

# E18 - To the World Tree

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**SIGN** Suguha's Room

**[00:06] Su**

*"I want to see virtual reality for myself."*

**[00:10] Su**

*When did I first think that to myself?*

**[00:17] Su**

*At first, virtual reality was just*

**[00:20] ---**

*an awful thing that had  
taken my brother away.*

**[00:25] Su**

*But soon, I wanted to see...*

**[00:29] ---**

*To know with my own eyes the  
world my brother loved.*

**[00:40] Su**

*And I was surprised to find myself*

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

*enchanted by ALfheim Online.*

**[00:49] Su**

*The joy of flying through the  
sky on your own wings...*

**[00:53] Su**

*If I could fly as far and high as I wanted,*

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

*I'd be willing to give up anything for that.*

**[01:03] Su**

*I think I understand now*

**[01:06] ---**

*why my brother loved this world so much!*

**SIGN** To the World Tree

**[02:52] R**

Leafa-chan!

**[02:56] Su**

I told you not to call me that at school,

**[02:58] Su**

Nagata-kun!

**[03:00] R**

S-Sorry, Suguha-chan...

**[03:02] Su**

Idiot.

**[03:03] R**

I-I-I'm sorry, Kirigaya-san!

**[03:07] Su**

You need something?

**[03:09] Su**

And you don't have to take  
the high school entrance exams,

**[03:11] ---**

so why are you even at school?

**[03:13] Su**

You don't have to attend, right?

**[03:15] R**

Sugu...

**[03:16] R**

I needed to talk to you, Kirigaya-san,

**[03:18] ---**

so I've been waiting here since morning.

**[03:21] R**

You aren't taking the exams, either.

**[03:23] Su**

The kendo club adviser  
asked me to come in.

**[03:28] Su**

So what did you need?

**[03:30] R**

Sigurd and the others

**[03:31] ---**

wanted to go hunting again this afternoon.

**[03:34] Su**

Sorry, I won't be joining them for a while.

**[03:38] R**

Why not?

**[03:39] Su**

I'm heading to Arun.

**[03:42] R**

Arun? At the base of the World Tree?

**[03:46] R**

Y-You can't mean to go with that  
Spriggan from yesterday...

**[03:49] Su**

Yeah... Well, I guess so.

**[03:52] Su**

I'm going to show him the way.

**[03:54] R**

Wh-What are you thinking, Leaf—

**[04:00] R**

Kirigaya-san.

**[04:01] R**

You'll be going so far, overnight,

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

with a shady guy like that?

**[04:06] Su**

Don't get any weird ideas!

**[04:11] Su**

Anyway, that's how it is.

**[04:13] Su**

Tell Sigurd and the gang "hello."

**[04:16] Su**

Bye!

**SIGN** Suguha's Room

**[04:29] Su**

I'm just showing him the way.

**[04:31] Su**

That's all.

**[04:53] Su**

Link start!

**SIGN** Sylvein, Sylph Territory,

January 21, 2025

**[05:13] K**

Hey, you're early.

**[05:15] Su**

No, I just got here.

**[05:17] Su**

I was out shopping.

**[05:19] K**

Oh, right.

**[05:21] K**

I need to get ready, too...

**[05:23] K**

This won't be good enough.

**[05:26] Su**

Yeah, then let's go to the weapons shop.

**[05:29] Su**

How much money do you have?

**[05:32] K**

Um...

**[05:34] K**

Is this "Yuld" stuff money?

**[05:37] Su**

Yeah.

**[05:40] K**

W-We're leaving, Yui.

**[05:43] Y**

Okay.

**[06:09] K**

Why are we going to the tower?

**[06:11] Su**

Oh, when flying long distances,  
you start from the top of the tower.

**[06:16] Su**

It gives you extra altitude.

**[06:18] K**

I get it.

**[06:19] K**

*You're kidding me!*

**[06:26] Su**

Let's get going.

**[06:27] Su**

I want to make it through the forest by night.

**[06:36] Su**

This way!

**[06:42] Si**

Leafa!

**[06:45] Su**

Hello, Sigurd.

**[06:47] Si**

You're leaving the party, Leafa?

**[06:50] Su**

Yeah, I guess so.

**[06:52] Si**

Don't you understand how that will  
inconvenience the other members?

**[06:57] Su**

You promised I could join  
only when I had time,

**[07:00] ---**

and that I could leave whenever I wanted.

**[07:03] Si**

But you're already a well-known  
member of our party.

**[07:07] Si**

If you leave without a reason,

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

it will damage our reputation.

**[07:17] K**

Your party members aren't items.

**[07:21] Si**

What was that?

**[07:26] K**

You can't keep other players  
equipped all the time,

**[07:30] ---**

as if they were your armor or sword.

**[07:34] Si**

You...

**[07:36] Si**

You're just another Spriggan who  
likes to rummage through trash!

**[07:39] Si**

You're probably a renegade who was  
kicked out of his own territory.

**[07:43] Su**

Don't be rude.

**[07:45] Su**

Kirito-kun is my new partner!

**[07:47] Si**

What?

**[07:49] Si**

Leafa!

**[07:50] Si**

Are you abandoning your territory

**[07:51] ---**

and becoming a renegade, too?

**[07:54] Su**

Yes, I am.

**[07:56] Su**

I'm leaving this place.

**[07:59] Si**

As long as you just buzzed around,  
I didn't plan to concern myself with you.

**[08:03] Si**

But if you're going to be a thief,  
that's a different matter.

**[08:06] Si**

If you're here, in another species' territory,

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

you can't complain if you get killed, right?

**[08:19] Guy**

This isn't the time, Sigurd-san.

**[08:22] Guy**

If we kill someone who can't fight  
back in front of all these people...

**[08:35] Si**

Once you're outside, run and hide, Leafa.

**[08:39] Si**

If you betray me,

**[08:41] ---**

it won't be long before you regret it.

**[08:52] Su**

Sorry for getting you involved in that.

**[08:55] K**

It's fine...

**[08:57] K**

But are you sure about this?

**[08:58] K**

Abandoning your territory...

**[09:04] K**

H-Hey...

**[09:12] K**

This is an amazing view.

**[09:14] K**

We're so close to the sky.

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

It's like I can reach out and touch it.

**[09:18] Su**

Isn't it?

**[09:19] Su**

Whenever I see this sky,

**[09:21] ---**

it makes everything else feel small.

**[09:28] Su**

This was a good opportunity.

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

I always meant to leave this place.

**[09:33] K**

I see.

**[09:34] K**

But it feels like I made  
you leave on bad terms.

**[09:38] Su**

There wasn't any other  
way I could have left.

**[09:43] K**

What's a renegade?

**[09:46] Su**

A player who abandons  
their territory is a renegade.

**[09:49] Su**

And other players look down on them.

**[09:53] K**

Are you certain about this?

**[09:54] Su**

Yeah, I am.

**[09:57] Su**

But why do they want to tie  
each other down like that?

**[10:02] Su**

We all have these wings...

**[10:08] Y**

Humans are complicated.

**[10:11] Y**

I can't understand the psychology that  
causes the desire to seek others

**[10:16] ---**

to manifest in such odd ways.

**[10:17] Su**

Seek others?

**[10:18] Y**

This is what...

**[10:21] ---**

...I'd do.

**[10:22] Y**

It's simple and unmistakable.

**[10:24] Su**

Th-That's an amazing AI.

**[10:27] Su**

Are all Private Pixies like that?

**[10:30] K**

She's weirder than most...

**[10:34] Su**

O-Oh.

**[10:37] Su**

The desire to seek others...

**[10:40] R**

Leafa-chan!

**[10:43] Su**

Oh, Recon.

**[10:44] R**

I can't believe you!

**[10:46] R**

You could've at least said  
something before you left!

**[10:49] Su**

Sorry, I forgot.

**[10:53] R**

Leafa-chan, they said you quit the party.

**[10:56] Su**

At least halfway on the  
spur of the moment...

**[11:00] Su**

What will you do?

**[11:01] R**

What else can I do?

**[11:03] R**

My sword belongs to you alone!

**[11:06] Su**

I don't really need it, though.

**[11:10] R**

W-Well, so I'll be going with you.

**[11:14] R**

Or I'd like to.

**[11:16] R**

But something's bothering me.

**[11:18] Su**

What is it?

**[11:20] R**

I can't prove anything yet,

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

but I want to look into some things,

**[11:25] ---**

so I'll stay in Sigurd's party.

**[11:27] R**

Kirito-san.

**[11:29] R**

She has a habit of flying into  
trouble, so be careful.

**[11:33] K**

Y-Yeah, got it.

**[11:36] R**

And just so we're clear, she's my—

**[11:42] Su**

We'll probably be in the  
neutral zone for a while.

**[11:45] Su**

Send me a message if you need anything!

**[11:58] K**

You said he's a friend from real life?

**[12:01] Su**

I guess.

**[12:03] K**

What does that mean?

**[12:06] Su**

I was just a little jealous.

**[12:10] R**

I can understand how he feels.

**[12:13] R**

He likes you, Leafa-san.

**[12:16] R**

What about you?

**[12:19] Su**

I d-don't know!

**[12:33] Su**

Now let's go!

**[12:35] Su**

We'll get to that lake before we land.

**[12:38] K**

Yeah!

**SIGN** World Tree,

January 21, 2025

**[13:01] Sg**

My, my...

**[13:03] Sg**

You're such a cold woman.

**[13:06] Sg**

It's just a fake body.

**[13:08] Sg**

It won't hurt anything.

**[13:10] Sg**

Don't you want to enjoy yourself a little?

**[13:14] A**

You wouldn't understand.

**[13:16] A**

It doesn't matter whether your  
body is real or virtual.

**[13:20] A**

Not to me, anyway.

**[13:22] Sg**

You're trying to say it damages your mind?

**[13:26] Sg**

I think it'd be a good idea to learn  
to enjoy yourself while you can.

**[13:30] A**

I won't be here forever.

**[13:33] A**

He'll come to save me...

**[13:36] Sg**

Who will?

**[13:38] Sg**

Your boyfriend, maybe?

**[13:40] Sg**

The hero, Kirito-kun.

**[13:45] Sg**

Wasn't his real name Kirigaya-kun?

**[13:49] Sg**

I met him yesterday, on the other side.

**[13:55] Sg**

I couldn't believe that weak little boy could be

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

the hero who beat SAO.

**[14:02] Sg**

Where do you think I met him?

**[14:05] Sg**

Your hospital room.

**[14:07] Sg**

While you lay there, I told him I'd be marrying  
you next week, and the look on his face...

**[14:13] Sg**

It was splendid.

**[14:16] Sg**

I could barely stop myself  
from bursting into laughter.

**[14:20] Sg**

I'd bet anything

**[14:22] Sg**

that boy won't have the guts  
to put on a NerveGear again.

**[14:28] Sg**

That's right...

**[14:30] Sg**

I have to send him a wedding invitation.

**[14:33] Sg**

I'm sure he'll come to see you  
wearing your wedding dress.

**[14:37] Sg**

I have to make sure the hero  
gets to enjoy that much.

**[14:48] Sg**

Then, I'll see you soon, Titania.

**[14:52] Sg**

I'm sure you'll be lonely,  
but you have to endure it.

**[14:57] A**

*Kirito-kun...*

**[15:00] ---**

*Kirito-kun is alive!*

**[15:30] A**

8... 11... 3... 2... 9.

**SIGN** Neutral Area, Ancient Forest,  
January 21, 2025

**[15:58] Su**

Good work.

**[15:59] K**

Thanks for the backup.

**[16:04] Su**

Our wings aren't gonna last much longer.

**[16:07] Su**

Let's land soon.

**[16:08] K**

Yeah.

**[16:19] Su**

Tired?

**[16:19] K**

Not yet...

**[16:21] Su**

You're pretty tough.

**[16:23] Su**

But our journey in the sky  
is at an end for a while.

**[16:27] K**

Huh, why?

**[16:29] Su**

You see that mountain, right?

**[16:31] Su**

It's above the altitude limit,

**[16:34] ---**

so to pass it, you have to  
go through the caves.

**[16:37] Su**

It's the toughest part of the trip  
between Sylph territory and Arun,

**[16:40] ---**

or so I've heard.

**[16:41] Su**

I've never been past this point, either.

**[16:44] K**

Really...

**[16:46] K**

Caves, huh?

**[16:47] K**

Are they long?

**[16:48] Su**

Yup.

**[16:49] Su**

Supposedly, we can rest at a

neutral mining town midway.

**[16:54] Su**

Do you still have time today?

**[16:57] It's 7**

It's 7: 00 PM in the real world, huh?

**[17:00] It's 7**

I can keep going for a while.

**[17:01] Su**

Okay...

**[17:02] Su**

Then we can keep going for a while.

**[17:04] Su**

We can rotate out here.

**[17:06] K**

R-Rotate?

**[17:09] Su**

We each log out and rest,  
while the other watches.

**[17:12] Su**

You can't log out instantly  
in the neutral area.

**[17:15] Su**

So you log out in turn,

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

while the other guards your empty avatar.

**[17:20] K**

I see... Got it.

**[17:21] K**

You go first.

**[17:23] Su**

Okay, thanks.

**[17:25] Su**

See you in twenty minutes.

**[17:51] Su**

Brother?

**[17:52] Su**

What are you doing for dinner?

**[17:57] Su**

Is he asleep?

**SIGN** Brother

**[18:20] Su**

*I'm excited.*

**[18:34] Su**

*Kirito-kun...*

**[18:37] Su**

*It's not that I'm in love  
with him or anything.*

**[18:40] Su**

*Or that I'm glad to have someone  
to go on adventures with.*

**[18:43] Su**

*I'm just looking forward  
to visiting a new world.*

**[19:00] Su**

I'm back.

**[19:01] Su**

See any monsters?

**[19:03] K**

Welcome back.

**[19:04] K**

It was quiet.

**[19:06] Su**

What's that?

**[19:08] K**

I bought a bunch at an item  
shop before we left Sylvein.

**[19:11] K**

An NPC said it's only made there.

**[19:15] Su**

I've never heard of it.

**[19:28] K**

Okay, it's my turn now.

**[19:31] K**

Keep me safe.

**[19:32] Su**

Okay, bye.

**[19:50] Su**

You can move without your master here?

**[19:54] Y**

Of course!

**[19:56] Y**

I'm my own person.

**[19:58] Y**

And he's not my master.

He's my dad.

**[20:02] Su**

Come to think of it,

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

why do you call Kirito-kun your dad?

**[20:06] Su**

Did he, um, set it that way?

**[20:11] Y**

He saved me.

**[20:13] Y**

He said I was his daughter.

**[20:17] Y**

So he's my dad.

**[20:19] Su**

I-I see...

**[20:22] Su**

Do you like him?

**[20:26] Y**

Leafa-san, what does it mean to like someone?

**[20:30] Su**

What does it mean?

**[20:32] Su**

You want to be with them all the time.

**[20:34] Su**

You get excited when you're together.

**[20:38] Su**

Something like that?

**[20:42] Y**

What's wrong, Leafa-san?

**[20:44] Su**

Nothing!

**[20:45] K**

What's nothing?

**[20:48] K**

I'm back.

**[20:50] K**

Did something happen?

**[20:51] Y**

Welcome back, Daddy.

**[20:53] Y**

I was just talking with Leafa-san.

**[20:56] Y**

About what it means to—

**[20:57] Su**

It's nothing!

**[20:59] Su**

Th-That was fast.

**[21:01] Su**

Did you get to eat?

**[21:03] K**

Yeah, my family left me something.

**[21:06] Su**

I see...

**[21:07] Su**

Then let's get going.

**[21:11] K**

Yeah.

**[21:13] K**

Let's go, then.

**[21:17] Su**

Is something wrong?

**[21:18] K**

It felt

**[21:20] K**

like someone was watching us.

**[21:23] K**

Yui, are any players nearby?

**[21:25] Y**

No, I don't see anything.

**[21:28] Su**

Maybe there's a tracer on us.

**[21:31] K**

What's that?

**[21:32] Su**

It's a kind of magic.

**[21:34] Su**

It takes the form of a small animal or insect,  
and tells the caster the target's position.

**[21:39] K**

Can't you get rid of it?

**[21:40] Su**

If you can find it, you can.

**[21:43] ---**

But if the caster's magic skill is high,  
it can be farther from the target.

**[21:47] Su**

It'd be nearly impossible to  
find in a field like this.

**[21:50] K**

I see.

**[21:51] K**

Well, it might be my imagination.

**[21:54] K**

Let's hurry.

**[21:56] Su**

Yeah.

**SIGN** Next Time: The Lugu Corridor

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