

E11 - Heartless Choice

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.)

[00:03] ---

Have you ever had a premonition about death?

[00:07] ---

A premonition about death?

[00:10] ---

When I was less experienced,

[00:12] ---

and either the previous dark general
or the one before him easily defeated me,

[00:16] ---

I thought that might be it for me.

[00:19] ---

But you brought back his head
quite some time ago.

[00:23] ---

You haven't had any since?

[00:27] ---

You know, I can't really remember.

[00:29] ---

But why would you ask me that so unexpectedly?

[00:32] ---

Surely Your Eminence is free of such sensations.

[00:35] ---

You don't understand, do you, Bercouli?

[00:38] ---

It's every day. Every day, I sense death.

[00:43] ---

Every morning when I open my eyes...

[00:45] ---

No, even in my dreams.

[00:48] ---

And why is that?

Because I still don't control everything.

[00:53] ---

Because I have enemies who are still alive.

[00:55] ---

And because the possibility of a new enemy emerging at some point in the future is always looming.

[01:04] ---

Well, well...

[01:06] ---

Being the pontifex certainly isn't easy, huh?

[01:18] ---

Your Eminence...

[01:19] ---

I think I finally understand what you meant now.

SIGN Heartless Choice

[03:05] ---

Here, Senpai.

[03:18] ---

You look a bit healthier today, Kirito-senpai.

[03:23] ---

And you have a good appetite!

[03:27] ---

Perhaps sleeping beside four beauties did him good!

[03:45] ---

I see.

[03:47] ---

The enemy from the real world really has some unique strategies.

[03:51] ---

Emperor Vecta is taking a risk.

[04:04] ---

This is war.

[04:07] ---

Unlike the outsider, little Asuna, this is no time for us to feel sorry for the forces of darkness.

[04:14] ---

We have to take this chance.

[04:16] ---

Chance?

[04:16] ---

That's right.

[04:29] ---

Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!

[04:42] ---

Have your people climb across ropes cast over the chasm to reach the other side.

[04:47] ---

I don't care if there are casualties.

[04:51] ---

You're to enforce the tightrope walking
no matter what.

[04:55] ---

They're dying in vain!

[04:56] ---

*Not for the five tribes of darkness's long-cherished goal,
the invasion of the Human Empire...*

[05:01] ---

but for something called the Priestess of Light!

[05:05] ---

Hurry! Hurry up!

[05:07] ---

*Before something else comes to get in your way!
Just make it over, all of you!*

[05:36] ---

Enemy attack! Protect them!
Protect those ropes at all costs!

[05:40] ---

They're only a small force!
Don't let them get near the ropes!

[05:56] ---

Stop!

[06:05] ---

So this... So this is war, huh?

[06:09] ---

How can you call this a battle?

[06:12] ---

No way did they endure all that grueling training
just to die like this!

[06:22] ---

Forgive me. Forgive me, all right?

[06:31] ---

Just as I suspected, the AI of the Human Empire units
appear to be slightly superior.

[06:37] ---

No.

[06:39] ---

Strictly in terms of adaptability,
they're in a different class.

[06:44] ---

Don't mess up, Critter.

SIGN Tuesday, July 7, 2026 12:05 AM Ocean Turtle

[06:53] ---

Syncing of the Underworld
and the real world times is complete!

[07:07] ---

What?

[07:08] ---

Hey, is this for real?

[07:11] ---

Are they crazy? A PvP with life-like human avatars
AND realistic violence?

[07:17] ---

You mean we can like,
cut off arms and heads and stuff? No way!

[07:21] ---

No restrictions? Hell to the yes!
The developer is adventurous!

[07:25] ---

I'm so signing up for this beta!

[07:29] ---

I'll let you have the dark knight accounts.

[07:32] ---

Go on and massacre the Human Empire Army
to your heart's content!

[07:49] ---

Oh, no!

[07:50] ---

Daddy and Mommy are in danger!

SIGN Tuesday, July 7, 2026 3:02 AM Shino's apartment

SIGN Incoming Call

SIGN Kazuto Kirigaya

[08:08] ---

Sinon! It's Yui!

[08:11] ---

Y-Yui?

[08:12] ---

I'll explain later!

[08:13] ---

*Get ready to go out right now,
leave your apartment, and get into a taxi!*

[08:17] ---

*I'm sending the address
and the fastest route to get there to your phone!*

[08:21] ---

A-A taxi? To where?

[08:23] ---

Please hurry! Daddy and Mommy are in danger!

SIGN Tuesday, July 7, 2026 3:02 AM Kirigaya residence

[08:29] ---

Um... can you take me to Minato Ward
in Tokyo, please?

[08:34] ---

*Sorry, Mom. I promise
that I'll rescue Big Brother, okay?*

[08:57] ---

*It's already been ten hours
since Ms. Asuna logged into the Underworld, huh?*

[09:01] ---

*Which means that about a year
should have gone by over there.*

[09:08] ---

*Was the World End's Altar that far
from the Human Empire?*

[09:14] ---

M-Mr. Kiku! The phone!

[09:18] ---

Sub Control Room. This is Kikuoka.

[09:20] ---

*U-Uh, that's the Rath main location
STL Development headquarters, right?*

[09:25] ---

*This is Hiraki at the Roppongi Branch.
We have a problem, or should I say,*

[09:30] ---

something odd is going on.

[09:32] ---

*Someone from outside Rath just showed up
without an appointment.*

[09:36] ---

Outside? You mean clients?

[09:39] ---

No. It has nothing at all to do with clients.

[09:42] ---

*And they don't look to be anything
but high school girls.*

[09:45] ---

And there's two of them.

[09:47] ---

D-Did you say high school girls?

[09:49] ---

Yes.

[09:50] ---

*And they asked me to contact Seijiro Kikuoka
of Rath headquarters right now,*

[09:55] ---

*to tell you to check
the Underworld FLA rate immediately.*

[10:05] ---

I-It's the same? Since when?

[10:08] ---

N-Names! Did those girls give their names?

[10:11] ---

Uh, yes! Actually...

This is going to sound crazy, too, but...

SIGN Tuesday, July 7, 2026 4:34 AM Rath Roppongi branch

[10:15] ---

There's no way it's their real names.

[10:18] ---

Uh, let's see. They told me to tell you

that it's "Sinon" and "Leafa."

[10:24] ---

I mean, they look totally Japanese to me, but...

SIGN Tuesday, July 7, 2026 4:40 AM ALO New Aincrad Floor 22

[10:35] ---

For crying out loud.

[10:36] ---

Damn him, he had to go off on his own
and get mixed up in some trouble again?

[10:41] ---

A virtual world created by the SDF,
and an honest-to-goodness AI named Alice?

[10:48] ---

But that's so beyond the realm of a game!

[10:52] ---

Not only that, but they're going to load her
into a fighter jet and make her wage war?

[10:57] ---

Apparently, for now, Rath intends to use that technology
in demonstrations both domestically and internationally.

[11:04] ---

But my guess is that
the attackers occupying the Ocean Turtle

[11:08] ---

have a more specific application in mind.

[11:13] ---

Who the heck are these attackers, anyway?

[11:17] ---

It's extremely likely that the U.S. military
or a U.S. intelligence agency is involved.

[11:23] ---

Th-The U.S. military?

You mean the American army?

[11:26] ---

If Alice were to fall into the hands
of the U.S. military,

[11:30] ---

in the not-so-distant future, she'd most likely
be deployed in battle as an unmanned AI weapon.

[11:37] ---

I'm sure Daddy and Mommy want to prevent that,
if nothing else.

[11:41] ---

Because...

[11:43] ---

Because Alice...

[11:45] ---

is proof that all VRMMO worlds,
beginning with SAO,

[11:49] ---

and the people who lived in them,
really existed,

[11:52] ---

and she's also the fruit of massive amounts
of time, material, and mental resources!

[12:02] ---

I am convinced beyond a doubt
that the true objective created by the Seed package

[12:09] ---

is none other than the birth of Alice.

[12:12] ---

Throughout countless connected worlds,

[12:14] ---

so many people have laughed,
cried, grieved, and loved

[12:20] ---

and because the radiance of their souls resonated,
a new form of humanity was born in the Underworld.

[12:28] ---

Daddy. Mommy. Leafa. Klein.
Lisbeth. Silica. Agil. Sinon.

[12:35] ---

As well as so many other people. It was from the cradle
woven by your hearts that Alice was born!

[12:44] ---

Yeah. That's true, isn't it?

[12:46] ---

We're connected to all of it.

[12:49] ---

Time, people, and our hearts, too.

[12:52] ---

Like a huge river.

[12:55] ---

Don't worry... Yui.

[12:58] ---

We'll go save Kirito and Asuna.
We're definitely going to save them.

[13:05] ---

So please don't cry.

[13:07] ---

You heard her!
You should've come to us sooner, Yuippe!

[13:10] ---

There's no way we'd ever abandon Kirito!

[13:13] ---

We owe that guy big time, after all.

[13:16] ---

We should pay him back a little now, at least.

[13:19] ---

Everyone, thank you so much!

[13:23] ---

Thank you so much.

[13:27] ---

Still, 30,000 VRMMO players diving from America?
It could even be 100,000.

[13:34] ---

And they'll all side with the enemy
against the Human Empire, huh?

[13:37] ---

What if we exposed the experiment or the attack
on the American VRMMO sites,

[13:44] ---

and asked them not to take part
in the fake beta test?

[13:49] ---

The reality is that this is war for a secret
between the U.S. and Japanese militaries.

[13:53] ---

If we were to give off any hint of that,
it could very well backfire.

[13:58] ---

Posting "Your opponents are real humans,
so please don't kill them," wouldn't help, huh?

[14:06] ---

Well, then all we have to do
is take a page from their book!

[14:08] ---

By making our own notification site for the beta test.

[14:11] ---

If the Rath guys give us accounts of equal level,
we can drum up 30 or 40,000, just like that!

[14:17] ---

But there is one problem, you know.

[14:21] ---

What problem?

[14:23] ---

The time difference.

[14:24] ---

Right now, it's 4:30 am in Japan,
meaning the period with the fewest connections.

[14:30] ---

On the other hand, in the U.S.,
it's 12:30 noon in LA, and 3:30 PM in New York.

[14:35] ---

There are way more active players over there.

[14:39] ---

Agil is right about that.

[14:42] ---

We couldn't hope to gather
anywhere near 10,000 people right now.

[14:48] ---

If we were to use accounts
of the same level as the enemy,

[14:51] ---

our chances of holding our own
would be extremely low, I'd have to say.

[14:55] ---

But aren't any more of the god account
that Asuna used, are there?

[15:00] ---

Not that we have time
to level up from scratch like Kirito did.

[15:04] ---

So it's game over, huh?

[15:07] ---

No.

[15:08] ---

Accounts do exist.

[15:11] ---

Accounts far more powerful in terms of level and equipment
than the default accounts being used by the enemy.

[15:18] ---

Wh-Where are they?

[15:19] ---

The very accounts you're logged in with
at this moment!

[15:26] ---

Data conversion!

[15:27] ---

All of you, as well as scores of other VRMMO players

[15:32] ---

must convert the characters that you've trained
throughout the Seed worlds into Underworld accounts.

[15:38] ---

I get it! Never thought of that!

[15:41] ---

That said, this particular method
does have a few problems.

SIGN Tuesday, July 7, 2026 5:02 AM ALO Neutral City Arun

[15:51] ---

This is neither a lie or a joke.

[15:55] ---

Soon, tens of thousands of American players
will unknowingly dive into the Underworld,

[16:02] ---

a virtual world based on the Seed
created by a certain Japanese research company,

[16:06] ---

and they're going to massacre
everyone who lives there!

[16:12] ---

The residents of the Underworld aren't mere NPCs!

[16:16] ---

They share the same emotions and souls as us!

[16:20] ---

Please lend us a hand to protect them!

[16:24] ---

Everyone, please convert your existing character data
to the Underworld!

[16:33] ---

Lisbeth, I know that you and your friends
wouldn't joke around this early in the day,

[16:41] ---

and the fact that Kirito hasn't logged in for more
than ten days means this is no trivial matter. But...

[16:49] ---

To be honest, I find it hard to believe.

[16:51] ---

Als with the same souls as humans,
with the U.S. military out to seize them?

[16:57] ---

Both scenarios are far too unrealistic.

[17:00] ---

Moreover, didn't you also just say
that there'd be several problems with conversion?

[17:07] ---

Would you mind explaining
what those issues are first?

[17:11] ---

Yes.

[17:13] ---

The Underworld...

[17:16] ---

isn't being operated
as a normal VRMMO game.

[17:20] ---

Which is why diving into it
will present some problems.

[17:25] ---

First of all, the Underworld has no operational UI.

[17:30] ---

In other words,
you can't log out of your own accord.

[17:35] ---

The only way to log out is to "die" in-game.

[17:39] ---

But that would trigger yet another problem.

[17:43] ---

The Underworld has no built-in pain absorber.

[17:48] ---

If you take enough damage to drop your HP to zero,
you're likely to feel the most excruciating pain.

[17:55] ---

And finally...

[17:57] ---

at this time, the developers are unable
to operate the Underworld.

[18:03] ---

Which means that
once you've converted your character data,

[18:06] ---

there's no guarantee
it can be converted back to the original game.

[18:10] ---

In some cases,
it may even end up in character loss.

[18:15] ---

Hold on a second.

[18:16] ---

What's up with that?

[18:17] ---

Loss?

[18:18] ---

Give me a break!

[18:19] ---

D-Don't give us that!

[18:22] ---

Character loss, you say?

[18:23] ---

So if they're lost,
are you guys going to make good?

[18:26] ---

Or is this just a trap to weaken us, tribe by tribe?

[18:31] ---

I'm sorry! We won't be able to compensate you.

[18:34] ---

We're keenly aware that money can't buy
the characters you've raised until now!

[18:41] ---

That's why we're pleading with you! To help us.

[18:45] ---

To help our friends who are desperately fending off
the American attack in the Underworld, even as we speak!

[18:52] ---

These friends you're talking about,
you mean SAO survivors, don't you?

[18:57] ---

You can't fool us! We know that you former SAO players
all secretly look down on the rest of us!

[19:04] ---

What do we care about invasions,
artificial intelligence, or souls!

[19:07] ---

Don't waste our time with all this talk
about bringing the real world into a VRMMO!

[19:11] ---

You guys can deal with
that kind of thing yourselves!

[19:14] ---

Just you survivors, celebrated even in real life!

[19:24] ---

It didn't work.

[19:25] ---

*My words weren't enough
to get through to them at all.*

[20:00] ---

That's right, this is happening in the real world!

[20:04] ---

Like you said, those of us who came from SAO might have

the tendency to blur what's real and what's virtual!

[20:11] ---

But I swear to you, we don't think of ourselves
as heroes, or anything special!

[20:18] ---

This girl and I...

[20:20] ---

we attend a school made up of only survivors.

[20:23] ---

The students there have to undergo counseling
once a month, no matter what.

[20:29] ---

We get asked all these uncomfortable questions.

[20:31] ---

And they make a lot of kids take meds
against their will.

[20:36] ---

We're all part of the government's
potential criminal watch list.

[20:42] ---

And it's not just the students at the returnee school
who are being treated that way.

[20:48] ---

All VRMMO players are looked upon that way,
more or less.

[20:53] ---

As if we're dead weight
that doesn't contribute to society.

[20:57] ---

People who refuse to face up to reality,
not paying taxes or social security.

[21:01] ---

Some people even argue
that the military draft should be reinstated,

[21:03] ---

so we can be forced to serve.

[21:07] ---

But there's one thing I know! And I believe it!

[21:10] ---

That reality is right here!

[21:16] ---

This world, as well as
the countless virtual worlds connected to it,

[21:21] ---

in no way are they make-believe refuges!

[21:25] ---

For me, this world is the reality

where I have a real life,

[21:29] ---

real friends, real encounters and partings,
and real smiles and tears!

[21:34] ---

Don't you all feel the same way?

[21:36] ---

Aren't you all doing your best
because this world is your alternate reality?

[21:41] ---

And yet, if it's just a game,

[21:44] ---

if you abandon it
because it's nothing but a virtual fake,

[21:48] ---

then tell me, where is our truth?

[21:55] ---

All these worlds that we've grown came together
just like this World Tree and started to bud.

[22:03] ---

And caused this flower called the Underworld
to bloom.

[22:06] ---

Well, I want to protect it.

[22:09] ---

Please!

[22:11] ---

Please... help us.

SIGN Dark Territory Northern Chasm

[22:51] ---

All right! On to the sixth rope!

[23:36] ---

Next time: Ray of Light.

Revision #1

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