

E15 - The Queen of the Lake

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

[00:02] Gi

There are only three days left in this year.

SIGN Tokyo

[00:05] Gi

How are you all doing?

[00:08] Su

Were you up late again, Brother?

[00:11] K

Homework for school, mechatronics.

[00:14] Su

Mechatron...

[00:18] Su

Brother.

[00:20] Su

Look at this.

[00:22] K

What?

[00:23] K

Someone found the Holy
Sword Excaliber in ALO?!

[00:28] K

Someone finally got it, huh?

[00:31] Su

Read it carefully... It's only
been found. That's all.

[00:34] Su

No one actually has it yet.

[00:38] K

What? Don't scare me like that.

[00:43] K

Several months ago,

[00:44] K

*on an Arun plateau, Leafa and I were
swallowed by a giant worm monster,*

[00:50] K

and dropped into the underground world known as "Jötunheimr."

[00:53] K

There, we saw a Tyrant-class humanoid with four arms attacking a Tyrant

[00:57] ---

that looked like a combination of an elephant and a jellyfish.

[01:03] K

Leafa asked me to save the one that was being bullied,

[01:07] K

so I baited the four-armed Tyrant away, and lured it into a lake,

[01:10] K

where the elephant-jellyfish Tyrant finished it.

[01:14] K

Leafa named the jellyfish thing "Tonkii,"

[01:18] K

and it grew eight wings, and carried us to the path to the upper world.

[01:28] K

On our way there, we saw a huge labyrinth

[01:31] ---

hanging from beneath the World Tree,

[01:35] K

and a golden long sword that glistened at its base,

[01:44] K

Excaliber.

[01:47] K

I was planning to get it at some point, but...

[01:51] Su

You've been spending all your time on the New Aincrad.

[01:54] K

But how did they find it?

[01:57] K

Players can't fly in Jötunheimr.

[02:00] K

And it's high enough that, unless you fly,

[02:02] ---

you can't see its location.

[02:04] Su

Maybe someone succeeded in saving one of Tonkii's friends,

[02:08] Su

and triggered the quest flag like we did.

[02:11] K

That'd make sense.

[02:13] K

That creepy...

[02:17] K

No, "unique" appearance that that
Tyrant has means only a weirdo...

[02:22] K

I mean, a very nice person

[02:25] K

would save it. I'm surprised
you aren't the only one.

[02:27] Su

He isn't creepy.

[02:29] Su

He's cute.

[02:31] Su

But that means it may be only a matter of time

[02:34] ---

until someone clears the dungeon
and gets the sword.

[02:38] K

You're right...

[02:41] Su

What will you do, Brother?

[02:46] K

Sugu, there's more to a VRMMO
than looking for rare items.

[02:53] K

Yeah.

[02:54] K

Even if the weapon's stats make you stronger...

[02:57] K

But I think Tonkii wanted us to find it,
and that's why he showed it to us.

[03:02] K

I bet, in his heart, he's hoping
we can clear the dungeon.

[03:08] K

You know... Tonkii's our friend, right?

[03:13] Su

You were just saying he was creepy.

[03:17] K

So, Sugu, are you free today?

[03:21] Su

Well, my club's off for the rest of the year.

[03:23] K

Okay!

[03:24] K

Up to seven people can ride Tonkii, right?

[03:28] K

Which means you, me, Asuna,
Klein, Liz, and Silica...

[03:34] K

That leaves one.

[03:36] K

Agil has his shop to look after,

[03:38] K

and we can't rely on Chrysheight.

[03:40] K

Recon's in Sylph territory.

[03:43] K

I know!

[03:44] K

Let's ask Sinon-san!

[03:46] K

Great!

[03:47] Su

I'll contact everyone.

[03:51] Su

You talk to Asuna-san.

[03:53] K

Sure.

[03:59] A

*I want to see Kirito-kun once more
before I have to return to Kyoto.*

[04:09] A

Hello? Kirito-kun?

[04:11] K

Good morning, Asuna.

[04:12] K

Do you have a moment?

[04:14] K

This afternoon, I'm trying to do a quest,
with everyone, in ALO.

[04:20] A

I'm free all day today.

[04:22] K

Okay.

[04:23] K

I'll send you a message with the
time and place we're meeting.

[04:26] A

Sounds great!

[04:27] A

See you on the other side!

[04:31] A

Okay!

SIGN The Queen of the Lake

[06:12] SI

Are you already on break
for New Year's, Klein-san?

[06:15] KI

Yeah, since yesterday.

[06:17] KI

Even if I wanted to work, at this
time of year, nothing comes in.

[06:21] KI

The CEO keeps bragging about how great we are

[06:25] ---

to have a whole week off for New Year's.

[06:29] KI

Hey, Kirito...

[06:30] KI

If we do get Excaliber today,

[06:33] KI

help me get the Spirit Blade Kanedzuchi.

[06:39] K

That dungeon's so freaking hot, though.

[06:41] KI

Sure, but Jötunheimr is so freaking cold!

[06:46] S

Then, I know what I want...

[06:48] S

The Light Bow Shekinah.

[06:50] K

You've had your character for two weeks,

[06:52] ---

and you already want a legendary weapon.

[06:55] S

The bow Liz made me is wonderful,

[06:58] S

but I'd like a bit more range.

[07:00] L

Listen...

[07:01] L

In this world, bows have more range than
spears, but less range than magic.

[07:06] L

You're the only one who's trying to hit the
target from a hundred meters away.

[07:11] S

Honestly, I'd like to double that.

[07:18] Su

We're here!

[07:20] A

Sorry to keep you waiting!

[07:22] Si

Welcome back!

[07:23] KI

I've been waiting!

[07:26] Y

While we were out shopping,
we did some information-gathering.

[07:30] Y

It doesn't look like any players, or parties,

[07:33] ---

have made it to that mid-air dungeon, Daddy.

[07:37] K

Then how did they find Excaliber's location?

[07:41] Y

It seems someone found a different quest

[07:45] ---

than the one we found with Tonkii.

[07:48] Y

And as a reward, an NPC showed Excaliber to them.

[07:54] A

And evidently, it isn't a very peaceful quest, either.

[07:59] A

It wasn't a fetch or an escort quest.

[08:01] ---

It was a slaughter-type, in which you try to kill
more than a certain number of monsters.

[08:05] A

And so, everyone in Jötunheimr is trying
to kill as many monsters as they can.

[08:10] K

That isn't very peaceful, no.

[08:13] KI

But isn't that weird?

[08:16] KI

The Holy Sword Excaliber

[08:18] ---

is sealed at the bottom of a mid-air
dungeon swarming with Tyrants.

[08:24] KI

So why is an NPC revealing it as a quest reward?

[08:29] SI

That's true.

[08:32] SI

If the NPC just took them to the
dungeon, I'd understand...

[08:39] S

Well, we'll know when we get there.

[08:43] L

Okay!

[08:44] L

All weapons are fully restored!

[09:00] KI

Our party is still a bunch of muscle-heads, though.

[09:04] L

Then raise your magic skills.

[09:08] KI

No way.

[09:09] KI

A samurai never selects any magic skills.

[09:13] KI

It isn't allowed.

[09:14] L

Listen...

[09:15] L

In RPGs, the samurai has been

[09:18] ---

a "warrior plus black magic" class for a long time.

[09:22] KI

I'd rather snap my katana and quit
being a samurai than use magic.

[09:26] SI

But earlier, you were using
a flame Sword Skill, weren't you?

[09:31] SI

I think that was half-magic.

[09:34] KI

Seriously?

[09:36] Y

Yes, Silica-san is correct.

[09:39] Y

In the May update, Sword Skills
were introduced into ALO,

[09:44] Y

and high-level skills are also divided by magic
classes of earth, water, fire, wind, dark,

[09:49] ---

and holy, in addition to physical...

[09:53] KI

Is that right?

[09:55] L

So, weren't you going to snap your sword, rather than use magic?

[10:01] KI

Kirito...

[10:02] K

To perform a Sword Skill, you don't say any incantations.

[10:05] K

Let's say it doesn't count.

[10:07] L

Oh, fine.

[10:12] K

Thanks for coming so quickly, everyone.

[10:17] K

Somehow, I'll find a way to express my gratitude.

[10:21] K

Let's do this, then!

[10:23] All

Yeah!

[10:29] L

How many steps are there here?

[10:34] A

I think it's maybe about the size of an entire dungeon floor in New Aincrad...

[10:39] K

Listen, it takes two hours to reach Jötunheimr by the normal route,

[10:45] K

and this takes five minutes.

[10:47] K

Don't complain.

[10:49] ---

Give thanks with every step you descend, everyone.

[10:53] S

You're bragging like you were the one who made it.

[10:56] K

Thanks for pointing that out—

[11:00] S

Hey!

[11:04] S

Next time you try that, I'll shove a fire arrow up your nostril.

[11:11] KI

You aren't afraid of anything, man.

[11:19] KI

It's so cold!

[11:28] S

Wow.

[11:41] KI

Kirito!

[11:45] A

Ous. Sharl. Raise. Wind. Hard. Halca. Storms.

[11:54] A

Okay.

[11:55] A

I applied some cold-resistance magic to you.

[12:12] Su

Tonkii-san!

[12:20] K

It's fine.

[12:22] K

He may not look it, but he's an herbivore.

[12:25] Su

But when we brought him
some fish from the surface,

[12:28] ---

he gulped them in a single bite.

[12:34] K

He's saying to get on.

[12:37] KI

But...

[12:39] KI

My grandpa's dying words were to never
ride American cars or flying elephants.

[12:44] KI

At the Dicey Café, you just gave me dried
persimmons you said your grandpa made.

[12:49] KI

They were good, so give me some more.

[12:54] L

Okay, there!

[12:58] K

Thanks, Tonkii.

[13:04] Su

All right!

[13:06] Su

Tonkii, take us to the dungeon entrance!

[13:21] L

Hey, what happens if you fall?

[13:26] Su

I'm sure the guy over there,

who once tried to climb

[13:30] ---

to Aincrad's next level via the outer pillars
and fell, will find out for us someday.

[13:34] K

I think a feline would be better
at falling from high places.

[13:51] K

Yahoo!

[14:04] Su

Brother! Look at that!

[14:13] A

What's going on down there?

[14:17] A

Did someone tame that humanoid Tyrant?

[14:19] SI

That's impossible!

[14:21] SI

The success rate for taming a Tyrant is zero percent,

[14:25] SI

even for a Cait Sith with a full boost
and special equipment!

[14:30] KI

So they're... What?

[14:31] KI

Taking advantage of it?

[14:36] KI

When the four-armed thing
is fighting the elephant-jellyfish,

[14:39] KI

they're hitting it, too.

[14:41] S

But is controlling a monster's aggro that easy?

[15:07] K

Why aren't they starting combat
with the humanoid Tyrant?

[15:11] K

Look over there.

[15:14] KI

What?

[15:15] KI

What's going on down there?

[15:18] L

Is this the new

[15:21] ---

Jötunheimr slaughter quest that
Asuna was talking about?

[15:26] L

Like, you work with the humanoid Tyrants
to eliminate the bestial ones?

[15:39] KI

She's huge...

[15:43] Gi

I am Urd, Queen of the Lake.

[15:48] Gi

You fairies who have formed
a bond with my servants...

[15:51] Gi

My two younger sisters and
I have a request for you.

[15:57] Gi

Please save this land from the frost giants.

[16:02] Y

Daddy, that's an NPC.

[16:05] Y

But something's strange.

[16:08] Y

She isn't using the set response
routines, like normal NPCs.

[16:13] Y

She's connected to a language-engine
module that's near the core program.

[16:18] K

In other words, she's been turned into an AI?

[16:21] Y

That's right, Daddy.

[16:23] Gi

Once, Jötunheimr was like ALfheim.

[16:28] Gi

It enjoyed the blessings of the World Tree, Yggdrasil,

[16:31] Gi

and was covered in beautiful water and greenery.

[16:34] Gi

We, the hill giants, and our servants,
the animals, lived in peace.

[16:42] Gi

Below Jötunheimr is the land of frost, Niflheim.

[16:49] Gi

The King of the Frost Giants who rules
that land, Thrym, snuck into this realm

[16:55] Gi

and cast Excaliber, the
"sword which cuts all trees and iron,"

[16:59] Gi

into the Urd's lake, at the center of the world.

[17:04] Gi

The sword cut the deepest root of the World Tree,

[17:07] Gi

and when it did, Jötunheimr was
cut off from Yggdrasil's bounties.

[17:31] K

That's Excaliber?

[17:35] Gi

Thrym's frost giants attacked Jötunheimr,
from Niflheim, en masse,

[17:42] Gi

building many fortresses and castles,

[17:44] Gi

and capturing and imprisoning us, the hill giants.

[17:49] Gi

They built a castle, Thrymheim,

[17:53] ---

on the massive block of ice that
used to be the lake of Urd,

[17:56] Gi

and they now rule this land.

[17:58] Gi

My two sisters and I escaped to
the bottom of a frozen lake,

[18:04] Gi

but we lack the power we once had.

[18:08] Gi

The frost giants are not satisfied, however,

[18:10] Gi

and they are trying to kill all our servants,
the animals, that live in this land.

[18:17] Gi

If they succeed, our power will vanish,

[18:21] ---

and they will be able to elevate
Thrymheim to ALfheim's surface.

[18:28] KI

What?

[18:29] KI

If they do that, it will destroy the town of Arun!

[18:33] Gi

King Thrym desires to cover ALfheim in snow,

[18:38] Gi

and rise to the top of the World Tree, Yggdrasil.

[18:43] Gi

He desires the golden apple said to grow there.

[18:49] Gi

Thrym and his generals have grown upset

[18:53] ---

at their inability to slay my servants,

[18:55] Gi

and have begun to ask for the help of you fairies.

[19:00] Gi

He offers Excaliber as a prize,

[19:03] Gi

and his goal is to have my servants annihilated.

[19:07] Gi

But King Thrym has no intention
of giving that sword to anyone.

[19:13] Gi

When Excaliber vanishes from Thrymheim,

[19:16] Gi

Yggdrasil's bounties will return to this land,

[19:20] Gi

and that castle will melt and fall.

[19:23] L

Then it's a lie that Excaliber is the quest reward?

[19:28] L

Can you have a quest like that?

[19:30] U

Thrym probably plans to bestow
the false sword, Caliburn,

[19:34] U

which looks identical to Excaliber.

[19:37] Su

That's cheating!

[19:38] Su

Is a king allowed to do that?

[19:41] U

That cheating is Thrym's most potent weapon.

[19:45] U

But he has made one mistake.

[19:50] U

He sent most of his giants down from Thrymheim,

[19:55] ---

to assist the fairy warriors.

[19:58] U

That castle's defenses are weaker
than they've ever been.

[20:03] K

I see.

[20:11] U

When this stone turns completely dark,

[20:14] U

it signals that my servants all lie
slain and my power gone.

[20:20] U

Fairies, infiltrate Thrymheim, and draw
Excaliber from the keystone dais.

SIGN Holy Sword of the Frozen Palace

[20:32] U

I am counting on you, fairies.

[20:42] SI

This has turned into a really big deal.

[20:45] S

This is a normal quest, right?

[20:49] S

But the scale seems a little too big for that.

[20:53] S

Didn't she say something about how

[20:55] ---

if all bestial Tyrants are wiped out,
frost giants will invade the surface?

[20:59] K

She did.

[21:01] K

But I don't know if the GMs would
do something like that

[21:04] ---

with no update or warning.

[21:07] K

Normally, you'd have at least a week's notice.

[21:12] S

But we must do it for Tonkii's sake.

[21:15] S

Right, Brother?

[21:16] K

That's right.

[21:17] K

The reason we came here today was
to enter that castle and get Excaliber.

[21:23] K

If it isn't as heavily defended,
that's exactly what we want.

[21:29] KI

Okay! It's our last big quest of the year.

[21:33] KI

Let's do this, and earn ourselves
a spot on the front page

[21:35] ---

of tomorrow's *MMO Tomorrow!*

[21:38] All

Yeah!

[21:45] Su

Just wait, Tonkii.

[21:46] Su

We'll take back your country.

[21:59] Su

Let's go!

SIGN Next Time The King of the Giants

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