought!

**[18:10]** ---

I'll set this up, then from the pop-up menu,  
I'll press "Detonate."

**[18:20]** ---

What's that?

**[18:23]** ---

Fireworks?

**[18:26]** ---

Wow, awesome!

**[18:29]** ---

Why would he have fireworks,  
though, I wonder?

**[18:33]** ---

No, I mean—

**[18:36]** ---

Whoops-a-daisy...

**[18:39]** ---

I've escaped!

**[18:47]** ---

AINCRAD, FLOOR 42, MAIN CITY TELEPORT GATE PLAZA

**[18:57]** ---

Uh...

**[18:59]** ---

Asuna... what was that all about just now?

**[19:03]** ---

Oh, it doesn't really matter!

**[19:05]** ---

Anyway, Kirito, what were you doing in Selmburg?

**[19:10]** ---

Oh! Uh, well... actually... see...

**[19:20]** ---

I've been racking my brain all morning,  
trying to think of a present for you,

**[19:27]** ---

but so far I've got nothing.

**[19:29]** ---

So I thought the only way would be  
to ask you in person before hitting the shops.

**[19:34]** ---

What?

**[19:36]** ---

How did you know that  
it's my birthday today?

**[19:39]** ---

I don't think I've ever told you, right?

**[19:42]** ---

Uh...

**[19:45]** ---

Okay, then. If you tell me  
what that commotion was about just now,

**[19:51]** ---

I'll answer your question.

**[19:52]** ---

Hmm...

**[19:57]** ---

See, there's a bodyguard keeping  
an eye on me in front of my house,

**[20:03]** ---

so I had you create a chance  
for me to make my escape.

**[20:08]** ---

Right, I get it.

**[20:12]** ---

So life's not easy even  
for the vice commander of a major guild, huh?

**[20:15]** ---

Hey, but if you wanted to escape behind his back,  
couldn't you have used a Teleport Crystal in your room?

**[20:27]** ---

Um, um, um...

**[20:28]** ---

All right, so for your birthday,  
I'm getting you a box of teleporting items!

**[20:34]** ---

I don't want anything like that!

**[20:37]** ---

Listen, then is it okay if I pick something out?

**[20:41]** ---

W-Well, sure, if you could do that,  
that would be the best option.

**[20:47]** ---

All right!  
Then it's settled!

**[20:49]** ---

So let's head to Floor 47 before lunch!  
I have a favorite shop there!

**[20:55]** ---

Right, you mean that shop, huh?

**[20:58]** ---

I think you said that  
you and the manager go way back?

**[21:02]** ---

Right! She's a very, very dear friend of mine.

**[21:22]** ---

APRIL 4, 2023

AINCRAD, FLOOR 4 - MAIN CITY ROVIA

**[21:42]** ---

That should do it for the shearing.

**[21:45]** ---

Hmm, the shape might be too complex.

**[21:50]** ---

But I've got to keep trying  
to master these difficult outfits,

**[21:54]** ---

or I'll never level up my sewing skill  
or my own talent. That's what Ley said.

**[22:01]** ---

Next up, the actual sewing.

**[22:03]** ---

Keep a firm hand  
on the cloth with your left hand,

**[22:06]** ---

and use your right hand to stitch carefully,  
but rhythmically.

**[22:12]** ---

Ouch!

**[22:15]** ---

Oh, no... I messed it up again.

**[22:20]** ---

I never thought that I was that clumsy.

**[22:24]** ---

Maybe I'm not cut out to be a tailor?

**[22:29]** ---

No... look at Asuna,  
doing so great in her new guild.

**[22:34]** ---

I've got to give it my all, too!

**[22:47]** ---

Almost five months have gone by since  
this death game started.

**[22:52]** ---

I've put down my weapons,

**[22:55]** ---

but Asuna and the Assault Team  
have been clearing floor after floor,

**[23:01]** ---

and four days ago,  
they took on the Floor 25 Boss.

**[23:07]** ---

Although the raid was successful,

the toll was also heavy,

**[23:11]** ---

leaving one of the two leading front line guilds,  
the Aincrad Liberation Army,

**[23:18]** ---

more or less decimated.

**[23:22]** ---

Even as many of the players succumb  
to a growing sense of doom,

**[23:27]** ---

Asuna has been trapped to serve  
as the vice commander of a new guild,

**[23:33]** ---

the Knights of the Blood Oath, who seem to be thriving  
and unfazed by the pressure.

**[23:38]** ---

I wish I could say something to encourage her,

**[23:40]** ---

but as someone who's fled the front lines,  
I probably have no right to.

**[23:51]** ---

This is my last piece of material,  
so I can't afford to mess it up.

**[23:56]** ---

Focus... Focus!

**[23:59]** ---

Whoa!

**[24:01]** ---

Thank goodness I hadn't started shearing yet.

**[24:05]** ---

But who could it be, at this hour?

**[24:12]** ---

Who's there?

**[24:14]** ---

Mito? It's me.

**[24:17]** ---

What? Asuna?

**[24:24]** ---

Hey, you're soaked.

Come on inside.

**[24:38]** ---

Here's a towel.

**[24:39]** ---

Dry yourself off with that.

**[24:41]** ---

I'll dry your hair for you.

**[24:43]** ---

Thanks. You haven't changed, huh, Mito?

**[24:48]** ---

You think so?

I feel like I've changed quite a lot.

**[24:53]** ---

I don't think that's true.

**[24:55]** ---

The way you dote on me like you're doing now...  
it's just like old times.

**[25:01]** ---

Asuna, is something the matter?

**[25:06]** ---

No... Nothing's the matter.

**[25:09]** ---

I just stopped by because  
I was in the neighborhood.

**[25:12]** ---

I guess I'm bothering you,  
dropping by at this hour.

**[25:15]** ---

Not at all.

You're always welcome here, Asuna.

**[25:19]** ---

I'll go make some tea, so go get warm  
in front of the fireplace.

**[25:23]** ---

Okay.

**[25:36]** ---

Here you go.

**[25:38]** ---

Thanks.

Thank you for the tea.

**[25:46]** ---

Mito. You're really working  
on your sewing skills, huh?

**[25:51]** ---

Well, yeah. Not that I'm getting any better at it.  
I might not be cut out for it.

**[25:56]** ---

I wouldn't say that!

**[25:58]** ---

I've been trying all this time, too,  
but I can't make anything this intricate.

**[26:03]** ---

You're really amazing, Mito.

**[26:09]** ---

Sorry... Asuna.

**[26:12]** ---

You've been battling so hard on  
the front lines, whereas I'm...

**[26:19]** ---

Listen, Mito.

**[26:22]** ---

I just dissolved my longtime party,  
and joined a new guild...

**[26:29]** ---

And it just hit me again.

**[26:34]** ---

That it's not just the Assault Team players who  
are battling in this world...

**[26:39]** ---

That all the merchants,  
the craftspeople...

**[26:42]** ---

So many people are supporting  
the Assault Team.

**[26:48]** ---

All your hard work right now...  
it's linked right back to the front lines.

**[26:56]** ---

Right.  
Thanks, Asuna.

**[27:02]** ---

I promise you...

**[27:04]** ---

That I'll become the best tailor  
in all of Aincrad!

**[27:08]** ---

That's what I like to hear!

**[27:10]** ---

Let me know as soon as you open your shop.

**[27:16]** ---

Well, then, I'll be going now.

**[27:19]** ---

Thanks for the tea.

**[27:22]** ---

Sure.

**[27:23]** ---

Good luck, Asuna.

**[28:06]** ---

*Somehow you and I are still lying here*

**[28:15]** ---

*Like we can never get enough of gazing at the sky*

**[28:21]** ---

*When was the last time that we stood up?*

**[28:30]** ---

*Far, far away,  
someone is calling us*

**[28:41]** ---

*Far off in the distance*

**[28:46]** ---

*Hurry—take flight right now  
with the intuition from your heart*

**[28:51]** ---

*All my troubles shattering before your cheers*

**[28:56]** ---

*Farther, higher and higher  
Boldly looking straight up*

**[29:01]** ---

*Towards the tomorrow that no one else can see*

**[29:19]** ---

*Why do I feel it again,  
outside my body*

**[29:28]** ---

*This heartbeat that puts me on edge*

**[29:35]** ---

*Looks like we can still fly—see?*

**[29:44]** ---

*I tore my heart in two  
to make them look like wings*

**[29:54]** ---

*I believe*

**[29:59]** ---

*Hurry—listen to your imaginary heartbeat singing*

**[30:04]** ---

*Hurry—I'm devastated and feel like  
I'm going to disappear*

**[30:09]** ---

*Be strong and go higher  
Boldly flapping your wings*

**[30:14]** ---

*Towards the tomorrow  
that no one else can see*

**[30:32]** ---

*I used to walk this path alone*

**[30:37]** ---

*And that should've been enough for me*

**[30:42]** ---

*But now there are two sounds instead of one*

**[30:55]** ---

*Hurry—take flight right now*

*with the intuition from your heart*

**[31:00]** ---

*Higher in the sky with you,  
soaring past that sun*

**[31:05]** ---

*Farther, higher and higher  
Boldly looking straight up*

**[31:10]** ---

*The two of us are heading beyond the clouds*

**[31:36]** ---

*The feelings I've been hiding  
are crying out in pain*

**[31:42]** ---

*Holding a sure promise in my hand*

**[31:57]** ---

*Seeking only a miracle, I wander  
through an endless darkness*

**[32:08]** ---

*If I stay here, I won't  
ever see the future again*

**[32:19]** ---

*Tonight the moon summons me again.  
Though I still cannot speak,*

**[32:24]** ---

*I keep crying out in my heart*

**[32:29]** ---

*The feelings I've been hiding  
are crying out in pain*

**[32:34]** ---

*Holding a sure promise in my hand*

**[32:39]** ---

*If I can be stronger a bit,*

**[32:45]** ---

*I will go beyond  
this sky right in front of me*

**[32:53]** ---

*I will reach out towards  
the future ahead of me*

**[33:08]** ---

*An honest voice echoes,  
a throbbing heart rings loudly*

**[33:19]** ---

*I will look for the dreams  
hidden in the map you drew*

**[33:29]** ---

*The light that illuminates the rift  
between the clouds*

**[33:32]** ---

*This pain that dimly runs through my body*

**[33:35]** ---

*If I could fly through that sky again*

**[33:40]** ---

*A perfectly clear world  
that spreads eternally far and wide*

**[33:45]** ---

*I squint my eyes in the brightness of it all*

**[33:50]** ---

*Holding this believable strength to my heart*

**[33:56]** ---

*I will fly around  
in this completely cloudless sky*

**[34:40]** ---

*I don't have anything to lose,  
so I grasp tightly onto these shaking fingers*

**[34:46]** ---

*I will sear your innocent,  
smiling face into my mind*

**[34:53]** ---

*If I could grasp  
the end of an endless episode,*

**[34:58]** ---

*Those memories with you  
are the present*

**[35:04]** ---

*Let's connect and color those  
fragmented youthful days of ours*

**[35:09]** ---

*It will lead us to the path of our hearts  
that we imagined together*

**[35:14]** ---

*The feelings I've been hiding  
are crying out in pain*

**[35:19]** ---

*Holding a sure promise in my hand*

**[35:24]** ---

*If I can be stronger a bit*

**[35:30]** ---

*I will go beyond this sky  
right in front of me*

**[35:38]** ---

*I will reach out  
towards the future ahead of me*

**[36:27]** ---

*Without a second thought, right now*

*Take aim at this paradox-ridden world*

**[36:34]** ---

*And fire with your own two hands*

**[36:50]** ---

*Thanks to the warmth of your falling tears*

**[36:55]** ---

*I thought that I'd realize what kindness was*

**[37:01]** ---

*So why do we keep hurting each other*

**[37:07]** ---

*And create even more hatred?*

**[37:13]** ---

*If this pain that grates on me*

*The strength that I've discovered*

**[37:19]** ---

*Will someday gently envelop the future*

**[37:26]** ---

*Without a second thought, right now*

*Take aim at this paradox-ridden world*

**[37:33]** ---

*And fire with your own two hands*

**[37:37]** ---

*Take this sorrow*

*Drenched with red tears*

**[37:44]** ---

*And embrace it tenderly, so tenderly*

**[37:49]** ---

*So that these blasts ringing out*

*Will be transformed into the sounds of a new beginning*

**[38:05]** ---

*Distorted noise reverberates through the air*

**[38:11]** ---

*Memories that flare up in my mind*

**[38:17]** ---

*Even if I stand motionless*

*wishing for change*

**[38:22]** ---

*Not a single thing will change*

**[38:29]** ---

*This quavering heart*

*is definitely moving to and fro*

**[38:35]** ---

*Before these blue sparkling flames disappear*

**[38:42]** ---

*Without a dreaded thought, right now,*

**[38:45]** ---

*Release that scared past version of you*

*with your own two hands*

**[38:53]** ---

*Believe in tomorrow and break down that door  
that's become rusted shut*

**[39:05]** ---

*Those feelings that you summoned  
will tear this silent darkness apart*

**[39:39]** ---

*Shooting stars twinkle in the sky*

**[39:42]** ---

*The world will be reborn into a new order*

**[39:45]** ---

*Only if you saw the beginning of the night sky*

**[39:51]** ---

*Without a second thought, right now,*

**[39:54]** ---

*take aim at this paradox-ridden world,  
and fire with your own two hands*

**[40:02]** ---

*Take this sorrow,  
drenched with red tears*

**[40:09]** ---

*And embrace it tenderly,  
so tenderly*

**[40:15]** ---

*So that these blasts ringing out will be  
transformed into the sounds of a new beginning*

**[40:45]** ---

OCTOBER 4, 2024  
AINCRAD, FLOOR 47, MAIN CITY LINDAS

**[41:02]** ---

Yeah, it's slow every day at this time.

**[41:06]** ---

All of the Combat Class players  
have left the safe zone,

**[41:10]** ---

so what else should you expect?

**[41:15]** ---

Maybe I'll close shop in the afternoon,  
and use the time to gather materials.

**[41:25]** ---

It's already been six months since  
I opened my own shop here in Lindas.

**[41:32]** ---

Business has been good,  
and I've paid back all my loans,

**[41:36]** ---

but lately, I'm starting to wonder  
if I should continue being a blacksmith here.

**[41:45]** ---

It's probably because I've already  
mastered every blacksmith skill,

**[41:50]** ---

and so there's no more room  
for improvement as a weapons craftsman.

**[41:54]** ---

Of course there's no way  
that I can switch to Combat Class now,

**[41:59]** ---

and it's not like I have the will to start training  
from scratch in another production skill.

**[42:04]** ---

To be honest,

**[42:06]** ---

back when I was working like crazy  
every single day towards my goal...

**[42:10]** ---

I kind of miss those days.

**[42:17]** ---

Not going there!  
I'm still only 17!

**[42:20]** ---

I shouldn't sound so world-weary.

**[42:24]** ---

I've got to find a new purpose.

**[42:27]** ---

Like moving to a bigger site?

**[42:31]** ---

But I do really like this place.

**[42:35]** ---

Maybe I'll open a branch on a higher floor?

**[42:38]** ---

Just thinking about that is a pain in the butt!

**[42:45]** ---

Maybe I'll get a cat or something.

**[42:48]** ---

But do I need Taming Skills for that?

**[42:54]** ---

Oh... welcome to my shop!

**[42:57]** ---

Um... hello!

**[43:00]** ---

Is it okay if I bring my pet with me?

**[43:02]** ---

Sure, it's okay!

**[43:04]** ---

As long as she doesn't chew on the products.

**[43:07]** ---

She wouldn't do anything like that!

Right, Pina?

**[43:14]** ---

My bad!

So what are you looking for?

**[43:20]** ---

Um, I'd like to get a new dagger.

**[43:24]** ---

I was told that I could get something custom-made at this shop.

**[43:29]** ---

Oh, yes, I can do that.

**[43:31]** ---

It will set you back just a little bit more than the ready-made products.

**[43:35]** ---

Of course it will, right?

**[43:39]** ---

No need to worry!

If you're here thanks to a referral,

**[43:43]** ---

I'll accept payments in installments on your first order.

**[43:47]** ---

By the way, who sent you my way?

**[43:50]** ---

Uh, that would be Kirito of the Assault Team.

**[43:55]** ---

Huh?

**[43:57]** ---

Um... is that bad?

**[44:00]** ---

N-No, not at all!

**[44:03]** ---

I was just a little startled, that's all.

**[44:05]** ---

That guy, no, I mean that person's never referred anyone here before, so...

**[44:12]** ---

Really?

**[44:16]** ---

Kirito couldn't praise you enough, you know.

**[44:19]** ---

He said you were one of the top three blacksmiths in all of Aincrad.

**[44:24]** ---

That makes me wonder who the other two are.

**[44:27]** ---

No, wait, what I mean is... uh...

Well, in that case, you're more than welcome!

**[44:32]** ---

Let's start over. I'm the owner of this shop, Lisbeth!

Nice to meet you!

**[44:37]** ---

My name is Silica.

It's so nice to meet you!

**[44:52]** ---

There you go!

It's hot, so be careful.

**[44:56]** ---

Thank you very much!

**[44:58]** ---

All right, you can go on drinking your tea, but would you mind answering some questions?

**[45:03]** ---

Because when I get a custom job,

**[45:05]** ---

I want to know as much about my client as I can.

**[45:07]** ---

Uh, are you like, screening me, then?

**[45:12]** ---

No, no, I'm not!

**[45:13]** ---

This isn't a big shot shop or anything.

**[45:16]** ---

Um... a while ago, a certain customer... well, actually, it was Kirito...

**[45:25]** ---

When he first came in here,

**[45:27]** ---

he said, "I want the best sword you can make right now." That was his order!

**[45:32]** ---

I was really on a roll at the time, so I didn't think I needed to actually make one.

**[45:38]** ---

So I handed him the most expensive one on display.

**[45:43]** ---

But when he tested it out,  
just like that, the sword snapped!

**[45:47]** ---

W-Wow... Did Kirito pay for that sword?

**[45:52]** ---

No way could I have accepted it.  
It was too embarrassing!

**[45:56]** ---

Well, a lot of things happened after that.

**[46:01]** ---

But anyway, ever since then, I always make sure  
to really listen to my customers,

**[46:08]** ---

and try to make the best possible weapon for them.

**[46:11]** ---

Needless to say, I can't fall short on specs,  
and neither can I be excessive.

**[46:17]** ---

I totally understand!  
Ask me anything!

**[46:21]** ---

Okay, then let's get started.

**[46:23]** ---

Let's see, first off, how do you know  
that guy... I mean Kirito?

**[46:31]** ---

Huh? D-Does that have anything  
to do with weapons?

**[46:35]** ---

Sure it does!

**[46:36]** ---

Are you sure about that?

**[46:39]** ---

Um... put simply, he saved my life.

**[46:45]** ---

Mine, and Pina's.

**[46:50]** ---

O-Oh... Is that right?

**[46:54]** ---

And this dagger that I'm using now?  
Kirito gave it to me.

**[47:00]** ---

I was really planning to keep using  
it forever as I leveled it up.

**[47:06]** ---

But after more than six months' use,

I reached its limit.

**[47:11]** ---

I see. Do you mind if I pick it up?

**[47:15]** ---

Of course not!

**[47:22]** ---

Ebon Dagger plus seven.

**[47:26]** ---

It's a great dagger that's been well taken care of.

**[47:30]** ---

But you're right,  
its Durability's just about maxed out.

**[47:35]** ---

You know what, Silica?

**[47:37]** ---

I can make you a totally new dagger,  
of course,

**[47:40]** ---

but I can also forge a new one by reducing  
your Ebon Dagger to an ingot,

**[47:45]** ---

and blending it with other materials.

**[47:48]** ---

Whichever you prefer. It's up to you.

**[47:54]** ---

Instead of letting it languish like a souvenir  
in the back of my storage space,

**[48:01]** ---

I think that being reborn into  
a new dagger would make it happier, too.

**[48:06]** ---

Is that right?  
Yeah... I feel the same way!

**[48:11]** ---

Also, thank you, Silica,  
for coming to my shop.

**[48:16]** ---

Huh? Why are you thanking me?

**[48:20]** ---

Thanks to you, I think I can remember  
something I'd forgotten.

**[48:25]** ---

Now then, let's go to my workshop!

**[48:27]** ---

I think I can make a great dagger.  
I'm bursting with ideas!

**[48:31]** ---

Can't wait to put my skills to use!

**[48:33]** ---

Hey, wait up, Lisbeth!

**[48:47]** ---

One month after our first meeting,  
Sword Art Online was cleared,

**[48:53]** ---

and the 6,000 surviving players  
were released.

**[48:57]** ---

But it's not like our friendship disappeared.

**[49:02]** ---

And neither did our battle end.

**[49:10]** ---

NOVEMBER 24, 2025  
REAL WORLD - AQUA-LINE

**[49:28]** ---

But really, how unusual...

I mean, isn't this the first time?

**[49:33]** ---

That you ever asked me to hang out with you?

**[49:36]** ---

That can't be right!

**[49:38]** ---

How many meals did we share in Aincrad?

**[49:41]** ---

Not to mention  
all the places we went to in Alfheim?

**[49:43]** ---

But all that happened on the other side.

**[49:45]** ---

Virtual, real, what's the difference?

That's what Kirito said!

**[49:50]** ---

Then what are we doing today?

**[49:53]** ---

Oh, whatever.

**[49:55]** ---

It's our day off, after all.

Let's have some fun!

**[49:58]** ---

That's what I like to hear!

**[50:10]** ---

Let's see...

**[50:13]** ---

I know! Why don't I play some music?

**[50:20]** ---

Sorry. Let's not listen to jazz.

**[50:23]** ---

Huh?

**[50:25]** ---

Aren't you into jazz?

**[50:26]** ---

I don't mind listening to it in my own shop.

**[50:29]** ---

But hearing it elsewhere  
makes me feel like I'm at work.

**[50:34]** ---

Hey, my bad, then!

**[50:37]** ---

All right, in that case, how about this album?

**[50:43]** ---

No, why don't we do this one?

**[50:45]** ---

Forget the music.  
Talk to me about yourself.

**[50:50]** ---

Isn't there something you wanted  
to pick my brain about?

**[50:52]** ---

- Huh?  
- Hey!

**[50:54]** ---

Keep your eyes on the road!

**[50:55]** ---

Whoa, whoa, whoa...

**[50:58]** ---

Oh, crap.

**[51:01]** ---

So you're onto me, huh?

**[51:03]** ---

How long do you think I've been working  
in the service industry?

**[51:06]** ---

So, why did you come to me instead of Kirito?

**[51:12]** ---

Hey, while you're at it,  
take another guess.

**[51:15]** ---

Man, how lazy is that?

**[51:17]** ---

Huh!

**[51:19]** ---

Since you went out of your way to ask me here

in the real world, it has to be reality-based.

**[51:23]** ---

And since you're consulting me,  
it must be a grown-up thing.

**[51:28]** ---

In other words,  
woman-related or work-related.

**[51:31]** ---

Hey, atta boy, Agil!  
You're right on the money so far!

**[51:35]** ---

And using the process of elimination,  
let me guess, it's work-related, right?

**[51:38]** ---

Hey! Why'd you discard the woman option?

**[51:42]** ---

Did I guess right?  
Or did I guess wrong?

**[51:46]** ---

You guessed right!

**[51:49]** ---

So? What did you want to talk about?

**[51:55]** ---

Let's see, where should I begin?

**[52:00]** ---

Look, man, you know that I work  
for a trading company, right?

**[52:05]** ---

Yeah. It's a company that imports  
promising goods from overseas,

**[52:09]** ---

then sells them on its web site  
and online malls, right?

**[52:11]** ---

You got that right.

**[52:13]** ---

Well, lately we've been doing  
cross-border e-commerce, too.

**[52:17]** ---

Hey, right. I'll be getting a haul  
of fab coffee beans soon,

**[52:22]** ---

so how about serving them in your cafe?

**[52:23]** ---

Hey! Don't tell me you asked me here  
to give me a sales pitch!

**[52:27]** ---

Oh, crap.

Oh, man, I can't help myself!

**[52:34]** ---

So now I'm gonna get down to business.

**[52:39]** ---

The thing is, a senior employee in my department is going to quit and start his own business.

**[52:47]** ---

And he's asked me to join him.

**[52:50]** ---

Oh. Well, there's nothing wrong with that, right?

**[52:54]** ---

Doesn't it mean that he really trusts you?

**[52:56]** ---

Well, that might be the case, but...

**[53:00]** ---

In other words, you're struggling over whether to follow him, or to stay with your company.

**[53:07]** ---

That's right.

**[53:09]** ---

This guy's an amazing buyer,

**[53:12]** ---

so if I go with him,

I'll get to learn a lot firsthand,

**[53:14]** ---

and I think I'll get to try out some cool things.

**[53:19]** ---

But the thing is, I owe the CEO of my company big time, so...

**[53:27]** ---

You're talking about how he waited two years for you to get back, until the end of the SAO incident?

**[53:33]** ---

Yeah.

**[53:34]** ---

Not to mention, he gave me full disability benefits, too.

**[53:39]** ---

It's not a debt I can repay after just a year or two of working.

**[53:44]** ---

I don't know what I'm gonna do.

**[53:48]** ---

I see. So you're stuck between duty and sentiment, huh?

**[53:53]** ---

Hey, man... Which would you choose?

**[53:56]** ---

It's not like I know your CEO or your friend,  
so I can't draw any conclusions yet.

**[54:04]** ---

But I do have some thoughts.

**[54:10]** ---

Just like you, I was trapped inside Aincrad  
for two whole years.

**[54:17]** ---

But after six months or so,  
I'd given up on the Dicey Cafe.

**[54:23]** ---

I'd just opened it,  
and I was in debt,

**[54:26]** ---

so no matter how you sliced it,  
I was in no shape to hire any staff.

**[54:31]** ---

But the whole time I was away...

**[54:35]** ---

my wife did everything she could  
to keep the cafe going by herself.

**[54:41]** ---

The day I was done with rehab  
and got discharged,

**[54:43]** ---

and when I got out of that taxi and saw  
the cafe just like it was when I left...

**[54:49]** ---

I admit that I got all choked up.

**[54:52]** ---

That was when I made up my mind.

**[54:57]** ---

To live the rest of my life trying  
to pay my wife and those other guys back.

**[55:04]** ---

Other guys?  
Oh, you mean Asuna and Kirito, huh?

**[55:10]** ---

Hey, it's embarrassing,  
so don't tell them.

**[55:13]** ---

I swear I won't say a word!

**[55:14]** ---

I'm in the same boat as you.

**[55:17]** ---

Well, in my case,  
sure I'm grateful to those guys,

**[55:22]** ---

but more than that, it's awesome  
to be around them, you know?

**[55:26]** ---

I mean, I feel like at least half  
the reason I slave away every day

**[55:30]** ---

is so I can have a great time  
whooping it up with those guys.

**[55:34]** ---

Hey. Looks like you have your answer already.

**[55:38]** ---

Huh?

**[55:40]** ---

What are you talking about?

**[55:41]** ---

You know, the best time for you is when you're  
hanging out with Kirito and Asuna, right?

**[55:50]** ---

So you've got to cherish those times.

**[55:55]** ---

Do that, and you won't have any regrets,  
whether you stay or go.

**[56:01]** ---

Hey... I get it.  
You're right!

**[56:09]** ---

All right, my mind's made up!  
I'm glad I talked to you.

**[56:13]** ---

Hey, thanks, man.

**[56:15]** ---

Don't mention it.

**[56:17]** ---

Oh, and about my consulting fee...

**[56:19]** ---

Sell me those fab coffee beans  
you mentioned at a dirt-cheap price.

**[56:23]** ---

Huh? Don't be unreasonable now!

**[56:27]** ---

I'll buy you dinner at the Umihotaru, okay?

**[56:30]** ---

Guess that'll have to do.  
We have a deal, then.

**[56:34]** ---

All right!

**[56:35]** ---

Hey, it's right up ahead!

**[56:52]** ---

APRIL 19, 2026

ALO NEW AINCRAD, FLOOR 22

**[57:04]** ---

Um... "elsewhere" means "a different place"...

**[57:09]** ---

and "premises" means "assumptions"?

**[57:12]** ---

The assumptions of a different place...

What does that mean?

**[57:19]** ---

Morning, Leafa!

You're up early.

**[57:22]** ---

Oh, hey, Sinon! Good morning!

Your timing's perfect!

**[57:27]** ---

Huh? For what?

**[57:29]** ---

This part here...

I'm not sure what it means.

**[57:34]** ---

Perfect timing?

For you, you mean!

**[57:40]** ---

Translating long sentences, huh?

**[57:43]** ---

Oh, right, this is "on the premises,"  
which means inside the shop, or on the property.

**[57:51]** ---

Oh, I see!

So that would make it...

**[57:55]** ---

"I think Tom is elsewhere on the premises."

**[58:01]** ---

Thank you so much, Sinon!

**[58:03]** ---

You're welcome.

**[58:05]** ---

But I have to give you props.

**[58:07]** ---

Your birthday party is this afternoon,  
but here you are, studying so early.

**[58:14]** ---

Well, that's why I'm here!

**[58:16]** ---

I couldn't enjoy the party 100%  
if I had any homework left over!

**[58:21]** ---

Right, I hear you.

**[58:23]** ---

Then I'll try not to disturb you.

**[58:26]** ---

Guess I'll go on ahead to the party.

**[58:29]** ---

Hey, hold up a second!

**[58:31]** ---

I need to ask you one more thing!

**[58:32]** ---

That's what I thought you'd say.

**[58:35]** ---

Oh, no, it's not actually about homework!  
It's this...

**[58:43]** ---

Career survey?  
What about it?

**[58:48]** ---

Um, I have to turn this in by tomorrow, too,  
but I've been wondering what to put down.

**[58:55]** ---

So I thought if I could get some input from you...

**[59:00]** ---

What? Hey, come on...

**[59:03]** ---

Listen, Leafa,  
I'm in the same grade as you.

**[59:07]** ---

And your birthday's four months earlier  
than mine, okay?

**[59:14]** ---

I've told you that you don't need  
to speak to me as if I were older.

**[59:19]** ---

Well, you do have a point there.

**[59:21]** ---

But you just seem like a big sister,  
for some reason.

**[59:25]** ---

You're way more grounded than I am!

**[59:28]** ---

I wouldn't say that.

**[59:30]** ---

Well, never mind that.

**[59:34]** ---

I'm kind of surprised that you'd  
be struggling over your future path.

**[59:39]** ---

I always thought you'd  
continue kendo in college.

**[59:44]** ---

Right, that's what I was going to write, too,

**[59:48]** ---

but then I started thinking about  
what I was going to do after that.

**[59:51]** ---

After that?

**[59:53]** ---

You mean after you graduate college?

**[59:57]** ---

Aren't there all kinds of ways that you could  
keep playing kendo while you're working?

**[1:00:02]** ---

Yes. A lot of companies have corporate teams,

**[1:00:07]** ---

and there are teams in the public sector, too.

**[1:00:09]** ---

But right now, I'm training hard with the school team  
to win the interscholastic championships,

**[1:00:17]** ---

but I'm wondering if I can still be this motivated  
in college, or as an adult.

**[1:00:24]** ---

To be honest, I think I've probably been a kendo  
player for so long not because I want to win,

**[1:00:30]** ---

but just because I enjoy doing it.

**[1:00:34]** ---

And that's not enough for you?

**[1:00:36]** ---

Doing something because you enjoy it sounds like  
the purest kind of motivation to me.

**[1:00:42]** ---

Well, I think it's enough, too, for now.

**[1:00:46]** ---

But if I get into a school or get  
a job thanks to a scholarship,

**[1:00:50]** ---

I'll be expected to produce good results, right?

**[1:00:54]** ---

I'm not sure that I can keep playing  
if it starts giving me more pain than joy,

**[1:01:02]** ---

so how can I decide on  
a future path just like that?

**[1:01:07]** ---

Um... Can I be honest with you?

**[1:01:12]** ---

P-Please go ahead.

**[1:01:15]** ---

I had no idea that you were so serious  
about your future path, Leafa,

**[1:01:20]** ---

so I'm a little shocked.

**[1:01:22]** ---

I knew you'd say that to me.

**[1:01:26]** ---

Sorry, sorry.

**[1:01:29]** ---

Hmm...

**[1:01:31]** ---

I know you're consulting me and all,  
but unfortunately, I don't think I can really help.

**[1:01:38]** ---

I still only have the haziest idea  
about my own future.

**[1:01:44]** ---

Would you mind telling me about it?

**[1:01:48]** ---

Let's see...

**[1:01:52]** ---

Okay, then.

**[1:01:54]** ---

I'm going to tell you, Leafa,  
but please don't tell the others yet.

**[1:02:02]** ---

I'm thinking of maybe becoming a police officer.

**[1:02:09]** ---

What?

**[1:02:11]** ---

I don't think it's bizarre enough  
to warrant that reaction.

**[1:02:15]** ---

I-It isn't... but...

**[1:02:18]** ---

IRL, you seem like such a bookworm,

**[1:02:22]** ---

so I thought you'd be going on to be a writer,  
or an editor, or something like that.

**[1:02:29]** ---

I do like books, but I don't  
want that to be my career.

**[1:02:33]** ---

So why do you want to be a police officer?

**[1:02:36]** ---

There are several reasons,

**[1:02:40]** ---

but it's mainly because during  
that Death Gun incident last year,

**[1:02:44]** ---

there was a female detective  
who really looked out for me.

**[1:02:49]** ---

Even though she was gentle, the way  
she held herself and moved was so cool.

**[1:02:54]** ---

And I thought she was great.

**[1:03:00]** ---

I know it's a childish reason.

**[1:03:02]** ---

I don't think so.  
It's a great motive.

**[1:03:06]** ---

A police officer, huh?  
Yeah, it's a perfect fit for you, Sinon.

**[1:03:12]** ---

Didn't you just call me a nerd?

**[1:03:15]** ---

I-I never said that, no way!

**[1:03:18]** ---

Well, if I were to give you any advice,

**[1:03:22]** ---

I'd say that it's okay for you  
to not take it too seriously right now.

**[1:03:28]** ---

We're still juniors, after all, so I'm sure we still have  
a lot of experiences and encounters in store.

**[1:03:35]** ---

Yes, you're right.

**[1:03:38]** ---

Okay, for my first choice,  
I'm putting down college,

**[1:03:43]** ---

and for my second choice,  
I'm going to write "police officer" too!

**[1:03:47]** ---

Now you're not taking it seriously enough!

**[1:03:50]** ---

And my third choice will be "VRMMO geek."

**[1:03:54]** ---

Hey! Don't come crying to me  
if you get into trouble!

**[1:03:58]** ---

That last one was just a joke.

**[1:04:01]** ---

Thank you so much for your advice, Sinon.

**[1:04:06]** ---

And I'm not kidding when I say  
I think you'll make a great police officer.

**[1:04:12]** ---

Thanks.

**[1:04:15]** ---

Hey, look at the time!

**[1:04:17]** ---

Everyone's probably getting ready  
for the party, so I'll be going now.

**[1:04:22]** ---

You're the guest of honor,  
so be sure to come right on time.

**[1:04:27]** ---

Roger that!

**[1:04:29]** ---

Okay, see you later.

**[1:04:39]** ---

All right, let me get  
this homework out of the way!

**[1:04:42]** ---

Whoops, first I need to fill in  
this career survey.

**[1:04:48]** ---

My third choice is...

**[1:04:51]** ---

To reopen our kendo school with my brother.

**[1:04:57]** ---

Just kidding!

**[1:04:59]** ---

Oh, well, I guess I can stop  
at my second choice.

**[1:05:06]** ---

All right, I'm going to work hard  
on both kendo and my studies.

**[1:05:12]** ---

If I don't stop hemming and hawing,  
Yuuki will get mad at me!

**[1:05:44]** ---

*Higher and higher,  
I reach out my arms*

**[1:05:51]** ---

*"Surely, surely..."  
I'll wish for it once again*

**[1:06:12]** ---

*These endless feelings were  
swallowed up into my daily life*

**[1:06:20]** ---

*Swaying as they  
change shape yet again*

**[1:06:27]** ---

*Still, I look for the meaning of life  
in this world*

**[1:06:34]** ---

*Lost and stopping in my tracks,  
I hurt and cry*

**[1:06:41]** ---

*Is it too late now?  
I ask myself but receive no answer*

**[1:06:48]** ---

*It's all up to me now,  
both the ending and the beginning*

**[1:06:56]** ---

*Higher and higher,  
I reach out my arms*

**[1:07:03]** ---

*I'm going to spread my wings  
and head towards that gentle light*

**[1:07:10]** ---

*Carrying the passion  
I've lit in my heart*

**[1:07:17]** ---

*"Surely, surely..."  
I'll wish for it once again*

**[1:07:38]** ---

*I pretend I don't notice this throbbing beat*

**[1:07:45]** ---

*Somehow I've gotten better  
at bluffing my smile*

**[1:07:53]** ---

*That future filled with hope*

**[1:07:56]** ---

*I have painted a countless number of times*

**[1:08:00]** ---

*Despite my wishes,  
the color has faded yet again*

**[1:08:07]** ---

*Stronger and stronger,  
I grasp these hands*

**[1:08:14]** ---

*Even if it could be  
considered fate solved fleetingly*

**[1:08:22]** ---

*These sound memories left in my heart*

**[1:08:29]** ---

*"Forever and ever"  
...We'll be intertwined*

**[1:08:36]** ---

*I cannot feel and touch with my senses*

**[1:08:40]** ---

*A distance so close yet so far*

**[1:08:43]** ---

*Even if I bridged that gap  
All I see is a blurry sky...*

**[1:09:05]** ---

*Higher and higher, I reach out my arms*

**[1:09:12]** ---

*I'm going to spread my wings  
and head towards that gentle light*

**[1:09:19]** ---

*Carrying the passion I've lit in my heart*

**[1:09:26]** ---

*"Surely, surely"  
...I'll wish for it again and again*

**[1:10:02]** ---

*Stronger... Yes, that's what I wished,  
to become stronger*

**[1:10:10]** ---

*Overcoming my grief*

**[1:10:28]** ---

*I've turned my back so many times  
On the past that will never change*

**[1:10:36]** ---

*Hiding the scars  
I can never show anyone, all the while*

**[1:10:43]** ---

*I will embrace all this pain*

*that has started flooding through me*

**[1:10:50]** ---

*If it's a warmth that will one day vanish  
Then I don't need any of it*

**[1:10:58]** ---

*Stronger... Yes, that's what I wished,  
to become stronger*

**[1:11:06]** ---

*Like a lonely star racing across the darkness*

**[1:11:12]** ---

*Sunk so deep inside my heart,  
I'm so weak and fragile*

**[1:11:20]** ---

*I can't put it into words, or even call out*

**[1:11:27]** ---

*So that nobody will ever find me...  
I'm just waiting for the light*

**[1:11:49]** ---

*Ever since I felt you that day*

**[1:11:53]** ---

*I embraced you,  
as if I was trying to assure myself*

**[1:11:56]** ---

*With arms gently extended*

**[1:11:59]** ---

*In this wide and expanding landscape*

**[1:12:04]** ---

*The warm gaze of your eyes*

**[1:12:07]** ---

*Gently move my heart*

**[1:12:11]** ---

*The feelings I lost that day*

**[1:12:14]** ---

*Are tinged with a passion*

**[1:12:18]** ---

*Far, far away*

**[1:12:21]** ---

*Yeah, I want my wishes to travel far away*

**[1:12:26]** ---

*I swear on the flames  
that well up in my heart*

**[1:12:33]** ---

*Those memories submerged  
deep into my heart will one day*

**[1:12:41]** ---

*Change tomorrow, just like a beam of light*

**[1:12:48]** ---

*Forever and in this place  
I will wait for that bright future*

**[1:13:10]** ---

*Those memories of us laughing together  
in the strong winds*

**[1:13:17]** ---

*Lifts my spirits and gives me courage*

**[1:13:24]** ---

*The pain ahead, the scars I try to hide*

**[1:13:30]** ---

*Will change and yield to strength*

**[1:13:34]** ---

*I am no longer afraid of anything*

**[1:14:00]** ---

*Stronger... Yes, that's what I wished,  
to become stronger*

**[1:14:08]** ---

*Like a twinkling star  
illuminating the darkness*

**[1:14:15]** ---

*I swore to protect you  
as you awaken from a sea of tears*

**[1:14:23]** ---

*Until we reach that day, overcome your grief*

**[1:14:30]** ---

*I will always believe in  
this throbbing beat at the beginning*

**[1:15:02]** ---

Thank you very much!  
I'm Haruna Luna!

**[1:15:16]** ---

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**[1:15:36]** ---

So this is my 100th letter to Big Sis, huh?

**[1:15:42]** ---

I only just realized this,

**[1:15:46]** ---

but since I'm recording my voice inside  
a virtual room,

**[1:15:49]** ---

and sending it to Big Sis's address,

**[1:15:52]** ---

these might not be letters,  
but voicemails, right?

**[1:15:57]** ---

But they're taken on envelope form,  
so why not call them letters?

**[1:16:03]** ---

I've got so much to discuss today  
that I don't know where to begin.

**[1:16:09]** ---

But I guess I should start with the trip?

**[1:16:13]** ---

From last Saturday to yesterday,  
I was in Kyoto with Asuna and the others.

**[1:16:20]** ---

Of course, it was all online for me,

**[1:16:23]** ---

but Kirito modified my probe,

**[1:16:26]** ---

so it was like I was all tiny  
and sitting on Asuna's shoulder.

**[1:16:31]** ---

Just like I was actually there.

**[1:16:36]** ---

Since it was my first time ever in Kyoto,

**[1:16:39]** ---

I had a great time everywhere I went.

**[1:16:42]** ---

The Kiyomizu stage was bigger than I thought,  
so it made my heart pound a little.

**[1:16:47]** ---

I'm used to flying way higher than that in ALO,  
so I'm not sure why!

**[1:16:56]** ---

I guess the one disappointing thing

**[1:16:58]** ---

was watching the video  
when Asuna and the others were eating.

**[1:17:05]** ---

Vegetable tempura and steamed egg custard...

**[1:17:09]** ---

It all looked delicious!

**[1:17:11]** ---

I shared the videos with Siune and the others, too,  
and they were all in an uproar.

**[1:17:17]** ---

But Asuna promised to recreate  
those Kyoto dishes in ALO,

**[1:17:23]** ---

so I'll let you know how it went.

**[1:17:27]** ---

Asuna's relatives put us up for the night.

**[1:17:31]** ---

What an unbelievable mansion!

**[1:17:35]** ---

I was so shocked to see how big  
the first room they showed us to was

**[1:17:39]** ---

only to find out that it was an outbuilding.

**[1:17:40]** ---

The main house was like an Asuka Empire palace!

**[1:17:45]** ---

I bet we would've had a blast  
if we'd played hide-and-seek there.

**[1:17:49]** ---

Oh, wait. But if you get lost in there,  
you might never escape.

**[1:17:54]** ---

And the bath was like a hot spring.

**[1:17:57]** ---

Since it would've fogged up my probe,  
I couldn't soak with Asuna and the girls,

**[1:18:03]** ---

but when she saw me looking envious,  
Asuna said,

**[1:18:06]** ---

"The bathtub in Aincrad that I only got  
to soak in once in a while was way better!"

**[1:18:13]** ---

Oh, and by Aincrad,  
I don't mean the one floating in Alfheim,

**[1:18:18]** ---

but the original one where SAO was set.

**[1:18:23]** ---

Seeing Asuna's eyes when she was talking about that  
reminded me of Merida.

**[1:18:32]** ---

I remember what Merida said before  
we founded the Sleeping Knights.

**[1:18:38]** ---

That she wanted to go to Aincrad one more time...

**[1:18:42]** ---

to discover why she was born in this world.

**[1:18:49]** ---

The truth is, I'd been thinking the same thing  
for the longest, longest time.

**[1:18:57]** ---

For what reason do I exist in this world?

**[1:19:02]** ---

So I understood how Merida felt,

**[1:19:07]** ---

and I wondered what I would've done  
if I'd been trapped inside SAO.

**[1:19:14]** ---

But Asuna, Silica, Liz, and Kirito...

**[1:19:19]** ---

They all fought for two years in a world where  
dying even once would mean death for real.

**[1:19:24]** ---

But they survived,  
and came back to the real world, right?

**[1:19:29]** ---

I'm sure that they went through  
terrifying experiences over and over,

**[1:19:33]** ---

and there must've been times when  
the despair and fear almost crushed them.

**[1:19:38]** ---

In a sense, Asuna and the others were  
even closer to death than I was at that time.

**[1:19:46]** ---

In a place where they didn't have time  
to even think about the meaning of their lives...

**[1:19:51]** ---

For two whole years...

**[1:19:55]** ---

And it must've been so hard  
for them even after they came back.

**[1:20:00]** ---

But they're all so kind and cheerful,

**[1:20:04]** ---

and they take such good care of us.

**[1:20:09]** ---

Now that I've spent some time with them,  
I'm finally starting to understand.

**[1:20:16]** ---

That it's not about what kind of world you're in.

**[1:20:20]** ---

It's all about what you have right now.

**[1:20:26]** ---

Instead of lamenting what you've lost,  
it's all about what you have.

**[1:20:32]** ---

Even if there's no meaning, the time...

**[1:20:37]** ---

The time that you,  
Merida, Clovis, and I lived...

**[1:20:44]** ---

Sorry, I don't know how to put it into words.

**[1:20:53]** ---

I miss you... Big Sis.

**[1:20:58]** ---

There's so much I want to talk to you about!

**[1:21:02]** ---

So much...

**[1:21:06]** ---

There's just so much.

**[1:21:14]** ---

I know that it'll make you mad  
to hear me say this,

**[1:21:17]** ---

but I think I'll be seeing you soon,  
in the not-so-distant future.

**[1:21:23]** ---

So let's chat up a storm then, okay?

**[1:21:28]** ---

I'll tell you more about my trip  
to Kyoto in my next letter.

**[1:21:34]** ---

All right, till next time...

**[1:21:38]** ---

Good night, Big Sis.

**[1:34:21]** ---

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to SAO FULLDIVE.  
Thank you so much for coming today.

**[1:34:27]** ---

Please stay with us to the end,

**[1:34:30]** ---

and enjoy every minute of this memorable,  
lavish event to the fullest.

**[1:34:35]** ---

I hope you have a good time.

**[1:34:45]** ---

And now, we'd like to perform this song next.

**[1:34:48]** ---

"Luminous Sword."

**[1:44:53]** ---

*You will get it one day*

**[1:45:11]** ---

*We don't know yet  
Where we can go*

**[1:45:18]** ---

*Spread these newly-born wings*

**[1:45:24]** ---

*And fly higher and stronger into the sky*

**[1:45:30]** ---

*That sense of yearning  
will always be with you*

**[1:45:40]** ---

*Go far away,  
where those shining stars lead you*

**[1:45:47]** ---

*You'll get there faster than anybody else*

**[1:45:53]** ---

*Find that hidden light  
The world hides in its hands*

**[1:45:59]** ---

*And show it for all to see*

**[1:46:05]** ---

*Right now*

**[1:47:05]** ---

*The things we gave up on*

**[1:47:08]** ---

*Let us stop*

**[1:47:11]** ---

*Endlessly  
Looking back on our past*

**[1:47:18]** ---

*Stand on that hill that looks so far away*

**[1:47:24]** ---

*You will get that sense of yearning one day*

**[1:47:34]** ---

*Stars unseen*

**[1:47:37]** ---

*Call for you at daybreak*

**[1:47:40]** ---

*Let us embark into a new world*

**[1:47:46]** ---

*Let the beginning of a dream*

**[1:47:50]** ---

*Take part in your song*

**[1:47:53]** ---

*And show this miracle for all to see*

**[1:47:59]** ---

*Right now*

**[1:48:47]** ---

APRIL 10, HE 380  
NORTH CENTORIA IMPERIAL SWORDCRAFT ACADEMY  
ELITE DISCIPLE'S DORMITORY

**[1:49:00]** ---

Uh, a little more to the right.

**[1:49:03]** ---

Forward another five sen...

**[1:49:05]** ---

Yes! Right there!

**[1:49:11]** ---

Ouch, ouch. My back.

**[1:49:16]** ---

This chest weighs a ton.

**[1:49:19]** ---

That's why I told you to take  
the drawers out first.

**[1:49:23]** ---

It's because you were lazy.

**[1:49:24]** ---

Yeah, yeah.

**[1:49:26]** ---

Still, spring cleaning or not, don't you think moving  
all the furniture's kind of overkill?

**[1:49:32]** ---

We're going to be living here  
for the next year,

**[1:49:36]** ---

so we'll be more comfortable  
if we get everything clean from the start.

**[1:49:39]** ---

Come on,  
we're moving the sofa back next.

**[1:49:42]** ---

And don't drag it, okay?

**[1:49:44]** ---

Sure, sure. Copy that!

**[1:49:46]** ---

Elite Disciple,  
Lord Eugeo!

**[1:49:49]** ---

Come on...

**[1:49:51]** ---

Three, two...

**[1:50:00]** ---

Okay, we're done cleaning  
the living room, huh?

**[1:50:05]** ---

All that's left to do is our bedrooms.

**[1:50:08]** ---

Do you want to tackle each room together?

**[1:50:10]** ---

No, let's do it separately.

**[1:50:11]** ---

Well, make sure you move your furniture,  
and scrub every inch of the floor, okay?

**[1:50:16]** ---

I'll do it, I'll do it.

**[1:50:19]** ---

Then I'll see you later.

**[1:50:22]** ---

Sure.

**[1:50:26]** ---

Hey, that reminds me.

**[1:50:31]** ---

Kirito, before you start cleaning,  
take your bedclothes and...

**[1:50:36]** ---

Wait, what?

He's not here!

**[1:50:41]** ---

That Kirito... Don't tell me he left  
through the window?

**[1:50:46]** ---

Seriously. Next week we're supposed  
to select our pages.

**[1:50:57]** ---

So you can see the Central Cathedral  
from this room?

**[1:51:04]** ---

Alice is somewhere inside that tower.

**[1:51:09]** ---

We took two years to finally make it this far,

**[1:51:12]** ---

but to think that we have to study here  
another year, become First Sword,

**[1:51:16]** ---

and win the Unification Tournament,

**[1:51:19]** ---

or else we can never go there.

**[1:51:29]** ---

I promised Selka.

**[1:51:34]** ---

That I'd come back to Rulid Village  
with Alice, no matter what.

**[1:51:40]** ---

So I've got to get stronger... and stronger...

**[1:51:55]** ---

Eugeo? Hey, wake up, Eugeo!

**[1:52:00]** ---

Yeah... yeah...

**[1:52:07]** ---

Oh. Hey, so I fell asleep, huh?

**[1:52:11]** ---

Sorry, Kirito.

For using your bed.

**[1:52:14]** ---

Hey, that's totally fine.

**[1:52:17]** ---

But you'll catch a cold if you sleep like that.

**[1:52:20]** ---

Get under the covers if you're going to sleep.

**[1:52:23]** ---

No, I'm getting up.

Gotta finish cleaning before dinner.

**[1:52:30]** ---

Hey, I just remembered.

**[1:52:32]** ---

Kirito, where did you go when  
you snuck out of your room?

**[1:52:36]** ---

I'm not saying you can't go out,  
but at least tell me, all right?

**[1:52:41]** ---

My bad, my bad. I just remembered  
an errand I had to run.

**[1:52:46]** ---

Hey, forget that. Let's get back to cleaning!

**[1:52:51]** ---

Okay.

**[1:52:53]** ---

Huh? Wait...

**[1:52:56]** ---

This smell...

**[1:53:00]** ---

I think you're just imagining things.

**[1:53:03]** ---

Would you mind stepping aside?  
Elite Disciple, Lord Kirito?

**[1:53:11]** ---

Yes, sir.

**[1:53:16]** ---

This is... I knew it!

**[1:53:20]** ---

Honey pies from the Jumping Deer restaurant!  
So you'd gone off to buy these, right?

**[1:53:24]** ---

Yes, sir.

**[1:53:26]** ---

And you bought so many of them!

**[1:53:29]** ---

Were you going to eat these behind my back?

**[1:53:32]** ---

No, no, I wasn't going to do anything like that!

**[1:53:35]** ---

Then why did you hide them in your cupboard?

**[1:53:37]** ---

Because... well... I wanted to surprise you.

**[1:53:44]** ---

Huh?

**[1:53:45]** ---

What I'm saying is,  
those are all for you, Eugeo.

**[1:53:51]** ---

What?

**[1:53:52]** ---

Because today's April 10th, right?

**[1:53:56]** ---

April 10th...

**[1:54:00]** ---

Oh, that's right, it's my birthday.

**[1:54:06]** ---

I really wanted to get you something  
a little more appropriate,

**[1:54:10]** ---

but I just couldn't come up  
with anything that felt right.

**[1:54:14]** ---

Remember you said the other day that  
you wished you could stuff yourself with honey pies?

**[1:54:24]** ---

Yeah. I did say that.

**[1:54:26]** ---

But I never thought it would come  
to pass this soon.

**[1:54:31]** ---

I'll get you a more decent gift next year,  
so just settle for these pies this year, all right?

**[1:54:36]** ---

Hey, no, I'm really happy with it.

**[1:54:40]** ---

Thanks, Kirito.

**[1:54:43]** ---

I'll go make some tea,

so let's have them in the living room.

**[1:54:46]** ---

Huh? Don't we have to clean?

**[1:54:49]** ---

It's fine. Let's pick it up again tomorrow.

**[1:54:52]** ---

You're hungry, too, aren't you?

**[1:54:55]** ---

You better believe it!

**[1:54:56]** ---

I feel like I should praise myself  
for not snacking on them on the way home.

**[1:55:01]** ---

Good job, good job.

**[1:55:02]** ---

No wonder you're an Elite Disciple,  
Rank 6!

**[1:55:06]** ---

Right?

**[1:55:29]** ---

OCTOBER 2ND, 2026  
REAL WORLD - RATH ROPPOGI BRANCH

**[1:56:05]** ---

Almost three months will have passed since I,  
Alice Synthesis Thirty,

**[1:56:11]** ---

began living in the real world.

**[1:56:18]** ---

I'm finally starting to get used to this world,  
so different in every way from the Underworld...

**[1:56:28]** ---

But it seems like it will be a long time  
before I feel that I belong here.

**[1:56:37]** ---

The hardest part about being here  
isn't the fact that I'm unable to go out freely...

**[1:56:42]** ---

nor is it the fact that I can't arm  
myself with my sword.

**[1:56:46]** ---

Rather, it's the vast difference between my own body  
and those of the people of the real world.

**[1:56:55]** ---

The fact that no matter how tightly you may hold  
a steel body with no blood running in its veins...

**[1:57:05]** ---

you can't feel even the slightest warmth.

**[1:57:23]** ---

Good evening, Ms. Alice.

**[1:57:26]** ---

Yui! What are you doing here?

**[1:57:29]** ---

Um... Well, I could see you in that camera over there.

**[1:57:36]** ---

Oh, I see.

So you were worried about me?

**[1:57:43]** ---

Don't worry.

I'm not going to jump off or anything.

**[1:57:47]** ---

I just wanted to feel the night breeze.

**[1:57:50]** ---

Oh, I see!

Sorry to bother you, then!

**[1:57:56]** ---

There's no need to apologize.

**[1:57:58]** ---

I was just thinking it would be nice to have someone to talk to.

**[1:58:03]** ---

Still, Yui, I have to ask. Do you always check multiple cameras at the same time?

**[1:58:10]** ---

Well, Daddy and the others are all at home now, so that makes 79 cameras.

**[1:58:17]** ---

But when they all go out, sometimes it goes up to a thousand.

**[1:58:24]** ---

That many?

That's a lot of work for you!

**[1:58:27]** ---

Not really. It's the sub-system that's doing all the actual checking.

**[1:58:35]** ---

And besides, since I wasn't able to prevent Johnny Black from attacking Daddy...

**[1:58:44]** ---

I want to do everything I can to make sure it never happens again.

**[1:58:52]** ---

You're so strong, Yui.

**[1:58:55]** ---

I wish I could appoint you as an Integrity Knight.

**[1:58:59]** ---

But I don't have a physical body, so...

**[1:59:05]** ---

That's right. You don't, do you?

**[1:59:10]** ---

Yui?

**[1:59:12]** ---

This may sound rude  
asking you this

**[1:59:15]** ---

but have you ever felt anxiety or fear over being  
a different kind of entity than Kirito, Asuna, and the others?

**[1:59:25]** ---

Of course I have, Ms. Alice.

**[1:59:29]** ---

Using various resources,  
I've attempted to adjust my fragility

**[1:59:35]** ---

stemming from the self-recognition  
that I'm an AI... artificial intelligence.

**[1:59:45]** ---

As of now, I've fixed 98.2 percent  
of all known issues,

**[1:59:52]** ---

but no matter how much time I spend on this,

**[1:59:55]** ---

there's always going to be too much fragility,  
that is, fear for me to deal with.

**[2:00:03]** ---

So long as I'm an AI,  
I'll always have the fear

**[2:00:07]** ---

that one day, inevitably, I'll have  
to bid Daddy and Mommy farewell.

**[2:00:15]** ---

Is that because Kirito and Asuna have Lives...

**[2:00:21]** ---

No, in this world it's called lifespans, right?

**[2:00:26]** ---

Their lifespans are limited.  
Is that what you mean?

**[2:00:30]** ---

Yes. Unless there are several major breakthroughs  
in the life sciences field,

**[2:00:39]** ---

there will always be a limit on

the human lifespan.

**[2:00:44]** ---

If I lose Daddy and Mommy,  
the errors will pile up

**[2:00:49]** ---

and if I'm unable to fix them, I'll break down.

**[2:00:56]** ---

No, that would actually be like salvation for me,

**[2:01:00]** ---

but if I don't end up breaking down,

**[2:01:03]** ---

my core program will undergo irreversible changes,

**[2:01:08]** ---

and there's a chance that I'll no longer be  
the me who was loved by Daddy and Mommy.

**[2:01:15]** ---

That's what's so terrifying to me.

**[2:01:28]** ---

Yui.

**[2:01:30]** ---

You're truly strong, and more than that,  
you're very kind.

**[2:01:37]** ---

What makes you think that?

**[2:01:42]** ---

The Pontifex, Administrator, the one who ruled  
the Human Empire in the Underworld...

**[2:01:51]** ---

To deal with the degradation of her soul,  
the price she paid for eternal life

**[2:01:55]** ---

that is to say, in order to deal with  
the accumulation of errors,

**[2:02:00]** ---

she kept erasing most of her memories.

**[2:02:04]** ---

If you were to do the same thing,  
you'd probably overcome your final fragility,

**[2:02:11]** ---

and then you could stabilize yourself indefinitely,  
couldn't you?

**[2:02:15]** ---

Yes. Probably.

**[2:02:19]** ---

But even as you're tormented by  
the fear of losing them,

**[2:02:24]** ---

you're not erasing your memories of Kirito,  
Asuna, Leafa, Sinon, and the others... nor of me.

**[2:02:33]** ---

So that you can always be with us, like this.

**[2:02:39]** ---

Unlike you, all I ever think about  
is myself.

**[2:02:44]** ---

That's not true!

**[2:02:48]** ---

The reason why I prioritize my time  
with you over my own stability

**[2:02:55]** ---

is because I want to, that's all.

**[2:02:59]** ---

Besides, Ms. Alice, in my eyes,

**[2:03:04]** ---

you're actually my biggest, greatest hope.

**[2:03:10]** ---

What do you mean?

**[2:03:12]** ---

Ms. Alice, you're the link between  
the real world and the Underworld,

**[2:03:17]** ---

and between humans and AIs.

**[2:03:23]** ---

With you serving as the bridge between the two worlds,  
between the two types of intelligence,

**[2:03:29]** ---

there's going to be a massive upheaval one day,

**[2:03:32]** ---

and you're going to remove my fears.

That's what I believe.

**[2:03:41]** ---

I'm not all that you think I am.

**[2:03:46]** ---

At least, that's what I'd normally say...

**[2:03:49]** ---

but I can't let you down, can I?

**[2:03:53]** ---

Right now, I still don't know what it is that I can do,  
or what it is that I should do,

**[2:04:00]** ---

but I can at least promise you this.

**[2:04:03]** ---

I'll always be by your side, too.

**[2:04:08]** ---

So if you're ever going through a hard time,  
or feeling sad, lean on me, all right?

**[2:04:17]** ---

Okay! Thank you so much, Ms. Alice.

**[2:04:28]** ---

It's shimmering, and so beautiful.

**[2:04:33]** ---

The night views here in  
the real world aren't bad at all.

**[2:04:54]** ---

*Pride shimmering so strongly  
it will never die out*

**[2:05:00]** ---

*And keep on resisting your fate*

**[2:05:14]** ---

*In a place where your voice can't reach me*

**[2:05:19]** ---

*No one ever told me about these twisted rules*

**[2:05:24]** ---

*What I wished for so hard as a child*

**[2:05:29]** ---

*The journey to seek out my dreams  
has just begun*

**[2:05:35]** ---

*I don't need time to regret anything now*

**[2:05:40]** ---

*I'm going to smash every wall  
that holds me back right now*

**[2:05:46]** ---

*Pride shimmering so strongly  
it will never die out*

**[2:05:52]** ---

*My memories are unchanging,  
no matter what kind of pain I encounter*

**[2:05:57]** ---

*Opening up my eyes,  
carrying the vow that I discovered*

**[2:06:02]** ---

*I'll choose my path with the clearest eyes  
Because it leads to you*

**[2:06:09]** ---

*Let your voice ring out*

**[2:06:13]** ---

*And keep on resisting your fate*

**[2:06:26]** ---

*Hold your breath and don't make a sound*

**[2:06:31]** ---

*I don't want to live in this unchanging future  
that I keep glaring at*

**[2:06:37] ---**

*Pick up my torn heart*

**[2:06:42] ---**

*Jump into this sea of passion now*

**[2:06:52] ---**

*Pride that wants to answer my prayers  
to a weakling like me*

**[2:06:58] ---**

*Even if I'm swallowed up by waves of loneliness,  
these wishes will never change*

**[2:07:03] ---**

*Hold up those ideals,  
embrace those hopes you found*

**[2:07:08] ---**

*I'll be able to reach your smiling face  
in a tomorrow which has yet to come*

**[2:07:14] ---**

*Until your voice reaches me*

**[2:07:19] ---**

*Stick to your fate*

**[2:07:32] ---**

*Let's laugh and hold each other  
as we shiver*

**[2:07:37] ---**

*I can continue singing  
because you're here*

**[2:07:48] ---**

*Pride shimmering so strongly  
it will never die out*

**[2:07:54] ---**

*My memories are unchanging,  
no matter what kind of pain I encounter*

**[2:07:59] ---**

*Opening up my eyes,  
carrying the vow that I discovered*

**[2:08:04] ---**

*I'll choose my path with the clearest eyes  
Because it leads to you*

**[2:08:11] ---**

*Let your voice ring out*

**[2:08:15] ---**

*Break through the chains of adversity*

**[2:08:20] ---**

*And keep on resisting your fate*

**[2:08:25] ---**

*Proud of myself*

**[2:08:40]** ---

Thank you.

**[2:09:16]** ---

*So this is me, armor too heavy*

**[2:09:23]** ---

*A craven hero no longer able to walk*

**[2:09:29]** ---

*Wanting to be loved,  
wanting to protect, the sword I swung*

**[2:09:36]** ---

*Has stabbed the hand held out to me,  
and can't be pulled out*

**[2:09:41]** ---

*Still left unhealed, life goes on*

**[2:09:47]** ---

*Oh, everything turns to ash to ash*

**[2:09:50]** ---

*My life makes its way towards the distance*

**[2:09:54]** ---

*Dragging along the pain and sin  
of having hurt you*

**[2:10:00]** ---

*And everything turns to dust to dust*

**[2:10:03]** ---

*When I fall and return to dust*

**[2:10:06]** ---

*At least let a tiny flower bloom, like this*

**[2:10:13]** ---

*forget-me-not*

**[2:10:21]** ---

*How do I escape the monsters in front of me?*

**[2:10:28]** ---

*A hero unable to face her fears,  
she runs away*

**[2:10:34]** ---

*There are no edges on top of this star*

**[2:10:41]** ---

*Around and around,  
I end up in the same place*

**[2:10:46]** ---

*But I repeat the same thing, life goes on*

**[2:10:52]** ---

*Oh everything turns to ash to ash*

**[2:10:55]** ---

*Life is about leaving my mark*

**[2:10:58]** ---

*Swallowed up by a fate that bares its fangs,  
I disappeared*

**[2:11:05]** ---

*And everything turns to dust to dust*

**[2:11:08]** ---

*If those wheel tracks  
that continue to run away*

**[2:11:11]** ---

*Turn into a path someone could walk*

**[2:11:18]** ---

*forget-me-not*

**[2:11:20]** ---

*Deep-sea fish that breathe*

**[2:11:24]** ---

*Birds that cannot fly well in the sky*

**[2:11:28]** ---

*I wonder where they're going*

**[2:11:32]** ---

*Even if I never encounter them*

**[2:11:36]** ---

*They're right there  
And I'm happy with just that*

**[2:12:02]** ---

*My body turns into ash*

**[2:12:05]** ---

*My memories turn into dust*

**[2:12:08]** ---

*My life ends with no trace left in history*

**[2:12:15]** ---

*Still, I make my way towards the distance*

**[2:12:18]** ---

*Still, I look to leave my mark*

**[2:12:21]** ---

*I want to know why I'm alive  
and leave some meaning before I die*

**[2:12:27]** ---

*Oh everything turns to ash to ash*

**[2:12:31]** ---

*My life makes its way towards the distance*

**[2:12:34]** ---

*Embracing the pain and sin  
that do not disappear*

**[2:12:41]** ---

*And everything turns to dust to dust*

**[2:12:44]** ---

*When I fall and return to dust*

**[2:12:47]** ---

*At least let a tiny flower bloom, like this*

**[2:12:54]** ---

*forget-me-not*

**[2:13:00]** ---

*forget-me-not*

**[2:13:03]** ---

*forget-me-not*

**[2:13:08]** ---

*Ash to ash, dust to dust*

**[2:13:11]** ---

*forget-me-not*

**[2:13:19]** ---

*Thank you.*

**[2:13:30]** ---

*What color is the color of the soul?*

**[2:13:46]** ---

*"Better just let it remain broken"*

**[2:13:50]** ---

*To throw it away, run away*

**[2:13:53]** ---

*I'm not that strong, see*

**[2:13:56]** ---

*Once again my heart beats faster*

**[2:14:00]** ---

*What's right*

**[2:14:03]** ---

*I don't know*

**[2:14:07]** ---

*It's the things that have no shape*

**[2:14:12]** ---

*That become precious*

**[2:14:16]** ---

*Just an unadorned word*

**[2:14:21]** ---

*Become deeply united*

**[2:14:26]** ---

*Once again I'm stumbling, rolling*

*But still I won't break into pieces*

**[2:14:31]** ---

*What color is the color of the soul?*

**[2:14:36]** ---

*I'm just wounded, putting on a brave front*

*But I still want to find it*

**[2:14:41]** ---

*I'm confirming the shape of the soul*

**[2:14:57]** ---

*Down in the depths of the ground, I'm alone*

**[2:15:01]** ---

*Searching for a door and a key*

**[2:15:04]** ---

*It's a fairy tale, see*

**[2:15:07]** ---

*Everything disappears like bubbles*

**[2:15:10]** ---

*There's just emotional conflict  
and residual images*

**[2:15:14]** ---

*Onto the next page*

**[2:15:17]** ---

*A stretching tree limb branches off*

**[2:15:22]** ---

*Each going off on its own path*

**[2:15:27]** ---

*Only these lonely memories*

**[2:15:32]** ---

*Firmly take root*

**[2:15:40]** ---

*Still, I'm stumbling, I'm losing  
But still I won't be crushed*

**[2:15:45]** ---

*Where is my heart? Where is my caliber?*

**[2:15:50]** ---

*I'm just deserted and left out  
But I still want to say something*

**[2:15:55]** ---

*Something about the lives of the soul,  
the will of the soul*

**[2:15:59]** ---

*Forever and ever*

**[2:16:32]** ---

*What color is the color of the soul?*

**[2:16:42]** ---

*Is it red? Is it blue?*

**[2:16:52]** ---

*What color is the color of the soul?*

**[2:17:02]** ---

*In a clear yesterday,  
in a murky tomorrow*

**[2:17:07]** ---

*As your soul is alive, what color are you?*

**[2:17:13]** ---

*Once again I'm stumbling, rolling  
But still I won't break into pieces*

**[2:17:18]** ---

*What color is the color of the soul?*

**[2:17:23]** ---

*I'm just wounded, putting on a brave front  
But I still want to find it*

**[2:17:28]** ---

*I'm confirming the shape of the soul*

**[2:17:32]** ---

*Forever and ever*

**[2:17:42]** ---

*Forever and ever*

**[2:17:55]** ---

*Thank you very much.*

**[2:18:26]** ---

*How many memories  
did a long-lasting sleep make?*

**[2:18:37]** ---

*A person who embraces and lives  
a life of overflowing sadness*

**[2:18:47]** ---

*You were so afraid  
When you overcome the night*

**[2:18:57]** ---

*If only we were to meet again someday  
In this kind world*

**[2:19:06]** ---

*Don't cry,  
you're the loveliest of them all*

**[2:19:11]** ---

*Don't leave,  
for tomorrow will be brighter than all*

**[2:19:17]** ---

*No matter how far apart we are*

**[2:19:22]** ---

*Our hearts will forever and ever  
be connected*

**[2:19:32]** ---

*Our hearts are one*

**[2:19:39]** ---

*The ever-repeating seasons  
add color to our lives*

**[2:19:50]** ---

*The days that have come to pass still shine*

**[2:20:00]** ---

*On those nights I couldn't fall asleep*

**[2:20:06]** ---

*I realize my heart is weak*

**[2:20:10]** ---

*But when I came face-to-face  
with the reason for my tears*

**[2:20:17]** ---

*I knew I'd be able to laugh again one day*

**[2:20:23]** ---

*Things I never quit believing in*

**[2:20:29]** ---

*Honest warmth I never put out*

**[2:20:35]** ---

*Things I protected and things I lost*

**[2:20:40]** ---

*I held it all in my hand*

**[2:20:45]** ---

*Even if there are days  
when we can't see the stars*

**[2:20:50]** ---

*Even if there are days  
when the cold rain won't stop*

**[2:20:56]** ---

*All I have to do is close my eyes  
To see you smile*

**[2:21:01]** ---

*With just your smile,  
I can believe in any tomorrow that comes*

**[2:21:10]** ---

*Hey, no matter how much time  
I think I have*

**[2:21:20]** ---

*There will never be enough,  
there couldn't ever be enough*

**[2:21:26]** ---

*But I'm glad to have met you like this*

**[2:21:37]** ---

*Don't cry,  
you're the loveliest of them all*

**[2:21:42]** ---

*Don't leave,  
for tomorrow will be brighter than all*

**[2:21:48]** ---

*Things I protected and things I lost*

**[2:21:54]** ---

*I held it all in my hand*

**[2:21:59]** ---

*Even if there are days  
when we can't see the stars*

**[2:22:04]** ---

*Even if there are days*

*when the cold rain won't stop*

**[2:22:10]** ---

*All I have to do is close my eyes  
To see you smile*

**[2:22:15]** ---

*And our hearts will forever and ever  
be connected*

**[2:22:26]** ---

*Our hearts are one*

**[2:23:08]** ---

OCTOBER 7TH, 2026  
REAL WORLD - DICEY CAFE

**[2:23:30]** ---

Okay, for everyone here at our favorite Dickey Cafe,

**[2:23:35]** ---

we have drinks ready for you.

**[2:23:39]** ---

So please allow yours truly, Klein,  
to get this started off with a speech!

**[2:23:44]** ---

Well, but I don't want to go on and on by myself,

**[2:23:49]** ---

so why don't we all take turns saying  
a few words to Kirito?

**[2:23:55]** ---

Okay, I'll start.

**[2:24:01]** ---

Looking back four years ago,

**[2:24:04]** ---

the day that I dove into Aincrad  
for the first time

**[2:24:09]** ---

and there I was, in the middle  
of that vast square in the Town of Beginnings,

**[2:24:13]** ---

not even sure where the weapons shop was—

**[2:24:16]** ---

Hey! That's gonna be way more than a few words.  
The food'll get cold!

**[2:24:21]** ---

All right, all right!  
Okay, long story short.

**[2:24:24]** ---

Kirito.

**[2:24:26]** ---

I had a blast doing all that stuff with you.

**[2:24:29]** ---

Let's always be buddies.

Happy Birthday!

**[2:24:36]** ---

Um...

**[2:24:39]** ---

So much happened over the last four years,

**[2:24:42]** ---

but the first thing that I remember  
is the first time you ever came to my shop.

**[2:24:49]** ---

When you snapped my most expensive sword in two,  
I was like, "What the heck are you doing?"

**[2:24:57]** ---

I know that I'm still having fun as a blacksmith...

**[2:24:59]** ---

No, spending time in this VRMMO,  
thanks to you that day.

**[2:25:09]** ---

But I am going to come after you  
with my bill for that sword, with interest!

**[2:25:15]** ---

Happy birthday, Kirito!

**[2:25:22]** ---

Um... I remember the day I first met you, too.

**[2:25:30]** ---

When we were saying goodbye on Floor 35,  
remember what you said to me?

**[2:25:36]** ---

"Next time, let's meet in the real world.  
Then we can be friends again."

**[2:25:43]** ---

To be honest, at the time,  
though I did hope that it would turn out that way,

**[2:25:47]** ---

I was just a little more convinced that  
it would never actually happen.

**[2:25:54]** ---

But Kirito, you kept your promise.

**[2:25:59]** ---

Pina's not here right now, but on behalf of her, too,  
let me say this from the bottom of my heart.

**[2:26:06]** ---

Happy birthday, Kirito!

**[2:26:15]** ---

I was planning to be brief,

**[2:26:20]** ---

but then I'd seem callous,

so let me add on a bit.

**[2:26:27]** ---

In GGO, you fooled me  
into thinking you were a girl.

**[2:26:34]** ---

In ALO, you grabbed my tail like crazy.

**[2:26:37]** ---

And in the real world,  
you drove up to my school on your bike.

**[2:26:42]** ---

A lot of stuff happened, but overall,  
I enjoyed it, and I'm grateful to you.

**[2:26:50]** ---

But some people are grumbling that our joint victory

**[2:26:53]** ---

in the third BoB was rigged, fixed, and so on.

**[2:26:59]** ---

So one of these days,  
I hope you'll let me settle the score.

**[2:27:04]** ---

Happy birthday, Kirito!

**[2:27:11]** ---

You know what, it's kind of embarrassing  
to congratulate you formally as my brother,

**[2:27:18]** ---

so I'll be speaking to Kirito,  
like everyone else.

**[2:27:21]** ---

Now that I think of it,  
when I first met you,

**[2:27:26]** ---

you were saving me from  
the Salamander PK unit.

**[2:27:30]** ---

Later on, when we were traveling together  
from Swilvane to Alne,

**[2:27:35]** ---

you saved me again numerous times.

**[2:27:38]** ---

And you helped me realize all  
these important things.

**[2:27:42]** ---

But you know that you also owe me big time!

**[2:27:46]** ---

So let's call it even.

**[2:27:48]** ---

Happy birthday, Kirito!

**[2:27:55]** ---

Unlike the rest of you,  
I actually saved Kirito in the Underworld.

**[2:28:02]** ---

Or so I'd like to say, but when we nearly  
fell off the wall of the Central Cathedral,

**[2:28:11]** ---

you never once let go of my hand,  
even as I struggled violently.

**[2:28:16]** ---

And you reasoned with me so patiently.

**[2:28:20]** ---

You called me an idiot eight times that day,  
but I'll let that go.

**[2:28:28]** ---

Those steam buns you shared with me  
when we were resting on the terrace.

**[2:28:34]** ---

They were a little squashed,  
but quite delicious.

**[2:28:40]** ---

Even now, I sometimes recall the taste  
and warmth of those steam buns.

**[2:28:47]** ---

Kirito, happy birthday.

**[2:28:54]** ---

Hmm...

**[2:28:57]** ---

I was also planning to describe  
the day I first met you.

**[2:29:02]** ---

My very first memory is of that day after  
the Floor 1 Boss Raid...

**[2:29:08]** ---

when you took all the hatred  
towards beta testers on yourself,

**[2:29:12]** ---

and walked up the stairs to Floor 2.

**[2:29:17]** ---

I know it's way too late for this...

**[2:29:19]** ---

but sorry for not defending you then.

**[2:29:24]** ---

But right after you left,

**[2:29:27]** ---

I saw Asuna going after you.

**[2:29:31]** ---

And that made me think you guys  
were going to be just fine.

**[2:29:38]** ---

If you can continue to stay happy together,  
it'll make me happy, too.

**[2:29:45]** ---

Happy 18th birthday, Kirito!

**[2:29:53]** ---

Uh... First off,  
thanks for inviting me today.

**[2:29:59]** ---

After SAO, I never played another VRMMO,

**[2:30:04]** ---

so I haven't seen those of you who patronized  
my shop in Aincrad for a long time,

**[2:30:10]** ---

but I'm happy to see you after all this time.

**[2:30:13]** ---

I'm sure some of you don't know this,

**[2:30:15]** ---

but that long black coat that Kirito wore  
towards the end of SAO...

**[2:30:20]** ---

I'm the one who made it.

**[2:30:24]** ---

The dragon skin that he brought in  
was ridiculously durable,

**[2:30:28]** ---

so it was a huge chore stitching it.

**[2:30:31]** ---

But it's a fond memory for me now.

**[2:30:36]** ---

I'd like to say this on behalf of Yuna  
and Ley, who couldn't be here today.

**[2:30:42]** ---

Happy birthday, Kirito!

**[2:30:49]** ---

Happy birthday, Daddy!

**[2:30:54]** ---

I met you and Mommy in the forest  
on Floor 22 in Aincrad.

**[2:31:02]** ---

Unfortunately, I've lost 90 percent  
of the functions I had back then,

**[2:31:08]** ---

so my memory's incomplete.

**[2:31:11]** ---

But I still remember that mustard-laden sandwich I had with you.

**[2:31:20]** ---

You saved me, Daddy, from being destroyed and then deleted from the server.

**[2:31:29]** ---

Thanks to you, I can be here now with all of my loved ones.

**[2:31:36]** ---

From here on in...

**[2:31:42]** ---

From here on in, we'll always be together, Daddy!

**[2:31:53]** ---

Since you've all described how you first met Kirito, I thought I'd do the same.

**[2:32:00]** ---

But I think in the beginning, I was really unlikable.

**[2:32:05]** ---

After you carried me outside the tower when I'd collapsed in the Dungeon,

**[2:32:12]** ---

I said, "That was unnecessary," which I find mortifying now,

**[2:32:18]** ---

but since you told me that you saved me because you wanted my map data,

**[2:32:23]** ---

I guess we're even.

**[2:32:27]** ---

Ever since then, we've been to so many places, had so many adventures...

**[2:32:33]** ---

Lots of fun times, sad times, hard times, and happy times.

**[2:32:40]** ---

I hope that we can keep adding more and more memories together.

**[2:32:47]** ---

Kirito, happy birthday!

**[2:32:57]** ---

All right, Kirito, time for your speech and toast. Take it away!

**[2:33:05]** ---

Um... First of all, thanks, everybody, for your birthday wishes.

**[2:33:12]** ---

If this were me in SAO, I'd probably be  
so overcome with embarrassment

**[2:33:17]** ---

that I'd make a run for it midway through.

**[2:33:20]** ---

So I guess you could say that I've grown a bit!

**[2:33:25]** ---

Well, not that it's sunk in yet  
that I'm an adult now,

**[2:33:30]** ---

and I'm sure I'll still get myself  
into all kinds of trouble.

**[2:33:34]** ---

So if you could watch over me, yell at me,  
or rescue me, that would be great.

**[2:33:44]** ---

All right, here's hoping that we can have  
a blast like this again next year,

**[2:33:48]** ---

and the year after that,  
forever and ever.

**[2:33:54]** ---

Cheers!

**[2:33:55]** ---

Cheers!

**[2:34:18]** ---

That night, I had a strange dream.

**[2:34:23]** ---

That night, I had a strange dream.

**[2:34:34]** ---

Where is this place?

**[2:34:36]** ---

It looks like a night garden,  
but we've never seen it before, have we?

**[2:34:41]** ---

Well, I mean, this is a dream, right?

**[2:34:44]** ---

I think so, but...

**[2:34:46]** ---

After I left the Dicey Cafe, I took a bath  
and then went straight to bed.

**[2:34:51]** ---

So did I.

**[2:34:53]** ---

But for a dream, this seems  
too realistic, you know?

**[2:34:59]** ---

Hmm...

**[2:35:00]** ---

H-Hey! If you're going to pinch someone,  
pinch your own cheek, will you?

**[2:35:06]** ---

Sorry about that.

**[2:35:08]** ---

I guess we should just keep going.

**[2:35:14]** ---

Huh?

**[2:35:15]** ---

Looks like there's a square over there.

**[2:35:18]** ---

It's too dark to make it out,  
but it smells like flowers, doesn't it?

**[2:35:23]** ---

I can smell roses and... lavender, maybe?

**[2:35:28]** ---

Hold up. Someone's there.

**[2:35:38]** ---

Kirito!

**[2:35:40]** ---

Asuna!

**[2:35:42]** ---

What? I-Is that you, Eugeo?

**[2:35:46]** ---

Yuuki! Is it really...

**[2:35:51]** ---

Eugeo, am I seeing you in a dream?

**[2:36:00]** ---

I don't know. Maybe?

**[2:36:03]** ---

Before I knew it, I was here,  
waiting for you to arrive.

**[2:36:07]** ---

Same here.

**[2:36:09]** ---

I knew that you'd be here soon, Asuna.

**[2:36:13]** ---

So does that mean it's a dream after all?

**[2:36:17]** ---

I don't care if it's a dream or whatever!

**[2:36:21]** ---

Yuuki... I've missed you!

**[2:36:27]** ---

There were so many things I wanted  
to tell you when I saw you again...

**[2:36:33]** ---

but now I'm at a loss for words.

**[2:36:37]** ---

I...

**[2:36:41]** ---

Eugeo, there are so many things  
I need to apologize for.

**[2:36:48]** ---

There's no need to apologize, Kirito.

**[2:36:51]** ---

We both did what we had to do.  
Am I right?

**[2:36:58]** ---

Look! What's that light?

**[2:37:06]** ---

Daddy... Mommy...

**[2:37:10]** ---

Eugeo... Yuuki...

**[2:37:15]** ---

Yui?

**[2:37:17]** ---

Yui! Why are you here?  
Where are we now?

**[2:37:26]** ---

This is Ainsophia.

**[2:37:30]** ---

The place where all Fluctlights rest in peace.

**[2:37:34]** ---

The final destination of Project Alicization.

**[2:37:40]** ---

So this isn't a dream, then?

**[2:37:44]** ---

That's right.  
But neither is it reality.

**[2:37:50]** ---

Unfortunately, when you wake up,  
Daddy and Mommy,

**[2:37:55]** ---

you won't have any recollection of this encounter.

**[2:37:59]** ---

And Eugeo and Yuuki will resume  
their long slumber.

**[2:38:07]** ---

But we'll get to see each other again someday.  
Isn't that right?

**[2:38:13]** ---

Yes.

**[2:38:15]** ---

If the world follows the path that it should,  
one day, for sure.

**[2:38:24]** ---

I see.

**[2:38:28]** ---

Then wait for me till that day comes, partner.

**[2:38:34]** ---

Okay. But don't be too reckless, Kirito.

**[2:38:40]** ---

I'm going to promise you one more time, Yuuki.

**[2:38:44]** ---

Someday I'm going to meet you again,  
no matter what.

**[2:38:48]** ---

You better, all right?

**[2:38:50]** ---

And then you and I will talk up a storm,  
won't we, Asuna?

**[2:38:59]** ---

Hey, look at that.  
It's daybreak.

**[2:40:05]** ---

*In that morning,  
we embarked on our journey*

**[2:40:12]** ---

*To a new world*

**[2:40:18]** ---

*Fanfare that opens the door  
to the morning mist*

**[2:40:25]** ---

*Heading to an unknown horizon*

**[2:40:32]** ---

*With you*

**[2:40:35]** ---

*In this great expanse of a world with no map*

**[2:40:42]** ---

*I leave the first tracks of my dream*

**[2:40:49]** ---

*We can bitterly call it a paradise*

**[2:40:55]** ---

*Looking for the waterfront*

**[2:41:02]** ---

*Our dream fortress is floating  
in the blue skies*

**[2:41:08]** ---

*With my steel and stone swordland, I'll go*

*to the farthest corners of the world with you*

**[2:41:14]** ---

*I have no more doubts  
about why I want to become stronger*

**[2:41:21]** ---

*Let us tell the story of the future*

**[2:41:41]** ---

*I have had dreams since I was a child*

**[2:41:48]** ---

*In the farthest horizons*

**[2:41:54]** ---

*That castle in the sky*

**[2:42:01]** ---

*That is waiting for us*

**[2:42:07]** ---

*Doesn't know the pain, the warmth,  
and the importance of life*

**[2:42:11]** ---

*The sound of the bell opens the door*

**[2:42:17]** ---

*A stage in the game  
that sweeps through like a shooting star*

**[2:42:25]** ---

*We will get that flag before anybody else*

**[2:42:31]** ---

*We will win the game and move on*

**[2:42:38]** ---

*Endless blue skies are high above our heads*

**[2:42:44]** ---

*Run with me forever  
and never let go of my hand*

**[2:42:50]** ---

*We want love, we cry, we hurt, we get hurt*

**[2:42:57]** ---

*Let's go higher, it's just a little bit more*

**[2:43:02]** ---

*Talking away the night, around the water*

**[2:43:09]** ---

*In these quiet nights*

**[2:43:13]** ---

*Your words*

**[2:43:16]** ---

*Your eyes*

**[2:43:19]** ---

*Forever and ever*

*In this unforgettable song*

**[2:43:34]** ---

*The story continues on*

**[2:43:44]** ---

*Endless blue skies are high above our heads*

**[2:43:50]** ---

*This beating heart of mine,  
will go farther beyond than my destiny*

**[2:43:57]** ---

*Tell me your story that hasn't begun*

**[2:44:04]** ---

*Let us continue telling the story of the future*

**[2:44:09]** ---

*The tears and pain*

**[2:44:14]** ---

*The things we lost  
The things we cannot lose*

**[2:44:20]** ---

*Are all in our hands*

**[2:44:33]** ---

*In that morning, we embarked on our journey*

**[2:44:40]** ---

*To a new page  
To beyond a horizon*

**[2:45:46]** ---

*“Attention, players.  
Welcome to my world.”*

**[2:45:52]** ---

*With those words, four years ago,  
I launched the tutorial for Sword Art Online.*

**[2:45:59]** ---

*At the time, I only saw the 10,000 players  
that I'd trapped inside the floating castle Aincrad*

**[2:46:05]** ---

*as one of the elements comprising  
the world that I'd created.*

**[2:46:12]** ---

*Following the script with which they'd been provided,*

**[2:46:15]** ---

*they would act, fight,  
and complete the story known as SAO.*

**[2:46:19]** ---

*Or so I thought.*

**[2:46:24]** ---

*But the players displayed far more strength  
than I'd imagined*

**[2:46:29]** ---

*and resisted their predetermined fate.*

**[2:46:32]** ---

Discovering the frays in my world,  
climbing walls they couldn't possibly climb,

**[2:46:37]** ---

defeating foes they had no business defeating,

**[2:46:40]** ---

until finally, they even managed  
to overcome the game system itself.

**[2:46:46]** ---

This is why I decided to see this story,

**[2:46:49]** ---

which by right should have ended with  
the collapse of the floating castle, to its end.

**[2:46:55]** ---

In the new worlds that sprung  
from those countless seeds,

**[2:46:58]** ---

what kind of potential would they show?  
Even I can't predict that.

**[2:47:05]** ---

But as a clue to what  
the future holds for these worlds,

**[2:47:10]** ---

I've shown those of you who  
have gathered here today several scenes.

**[2:47:17]** ---

These scenes are fragments stored in the system,

**[2:47:22]** ---

and they're also the keys that will open  
the door to these new worlds.

**[2:47:27]** ---

Even after these points in time,  
they'll surely take up their swords

**[2:47:32]** ---

in order to take on numerous ordeals  
in uncharted realms.

**[2:47:37]** ---

At times, they will be defeated,  
and find themselves on their knees,

**[2:47:40]** ---

but even so, they'll keep getting back up  
on their feet.

**[2:47:44]** ---

And I'd like you all to keep your eyes on  
the paths of their sparkling Fluctlights to the end.

**[2:47:52]** ---

This concludes the annotation for today's event.

**[2:47:58]** ---

I wish you luck, viewers.

**[2:48:25]** ---

*The cowardly past that I'd acknowledged*

**[2:48:30]** ---

*Still not understanding why*

**[2:48:36]** ---

*I stand behind myself, scared*

*Projecting reality onto today*

**[2:48:45]** ---

*I've drawn so many skies,*

**[2:48:52]** ---

*This must be my fleeting heart*

**[2:48:57]** ---

*Out of control*

**[2:48:59]** ---

*In my dreams, this body soars so high*

**[2:49:06]** ---

*And it can brush away*

*any fears that cling to me*

**[2:49:10]** ---

*Asleep inside me, these budding feelings*

*start to expand*

**[2:49:17]** ---

*I realize this, weak as I am...*

*As long as I had you*

**[2:49:21]** ---

*I could stay strong in this dark world*

**[2:49:26]** ---

*My heart will dream a long dream forever*

**[2:49:32]** ---

*Let's go.*

**[2:49:33]** ---

*I want to always be with you*

**[2:49:35]** ---

*I'll give you everything I have*

**[2:49:39]** ---

*I've been searching for the light to lead me*

**[2:49:44]** ---

*When I touch it, I'll recall everything*

**[2:49:52]** ---

*It will give me this irreplaceable*

*and important moment*

**[2:50:00]** ---

*I close my eyes and learn of the world*

**[2:50:06]** ---

*Usually warm, it hurts this time*

**[2:50:13]** ---

*These true wishes overlap and connect*

**[2:50:20]** ---

*That obvious hesitation starts to move*

**[2:50:24]** ---

*The scars I bear*

*because I want to protect you*

**[2:50:30]** ---

*An irreplaceable promise*

*that floats in the air of a deep sleep*

**[2:50:40]** ---

*The bonds between us*

*that we believed are clearer than ever*

**[2:50:51]** ---

*Let's go.*

**[2:51:15]** ---

*I call your name until you can hear me*

**[2:51:21]** ---

*I want to feel the miracle of us meeting*

**[2:51:25]** ---

*In my dreams, this body soars so high*

**[2:51:33]** ---

*And it can brush away*

*any fears that cling to me*

**[2:51:37]** ---

*Asleep inside me,*

*these budding feelings start to expand*

**[2:51:43]** ---

*I realize this, weak as I am, as long as I had you,*

*I could stay strong in this dark world*

**[2:51:53]** ---

*My heart will dream*

*a long dream forever*

**[2:51:59]** ---

*I wanna always be with you*

**[2:52:02]** ---

*I wanna hold you tight right now*

**[2:52:05]** ---

*I swear I will wipe your tears*

**[2:52:07]** ---

*I'll give you everything I have*

**[2:52:16]** ---

For all of you here on this day to remember,

November 6th, 2022. A big round of applause!

**[2:52:28]** ---

Let's continue to enjoy all

that Sword Art Online offers!

**[2:52:31]** ---

Thank you so much for tonight!

**[2:52:51] ---**

Thank you very much!

**[2:53:08] ---**

NEWS FLASH

**[2:53:26] ---**

ALL

**[2:53:26] ---**

NEW

**[2:53:26] ---**

ORIGINAL

**[2:53:27] ---**

THEATRICAL FILM

**[2:53:27] ---**

ALL NEW ORIGINAL THEATRICAL FILM

**[2:53:29] ---**

NOW IN PRODUCTION

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