

# E13 - Ruler and Mediator

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

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(Please feel free to edit the speaker names if incomplete or inaccurate. Names are handled on a best-effort basis depending on the info on the source file. Dialogue is left as is.)

**SIGN** *Under the rule of the absolute Administrator,  
this world entered a long period of peace and idleness.*

**SIGN** *But 70 years after Quinella became Administrator,*

**SIGN** *she became aware  
that she had undergone some kind of change.*

**SIGN** *To her astonishment, her soul's capacity  
for preserving her memories had reached its limit.*

**SIGN** *But this only drove her to come up  
with yet another demonic solution.*

**[00:40] Quinella**

I appreciate your coming here.

**[00:43] Quinella**

Now, this way.

**[00:45] Liserice**

Yes, ma'am.

**[00:48] Quinella**

*If I can copy my own Fluctlight's thoughts  
and memories by overwriting this child's Fluctlight...*

**[00:55] Quinella**

Close your eyes.

**SIGN** *And so Administrator,  
through this diabolical ceremony...*

**SIGN** *the Synthesis Ritual, a secret technique  
signifying the fusing of soul and memory,*

**SIGN** *finally succeeded in seizing control  
of another's Fluctlight.*

**SIGN** *But that ended up being Administrator's...  
no, Quinella's mistake.*

**[01:21] Kirito**

Mistake?

**SIGN** That's right.

**SIGN** Because after she'd taken over the young girl, for the split second that she disposed of her previous self,

**SIGN** she and the girl had become two gods wielding equal authority.

**SIGN** Kirito, you're familiar with my original version, are you not?

**SIGN** Tell me the features of the Cardinal System.

**[01:42] Kirito**

Um...

**[01:44] Kirito**

To operate over an extended period of time  
without any adjustments or maintenance by humans?

**SIGN** Correct.

**SIGN** To achieve that, the Cardinal System has two core programs, a main and sub.

**SIGN** While the main process performs balance controls...

**[02:01] Kirito**

The subprocess does an error-check of the main.

**SIGN** That's right.

**SIGN** *It wasn't just the preservation of order*

*Quinella had etched into her own Fluctlight.*

**SIGN** Deep inside her soul, I had this thought as her subprocess...

**SIGN** "I must correct this woman's errors."

**SIGN** *I... I steadfastly waited for that moment.*

**SIGN** *For 70 long years!*

**SIGN** Ruler and Mediator

**[04:12] Administrator**

And now, this child's Fluctlight is mine.

**[04:16] Liserice**

System Call.

**[04:19] Liserice**

Generate Luminous Element.

**[04:21] Liserice**

Lightning Shape.

**[04:23] Liserice**

Discharge!

**[04:24] Administrator**

What?

**[04:27] Liserice**

System Call!

**[04:30] Liserice**

Generate Luminous Element!

**[04:32] Administrator**

System Call! Generate Umbra Element. Ball Shape!

**[04:37] Administrator**

- Discharge!

- Discharge!

**[04:41] Administrator**

System Call! Redefinition Object!

**[04:46] Administrator**

Sword Class!

**[04:48] Liserice**

System Call. Redefinition Object! Rod Class!

**[04:53] Administrator**

System Call! Change Field Attribution!

**[05:00] Liserice**

*Impossible.*

**[05:01] Liserice**

*She made this a restricted area  
for System Commands?*

**[05:19] Liserice**

*I can't defeat her in this body.*

**[05:35] Liserice**

System Call! Generate Aerial Element!

**[05:39] Liserice**

Stream Shape!

**[05:43] Liserice**

*There are just two locations in this world  
that even Administrator can't control.*

**[05:49] Liserice**

*One is the other side of the End Mountains.*

**[05:53] Liserice**

*And the other is...*

**[05:57] Liserice**

System Call!

**[05:59] Liserice**

Generate Blizzard Gate... Zero One!

**[06:04] Liserice**

*...the Great Library!*

**SIGN** *In that instant, this place was completely isolated  
from the outside world.*

**SIGN** *In the 200 years since, I immersed myself  
in nothing but observation and deliberation,*

**SIGN** *working on a plan that would allow me  
to strike back against Administrator.*

**SIGN** *But she anticipated my ambush  
and assembled a retinue of loyal and powerful followers.*

**[06:34] Administrator**

*Through the Synthesis Ritual,  
this man will be reborn.*

**[06:38] Administrator**

*As the ultimate warrior,  
a Integrity Knight swearing absolute fealty!*

**SIGN** *The first to become an Integrity Knight*

**SIGN** *was a true hero known as an extraordinary swordsman  
who hated the church's rule,*

**SIGN** *who, with his comrades, made his way  
to a remote region and founded his own village.*

**SIGN** *The name of that knight was Bercouli Synthesis One.*

**SIGN** *Administrator and I are nearly on equal footing in one-on-one combat.*

**SIGN** *But with the situation changed, it became clear that I also needed a collaborator.*

**SIGN** I tried to find that collaborator, no matter the risk.

**SIGN** Each time, I would open a door as far away as possible,

**SIGN** I would cast Sensory Sharing and other arts onto the nearby birds and insects,

**SIGN** and release them all over the world.

**SIGN** See.

**SIGN** Her name is Charlotte.

**SIGN** She's been observing the two of you ever since you left Rulid Village.

**SIGN** From time to time, she did more than just watch.

**[07:53] Kirito**

*She guided us when we were running  
from the Integrity Knight?*

**[07:57] Kirito**

Th-That's right!

**[07:59] Kirito**

When all my zephilia buds were cut off,  
was it you who encouraged me?

**SIGN** Charlotte's the most ancient of the observation units that I enchanted and released into the world.

**SIGN** Her long, long mission is finally coming to an end, now, eh?

**SIGN** Since I froze the degradation of her life, I've had her working for me for more than 200 years.

**[08:25] Kirito**

*Thank you.*

**[08:28] Kirito**

So you've been searching for a human collaborator  
while barricaded in this Great Library for over 200 years?

**SIGN** Indeed. But as I observed this world, even I couldn't figure it out.

**SIGN** Why would the gods of the outside world turn a blind eye to the tyranny of this fake god, Administrator?

**SIGN** As I pondered, and referred to the database stored inside the Cardinal System,

**SIGN** I arrived at one conclusion.

**SIGN** That the true god, Rath, doesn't wish for the people of this world to lead happy lives.

**SIGN** Quite the opposite, in fact.

**SIGN** They're observing how the people will resist as they slowly tighten a vise about them.

**SIGN** That load is increasing by the day,

**SIGN** until eventually, the greatest trial of all, the final phase of the load test will arrive.

**[09:27] Kirito**

Final phase?

**SIGN** You know it well yourself... what lies outside the realm of humanity.

**[09:34] Kirito**

The Dark Territory.

**SIGN** Correct. That world of darkness was created to subject the people to the ultimate agony.

**SIGN** The monsters who have Fluctlights like humans, except for their greater impulse to slaughter and plunder.

**SIGN** They can hardly wait to invade the realm of humanity, and commit atrocity upon atrocity.

**SIGN** Most likely, that day isn't too far off.

**[10:01] Kirito**

Is Administrator aware of that?

**SIGN** She underestimates the forces of darkness,

**SIGN** convinced that she and her Integrity Knights alone can repulse them.

**SIGN** She even had the guardian dragons of the north, south, east, and west slain,

**SIGN** despite their valuable fighting power, because she couldn't exert control over them.

**SIGN** But it's not possible for them to defeat the forces of darkness on their own.

**SIGN** Their overall numbers are too few.

**[10:28] Kirito**

But doesn't that mean

that whether or not you defeat Administrator,

**[10:33] Kirito**

the path this world is destined to take

will stay the same?

**SIGN** That's correct.

**SIGN** At this point, I have no way of stopping the invasion from the Dark Territory.

**[10:45] Kirito**

In other words, once you've attained your objective,

**[10:49] Kirito**

you couldn't care less

what happens to this world afterwards?

**[10:52] Kirito**

Is that what you're saying? Cardinal?

**SIGN** Perhaps I am.

**SIGN** However, I...

**SIGN** For having engineered the end of the world...

**SIGN** I will never accept a god like Rath!

**SIGN** Therefore, I arrived at the only possible conclusion.

**SIGN** That I would return the Underworld, both the human realm and the Dark Territory, to nothingness.

**[11:21] Kirito**

Return it... to nothingness?

**SIGN** Just what I said.

**SIGN** I'm going to delete every Fluctlight stored in the Lightcube Cluster.

**SIGN** Of every last resident of both the realms of humanity and darkness.

**SIGN** Kirito.

**SIGN** If, with your help, I'm able to eliminate Administrator,  
and regain all my authority,

**SIGN** then, before I extinguish this world,

I'll grant you a wish, to a degree.

**SIGN** If there are people you'd like to save,

**SIGN** I won't delete their Fluctlights,  
and leave them archived instead.

**SIGN** I believe it should be possible, after you've escaped to the outside world,

**SIGN** for you to secure the Lightcubes of ten or so.

**[12:11] Kirito**

I... I...

**[12:14] Kirito**

Cardinal.

**[12:15] Kirito**

You just told me that your soul  
was a copy of Quinella's, right?

**[12:20] Kirito**

Then that means that the pure blood of the nobles  
flows in your veins as well.

**[12:25] Kirito**

The genes of those  
who seek their own profit and desires.

**[12:29] Kirito**

So why didn't you abandon everything  
and try to escape?

**[12:34] Kirito**

Why would you continue to wait alone  
in a place like this for 200 years?

**SIGN** For me, as the Cardinal subprocess, all profit and all desires amount to just one thing.

**SIGN** Eliminating Administrator and normalizing the world.

**SIGN** In my eyes, a normalized world is no longer possible unless it's returned to complete nothingness.

**SIGN** Therefore... Therefore, I...

**SIGN** No, perhaps I'm wrong.

**SIGN** Even I have a desire. Just one...

**SIGN** In the last 200 years, there was something I was desperate to know.

**SIGN** Hey, Kirito. Stand up, too.

**SIGN** That should do it.

**SIGN** Hey, Kirito, come over here.

**SIGN** Come closer.

**SIGN** No complaining.

**SIGN** Raise both arms.

**[13:42] Kirito**

Like this?

**SIGN** Hold them in front of you and make a circle.

**SIGN** Really! Do I have to spell it out for you?

**SIGN** I see. So this is...

**SIGN** This is what it means to be human, huh?

**SIGN** So warm.

**SIGN** At last, I feel rewarded.

**SIGN** Those 200 years I spent weren't in vain.

**SIGN** Just discovering this warmth  
is enough to satisfy me.

**SIGN** I feel rewarded... more than enough.

**SIGN** How long are you planning to stand there in a daze?

**[14:43] Kirito**

No way.

**SIGN** So? Have you made a decision?

**SIGN** Are you going to accept my proposal, or reject it?

**[14:54] Kirito**

All right.

**[14:55] Kirito**

I'll take part in your plan. But...

**[14:59] Kirito**

But I'm not going to stop thinking about it.

**[15:03] Kirito**

I'm going to keep searching for a way.

**[15:06] Kirito**

A solution to somehow avoid tragedy  
and allow this world to survive peacefully.

**SIGN** Geez, what an absurdly optimistic person you are.

**[15:15] Kirito**

After all, I don't want you to disappear, either.

**[15:20] Kirito**

When you tell me to pick ten people,  
you'll definitely be among them.

**SIGN** And you're also a fool.

**SIGN** Who's going to extinguish this world if I escape?

**[15:34] Kirito**

Hey, I'm just saying that I understand the situation,  
but I won't give up on struggling in vain!

**SIGN** One day, you too will know the bitterness of giving up.

**SIGN** Not of coming up short after giving your all,

**SIGN** but of being forced to accept the likelihood that you'll fail.

**[16:06] Kirito**

Thanks for waiting!

**[16:08] Kirito**

Sorry we left you on your own.

**[16:09] Eugeo**

Kirito! And also, um...

**[16:13] Kirito**

Yeah, this person, Cardinal was banished  
by the current pontifex, Administrator,

**[16:20] Kirito**

and she used to be another pontifex.

**[16:22] Eugeo**

Pontifex?

**[16:24] Kirito**

She's going to help us fight the Integrity Knights.

**[16:28] Eugeo**

H-Help?

**[16:29] Kirito**

Yeah, she has a goal to defeat Administrator  
and regain her status as pontifex.

**[16:36] Kirito**

So... well, I guess that means we're joining forces.

**SIGN** Indeed.

**[16:41] Eugeo**

Then do you know if Alice...  
the Integrity Knight, Alice Synthesis Thirty,

**[16:46] Eugeo**

is the same person  
as Alice Zuberg from Rulid?

**SIGN** I'm sorry, but the information I can access here is extremely limited.

**SIGN** I do know that an Integrity Knight named Alice was indeed born, but...

**SIGN** However, what I can do is tell you how to reverse the Synthesis Ritual for producing Integrity Knights.

**[17:08] Eugeo**

How do we do that?

**SIGN** Simply remove the Piety Module embedded in their foreheads.

**SIGN** It looks like a triangular prism.

**[17:18] Eugeo**

Like the one we saw...

**SIGN** The Piety Module is inserted in a way that blocks links to memories.

**SIGN** This seals away the past of the person becoming an Integrity Knight,

**SIGN** while simultaneously forcing absolute fealty to the Axiom Church and the pontifex.

**[17:35] Kirito**

In other words, to break the spell we have to  
jog the Integrity Knight's memories of their past, huh?

**SIGN** That alone wouldn't be enough.

**SIGN** There's one more thing that's absolutely necessary.

**[17:46] Eugeo**

Wh-What's that?

**SIGN** What originally existed where the module's been embedded.

**SIGN** In other words, the memory fragment most valued by the Integrity Knight.

**SIGN** Administrator's a cautious woman.

**SIGN** The memory fragments extracted from these knights are without a doubt stored in her chambers...

**SIGN** on the top floor of the Central Cathedral.

**[18:11] Kirito**

You mean...

**[18:13] Kirito**

to restore an Integrity Knight to their former state,  
we'll need the stolen memory fragment.

**[18:18] Kirito**

But to get our hands on it,  
we'll have to breach the knights' defenses

**[18:22] Kirito**

and somehow make our way to the top floor  
where Administrator is.

**SIGN** Don't be so naive as to think you can  
defeat an Integrity Knight without killing them.

**SIGN** The most I can do for you is to provide you with equipment equal to that of the Integrity

Knights.

**SIGN** The rest depends on whether you're able to fight your best.

**[18:45] Eugeo**

But what if Alice is the one who shows up?

**[18:48] Eugeo**

I can't bring myself to fight her.

**[18:49] Eugeo**

I came all this way to get Alice back!

**SIGN** Indeed. You have a point.

**SIGN** Eugeo, I understand your goal.

**SIGN** Fine. Should Integrity Knight Alice be the one standing in your way, then use this.

**[19:11] Kirito**

What is it?

**SIGN** Whoever is stabbed with this dagger will be linked to me by an inseverable connection.

**SIGN** Meaning that any sacred arts I use will affect her without fail.

**SIGN** Eugeo, use this to stab anywhere on Integrity Knight Alice's body.

**SIGN** In that instant, I'll send Alice into a deep sleep using my sacred arts.

**SIGN** Until you've regained her memories and are prepared to remove the Synthesis.

**[19:39] Eugeo**

Understood.

If I can't talk sense into Alice, I'll use this.

**SIGN** I originally created it to use against Administrator,

**SIGN** and kept another one as a spare, but well... if you can succeed on your first try, it should be fine.

**[19:55] Kirito**

That's a huge responsibility.

**[19:58] Kirito**

What you just said, "equipment equal to that of the Integrity Knights," did you mean...

**SIGN** You and Eugeo have your own powerful swords, don't you?

**SIGN** I'm going to help you get them back.

**[20:10] Eugeo**

You mean my Blue Rose Sword and Kirito's black one?

**SIGN** I'm quite certain that your swords are being stored in the armory on the third floor of the cathedral.

**[20:21] Kirito**

By the way, what floor are Administrator's chambers on?

**SIGN** The Central Cathedral grows by the year, so...

**SIGN** it should've reached 100 floors by now.

**SIGN** Unfortunately, there's one more thing you need to do.

**[20:39] Kirito**

Wh-What is it?

**SIGN** I know you two have powerful swords,

**SIGN** but that alone won't be enough to bring down the Integrity Knights.

**SIGN** That's because they have the terrifying technique of amplifying their weapons' abilities

multiple times.

**[20:52] Eugeo**

Do you mean the Perfect Weapon Control Art?

**SIGN** Weapons of the Divine Object class take on the properties of the object they're fashioned from.

**SIGN** By fully releasing a weapon's memories, so to speak,

**SIGN** the Perfect Control Art realizes offensive powers more potent than normally possible.

**SIGN** Both of you close your eyes and think of your sword.

**SIGN** All right, that's enough.

**SIGN** There.

**SIGN** Memorize that thoroughly.

**SIGN** Eugeo... and Kirito.

**SIGN** The fate of the world rests on you.

**SIGN** Whether it's engulfed in hellfire,  
or sinks into nothingness.

**SIGN** Or perhaps you'll find a third path.

**SIGN** I've told you all that I can tell,

**SIGN** and given you all that I can give.

**SIGN** All you have to do now  
is follow the path you believe in.

**[22:39] Eugeo**

Thank you very much, Ms. Cardinal.

**[22:42] Eugeo**

I'll definitely get to the top of the cathedral

**[22:45] Eugeo**

and restore Alice back to who she was.

**SIGN** Now...

**SIGN** Go!

**[23:36] Kirito**

Next time: The Crimson Knight.

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