

E22 - Alice

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SIGN Saturday, August 1, 2026

[00:02] Rinko

Thank you for taking time
out of your busy schedules.

[00:06] Rinko

Today, our organization
is announcing

[00:09] Rinko

the birth of the world's first
true artificial general intelligence.

[00:21] Rinko

And now, allow me to introduce...

[00:24] Rinko

Alice!

[00:52] Alice

People of the real world,
I'm pleased to meet you.

[00:56] Alice

My name is Alice. Alice Synthesis Thirty.

SIGN Alice

[02:37] Alice

My name is Alice. Alice Synthesis Thirty.

[02:42] Silica

That's our school uniform!

[02:44] Lisbeth

I heard she requested it.

[02:47] Lisbeth

"The same uniform as the order of knights
who came to the aid of the Human Guardian Army."

[02:52] Lisbeth

Although her first choice was
the same gold armor she wore over there.

[02:58] Leafa

Not even Rath could afford that, could they?

[03:03] Sinon

Still, I'm an amazed
by the re-creation they did.

[03:06] Sinon/Rinko

- You can barely tell the difference through the screen.
- *I'd like to start with a question and answer session.*

[03:12] Male Reporter A

Let's start with the basics.

[03:14] Male Reporter A

What makes Ms. Alice different
from existing programmable robots?

[03:21] Rinko

It's her brain... or what we're calling her brain.

[03:25] Rinko

The consciousness that exists
in the photonic brain stored within her skull

[03:29] Rinko

is not a program
that can be rewritten with binary code.

[03:32] Rinko

It's essentially no different
from our human brains.

[03:36] Rinko

That's what makes her categorically different
from existing robots.

[03:42] Male Reporter A

Then we'd like you to demonstrate that in a way
that would make it clear to us and our viewers.

[03:47] Rinko

You have her Turing test results
in your handouts.

[03:52] Male Reporter A

No, that's not what I mean.

[03:53] Male Reporter A

If you could open up her skull, and show us
what you call the photonic brain inside...

[03:59] Alice

Yes.

[04:01] Alice

I don't mind.

[04:02] Alice

But first, would prove
that you yourself are not a robot?

[04:08] Male Reporter A

What? I'm a human.
How I could prove that—

[04:12] Alice

It's simple. Please open up your skull

and show us your brain.

[04:18] Leafa

Wh-Whoa, Alice is upset.

SIGN World's First True Artificial General Intelligence ALICE Announced

[04:24] Female Reporter

Uh, this question is for Dr. Kojiro.

[04:27] Female Reporter

Some labor unions are already raising concerns about the industrial use

[04:32] Female Reporter

of advanced artificial intelligence causing a further rise in unemployment.

[04:37] Rinko

Those concerns are unfounded.

[04:39] Rinko

Our organization has no intention of deploying true AI into the unskilled labor force.

[04:46] Female Reporter

However, the financial world has high hopes that they can be used as industrial robots.

[04:52] Female Reporter

Do you have any comments?

[04:53] Rinko

True AIs, what this organization calls "artificial Fluctlights,"

[04:59] Rinko

cannot be mass-produced in a short time.

[05:03] Rinko

Like us, they're born as infants and raised by their families from childhood to adulthood,

[05:09] Rinko

and they mature while developing their own unique personalities.

[05:13] Rinko

In our opinion, to load such an intelligence into industrial robots

[05:16] Rinko

and force them into labor shouldn't be allowed to happen.

[05:21] Female Reporter A

In other words, Doctor, are you saying that you acknowledge this AI's human rights?

[05:27] Rinko

At this moment, I'm sure that many of you would feel uncomfortable

[05:31] Rinko

if asked to acknowledge artificial Fluctlights as humans
and to grant them human rights.

[05:37] Rinko

But in another century,
or perhaps two centuries,

[05:41] Rinko

we'll be living in the same society as them
as a matter of course,

[05:44] Rinko

interacting with them without discrimination,
even marrying and starting families with them.

[05:51] Rinko

That's what I firmly believe.

[05:53] Rinko

And if that's the case, shouldn't we shy away
from treating them as objects and abusing them?

[05:59] Female Reporter A

But, Doctor!

[06:00] Female Reporter A

Their existence is too different from ours!

[06:05] Female Reporter A

How can we possibly acknowledge man-made machines
as being the same as humankind?

[06:12] Alice

I acknowledge and accept the fact
of you real-worlders as our creators.

[06:19] Alice

I am grateful to you for creating us.

[06:22] Alice

But as another person
born in my world once said,

[06:27] Alice

"What if the real world
is also a world created by others?"

[06:31] Alice

What if there were
even more creators outside it?"

[06:36] Alice

If, one day, your own creators
appeared before you

[06:40] Alice

and ordered you into slavery,
what would you do?

[06:44] Alice

Would you grovel on the ground,
pledge your loyalty, and beg for mercy?

[06:52] Alice

I have already had many interactions with real-worlders.

[06:57] Alice

I am all alone in a strange world, but they've encouraged and supported me.

[07:03] Alice

They've taught me many things, and taken me to many places.

[07:08] Alice

I am very fond of them.

[07:11] Alice

And that's not all.

[07:13] Alice

I even love one of these real-worlders.

[07:17] Alice

Whenever I think of this person, whom I'm unable to see now...

[07:21] Alice

Even this steel chest of mine feels like it's about to burst.

[07:31] Alice

I have a right hand that I will extend to the people of the real world.

[07:37] Alice

But I will not fall to my knees or grind my forehead in the dirt.

[07:42] Alice

That's because I am a human.

[07:48] Newscaster

The organization known as the Oceanic Resource Exploration & Research Institution

[07:51] Newscaster

is widely reported to have been involved in the raid and occupation incident

[07:55] Newscaster

on the self-propelled mega-float, the Ocean Turtle, correct?

[07:59] Commentator

Yes. According to one theory, the goal of that raid

[08:02] Commentator

might have been the seizure of this artificial intelligence.

[08:06] Newscaster

Another problem is that a JSDF officer perished.

SIGN JSDF Officer Killed Casualty of the Raid Incident Mr. Seijirou Kikuoka The Ocean Turtle

Attack... Why Did It Happen?

[08:13] Higa

I never thought that you'd end up being the lone casualty, Mr. Kiku.

[08:21] Kikuoka

You're right, who knew?

[08:25] Kikuoka

But this was for the best, Higa.

[08:28] Kikuoka

Seriously, they would've pinned the blame on me, so I could've actually been eliminated.

[08:34] Kikuoka

And because of the pressure from that fatality, our opposition in Japan was driven into a corner.

[08:43] Kikuoka

Well, even I was shocked to learn it was the vice minister of defense leading them.

[08:49] Higa

Seems like the vice minister was getting a hefty payoff from those American weapon manufacturers.

[08:54] Higa

But are you sure you're okay with going public about the artificial Fluctlights?

[09:00] Higa

I mean, that's going to derail Rath's ultimate goal, the autonomous weapons loading project.

[09:07] Kikuoka

It's fine. As long as the Americans know we can do it.

[09:13] Kikuoka

Now their weapon manufacturers can't force us to go public under the pretext of joint development.

[09:19] Kikuoka

After all, we've already perfected the artificial Fluctlight.

[09:25] Kikuoka

After watching this press conference, they'll have to give up.

[09:29] Higa

That's true.

[09:30] Higa

And we have him to thank for all of that, right?

[09:43] Kikuoka

Hey, Higa. Look. Look at that!

[09:46] Higa

What is it, Mr. Kiku?

[09:47] Higa

The press conference should be almost over by now, right?

[09:56] Rinko

Our hope is that, through the virtual world, you can all interact with newly-born artificial Fluctlights,

[10:02] Rinko

and that this will change how you feel about them.

[10:05] Rinko

That's all we ask of everyone watching this broadcast.

[10:11] Questioner

Doctor!

[10:13] Questioner

Is there any danger of the AIs annihilating us humans to take over the planet?

[10:21] Rinko

Aside from one possibility, that would never happen.

[10:26] Rinko

That would only happen if we were to attempt to annihilate them first.

[10:31] Questioner

But think of all the books and movies till now—

[10:34] Alice

I must go.

[10:36] Alice

Please excuse me.

[10:46] Higa

M-Mr. Kiku!

[10:51] Alice

Kirito!

[10:52] Higa/Kikuoka

- Alice?

- Alice?

[11:05] Kirito

Hey, Alice. Long time no see.

[11:08] Alice

Kirito!

[11:12] Kirito

Alice.

[11:14] Kirito

Your little sister, Selka, chose to go into Deep Freeze to wait for your return.

[11:20] Kirito

On the eightieth floor of the Central Cathedral, she's still asleep even now on top of that hill.

[11:35] Kirito

All right, Mr. Higa.

[11:37] Kirito

Go ahead and delete the memories
of the last two hundred years

[11:40] Kirito

since the start
of the maximum-acceleration phase.

[11:44] Kirito

My and the queen's roles are done.

SIGN Tokorozawa National Defense Medical College Hospital

[12:05] Kirito

Come in.

[12:10] Asuna

Sorry! I got here a little late.

[12:12] Kirito

No, I just woke up a second ago.

[12:25] Asuna

I'd say you're still only ninety percent
of the normal Kirito.

[12:29] Asuna

Are you eating enough?

[12:30] Kirito

I'm eating. I'm eating a lot.

[12:33] Kirito

What do you expect?

I was bedridden for more than a month.

[12:37] Kirito

Anyway, I found out when I'll be discharged.

[12:40] Kirito

In three days.

[12:41] Asuna

Really?

[12:42] Asuna

Then we need to celebrate!

[12:46] Asuna

First in ALO, and then in real life, too.

[12:49] Kirito

Yeah, I guess.

[13:30] Asuna

It's all right.

[13:31] Asuna

Even if our memory are gone,
the memories will never vanish.

[13:36] Eugeo

That's right, Kirito. Don't cry.

[13:40] Eugeo

Stay cool.

[13:42] Kirito

Yeah. I'm sure...

[13:45] Kirito

we'll see them again someday.

[13:52] Kirito

Come in.

[13:53] Kikuoka

Hey, there! I hear they're finally releasing you, Kirito.

[13:57] Kikuoka

That calls for a huge celebration!

[13:59] Kirito

I'm not even going to ask how you already know what I just learned from Nurse Aki.

[14:06] Kikuoka

Well, I'm really glad for you.

[14:09] Kikuoka

Getting this far in your recovery after only a week of rehab?

[14:12] Kikuoka

Got to hand it to youth!

[14:14] Asuna

We were told that the public thinks you're dead.

[14:18] Asuna

What are you going to do now?

[14:20] Asuna

Dr. Rinko's been appointed the official head of Rath,

[14:24] Asuna

and you can't just stop by the Roppongi office, right?

[14:27] Kikuoka

Not to worry.

[14:29] Kikuoka

I still have a lot to do.

[14:32] Kikuoka

For now, I have to do all I can to keep the Ocean Turtle and the Underworld safe.

[14:36] Kirito

Right, that's it!

[14:38] Kirito

What's going to happen to the Underworld now?

[14:42] Kikuoka

Well, things aren't looking very good.

[14:45] Kikuoka

The government's trying to find someone to blame, and the negotiating is still ongoing.

[14:51] Kikuoka

But eventually, Rath will be dissolved,

[14:53] Kikuoka

and all related technology will be absorbed by the major conglomerates.

[14:58] Kikuoka

Alice will be seized,

[15:00] Kikuoka

and there'll be no saving the Lightcube Cluster on the Ocean Turtle from being reinitialized.

[15:03] Asuna

N-No way!

[15:05] Kirito

You already have a plan in mind to keep that from happening, right?

[15:10] Kikuoka

Not so much a plan as... a hope, I guess?

[15:15] Kikuoka

My hope is that while the government's tied up in negotiations,

[15:18] Kikuoka

public opinion acknowledging the human rights of artificial Fluctlights will form, that's it.

[15:23] Kikuoka

To achieve that, we need to have as many people from the real world as possible

[15:28] Kikuoka

interact with the artificial Fluctlights for as long as possible.

[15:32] Kikuoka

That's probably the very purpose of the Seed Nexus.

[15:36] Kirito

Yeah... I guess.

[15:38] Kikuoka

But for that to happen, we must have a high-bandwidth connection

[15:43] Kikuoka

so the Underworlders can connect to the Seed Nexus.

[15:47] Kikuoka

The satellite connection used by the Ocean Turtle has been cut off by the government.

[15:53] Kikuoka

I'm going to see what I can do

to restore that connection.

[15:56] Kikuoka

We took the initiative
with that press conference the other day.

[16:00] Kikuoka

That should've bought us some time.

[16:04] Kirito

Connection, huh?

[16:10] Kirito

Mr. Kikuoka...

[16:12] Kirito

please!

[16:14] Kirito

Protect the Underworld.

[16:20] Kikuoka

You don't need to ask me.

[16:23] Kikuoka

The Underworld is the dream
that I'd stake my life on, too.

[16:38] Higa

Of course it's not going to run.

[16:41] Higa

It's definitely going to collapse right away.

[16:44] Higa

*That's what happened
to both my and Mr. Kiku's copies.*

[16:49] Higa

*There's no way that a human soul
saved onto a Lightcube*

[16:52] Higa

*can stand to know
that it's a copy of itself.*

[16:57] Higa

Even... even if it's...

[17:08] Kirito

This is Mr. Higa, I presume?

[17:12] Higa

Th-That's right.

[17:14] Kirito

So you didn't delete me.

[17:16] Kirito

Or to be precise, you've copied me?

[17:20] Higa

I couldn't... I couldn't delete you!

[17:24] Higa

You're the first Fluctlight to survive
the passage of two hundred years!

[17:29] Higa

No, you're the longest-living person
in human history!

[17:34] Higa

I could never delete you.

[17:36] Higa

Isn't that right, Kirito?

[17:42] Kirito

*I had a feeling
that something like this might happen.*

[17:46] Kirito

*Mr. Higa, was my Fluctlight
the only one you copied?*

[17:50] Higa

Y-Yeah.

[17:52] Higa

During the memory-deleting operation,

[17:53] Higa

yours was the only one I managed to copy
behind Lt. Colonel Kikuoka's and Dr. Kojiro's backs.

[18:01] Kirito

I see.

[18:06] Kirito

Her Majesty... Asuna and I once discussed this.

[18:10] Kirito

What we do if something like this happened.

[18:14] Kirito

This is what Asuna told me.

[18:16] Kirito

*If she were the only one who got copied,
she would have herself deleted right away.*

[18:21] Kirito

If both of us were copied,

[18:23] Kirito

*then we should use what little time we had left
to unite the real world and the Underworld.*

[18:29] Higa

Then, if you were the only one?

[18:32] Higa

What would you do then?

[18:34] Kirito

In that case, I would fight only for the Underworld.

[18:38] Kirito

Because I am the protector of that world.

[18:44] Higa

F-Fight?

[18:46] Kirito

The situation the Underworld is currently in is extremely unstable.

[18:50] Kirito

Isn't that right?

[18:51] Higa

Yeah... that's true.

[18:54] Kirito

Compared to the real world, that world is tragically powerless.

[18:58] Kirito

Energy, hardware, maintenance, and networking...

[19:04] Kirito

We have to depend on the people of the real world to keep the infrastructure operating.

[19:08] Kirito

That doesn't bode well for its long-term safety.

[19:12] Higa

But there's no way around that, though.

[19:15] Higa

The Underworld's physical presence, the Lightcube Cluster, can't be moved off the Ocean Turtle.

[19:21] Higa

Not to mention, the ship's under government control now.

[19:24] Higa

On a whim, the government could decide to cut off all power tomorrow,

[19:27] Higa

and the entire cluster could be reinitialized.

[19:31] Kirito

How long will the nuclear reactor's fuel last?

[19:34] Higa

Um...

[19:35] Higa

Well, since it's a pressurized water reactor for a nuclear sub,

[19:39] Higa

if it's only maintaining the cluster, then four or five years, maybe?

[19:42] Kirito

Then basically, there'd be no need to refuel during that time.

[19:47] Kirito

In other words, as long as we can prevent any outside interference,

[19:50] Kirito

the Underworld will continue to exist.

[19:52] Kirito

Am I right?

[19:53] Higa

B-But if you're trying to prevent,

[19:55] Higa

there isn't a weapons system
on board the Ocean Turtle.

[19:59] Kirito

I said that I would fight.

[20:01] Higa

F-Fight?

[20:03] Higa

But the satellite connection has been cut off,

[20:06] Higa

and there's no way
to contact the Ocean Turtle.

[20:09] Kirito

There is a connection. There must be.

[20:12] Higa

Wh-Where?

[20:13] Kirito

Heathcliff.

[20:15] Kirito

No, Akihiko Kayaba. We need his help.

[20:19] Kirito

Mr. Higa...

[20:21] Kirito

you'll help, won't you?

[20:23] Higa

K-Kayaba-senpai?

[20:26] Higa

He's alive?

[20:29] Higa

*A copy of Akihiko Kayaba
and a copy of Kazuto Kirigaya.*

[20:34] Higa

*If these two copies... no, these two people
were to meet, what would happen?*

[20:40] Higa

Could it be that I've opened Pandora's box?

[20:47] Higa

I want to see.

[20:49] Higa

I want to know what will happen.

[20:52] Higa

All right.

[20:54] Higa

I have some old contacts I can reach out to.

[20:56] Higa

I'll send out some encrypted messages.

[21:22] Eugeo

If you're going to take a nap, do it after you're done with your sacred arts homework.

[21:28] Eugeo

Are you planning to copy mine again?

[21:33] Eugeo

Hey! I tweaked that skill you taught me the other day a little.

[21:37] Eugeo

Let's head to the training hall later.

[21:39] Eugeo

Hey, you snuck out again to buy some snacks, didn't you?

[21:43] Eugeo

Of course you got some for me, too, right?

[21:46] Eugeo

Come on, wake up, Kirito.

[21:50] Eugeo

Kirito.

[22:02] Kirito

I should've had them delete all of my memories!

[22:06] Kirito

All the memories of the two and a half years I spent with Eugeo!

[22:26] Suguha

Hey, tell me about it, Big Brother.

[22:29] Suguha

What happened in that world. The good.

[22:32] Suguha

The bad. Everything.

[22:38] Kirito

When I first met him, deep in the forest,

[22:45] Kirito

Eugeo was just a woodcutter.

[22:48] Kirito

It might be hard to believe,

[22:51] Kirito

but for three hundred years, and over multiple generations,

[22:55] Kirito

they were trying to cut down a single cedar tree.

[23:15] Alice

Kirito.

[23:18] Alice

I...

[23:22] Alice

...feel I'm might wither away.

SIGN Incoming Call

Rinko Kojiro

[23:36] Kirito

Next time: New World.

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