

# E9 - Nobleman's Responsibilities

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

Elite Disciple Dorms  
Training Hall

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

May 17, 380 in the time  
of the realm of humanity

**[00:06]** ---

In this world, the important thing  
is what you infuse your sword with.

**[00:11]** ---

It's the weight of your sword  
that will sway the battle.

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

Its weight?

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

That's right.

**[00:16]** ---

For Volo Levantein,

**[00:18]** ---

it was the pride and pressure of being born  
into a family of swordsmanship instructors.

**[00:23]** ---

For Golgorosso-senpai, it's the confidence  
generated by his body of steel.

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

And for Liena-senpai,  
it was her thoroughly polished skills.

**[00:33]** ---

That is what makes their swords so powerful.

**[00:37]** ---

I wonder what I should infuse in my sword?

**[00:40]** ---

That's something you need to find on your own.

**[00:44]** ---

*I'm neither a noble nor a swordsman,*

**[00:47]** ---

*so I have nothing except those years  
swinging an axe in the Rulid forest*

**[00:52]** ---

*and the Aincrad style that Kirito taught me.*

**[00:58]** ---

*No, actually, there's one more thing.*

**[02:39]** ---

Nobleman's Responsibilities

**[02:48]** ---

Oh? Disciple Eugeo merely hacks at logs,  
and forgoes any form drills, it seems.

**[02:54]** ---

Rumor has it that Sir Eugeo  
used to be a woodcutter in the sticks.

**[02:59]** ---

Perhaps the extent of his knowledge  
is how to attack a log.

**[03:04]** ---

Goodness gracious.

**[03:05]** ---

If that's the case, then as someone  
who trains in the same dorm,

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

perhaps I should have at least  
instructed him on the proper form?

**[03:15]** ---

Ah, how generous of you, Lord Raios.  
You're truly an exemplary knight!

**[03:22]** ---

What do you say, Sir Eugeo?

**[03:24]** ---

Why don't you accept the generosity  
of Lord Raios and have him train you?

**[03:28]** ---

It's a once in a lifetime opportunity.

**[03:33]** ---

I appreciate it, but...

**[03:35]** ---

There's a separate reason  
for the upperclassmen's power.

**[03:39]** ---

Is that true of First-Seat Raios  
and Second-Seat Humbert, as well?

**[03:43]** ---

What those two share is the enormous conceit  
that they've fostered since childhood.

**[03:48]** ---

Conceit?

**[03:50]** ---

Raios and Humbert probably nurtured that conceit by comparing themselves to others.

**[03:56]** ---

That's why they look down on guys like us, who aren't from the capital, let alone nobles.

**[04:03]** ---

*This might be a great opportunity to see this conceit that strengthens them.*

**[04:09]** ---

Then if I may accept your generosity, would you honor me with a lesson?

**[04:14]** ---

Well, well. Are you serious?

**[04:16]** ---

Yes.

**[04:17]** ---

If you could advise me directly with your sword onto my body, Second-Seat Lord Humbert Zizek.

**[04:28]** ---

What's that?

**[04:29]** ---

Are you saying that you want to be hit by Lord Humbert's sword, Disciple Eugeo?

**[04:36]** ---

Of course, I would prefer that you stopped short,

**[04:38]** ---

but I am the one who is asking to be trained.

**[04:42]** ---

It would be forward of me to make such a request.

**[04:46]** ---

Very well.

**[04:47]** ---

I'll be glad to unveil my sword skills to you, Disciple Eugeo.

**[04:53]** ---

Now then, let's go!

**[04:55]** ---

The essence of the High-Norkian style...

**[04:57]** ---

You will absorb this lesson with your body.

**[05:00]** ---

*That's the Norkian style secret move, Lightning Slash...*

**[05:05]** ---

Here I come!

**[05:20]** ---

*If it's a test of strength,  
then I have the upper hand!*

**[05:27]** ---

Don't get carried away, you commoner!

**[05:31]** ---

*What's this power?*

**[05:32]** ---

*Is this the strength  
that his conceit generates?*

**[05:35]** ---

You are so unsightly,  
oozing with the lowliness of your style.

**[05:41]** ---

I'll crush your right shoulder  
so you can't swing that sword for a while.

**[05:45]** ---

*I have to switch techniques!*

**[05:59]** ---

That's the match.

**[06:02]** ---

I'm declaring this match a draw.

**[06:04]** ---

Lord Raios! How could I merely play to a draw  
with a swordsman from the sticks?

**[06:12]** ---

Humbert.

**[06:23]** ---

Your outlandish moves  
were greatly entertaining, Disciple Eugeo.

**[06:28]** ---

After graduating, perhaps you should consider  
seeking a Calling with the Empire Circus?

**[06:33]** ---

I am humbled by your thoughtfulness,  
Disciple Raios Antinous.

**[06:40]** ---

Next time, allow me to show you  
the power of a noble.

**[06:44]** ---

I would be honored  
to take that lesson right now.

**[06:48]** ---

Battle isn't only about swinging a sword,  
commoner.

**[06:59]** ---

Elite Disciple  
Dorms

**[06:59]** ---

May 20, 380 in the time  
of the realm of humanity

**[07:01]** ---

It's been three days.

**[07:04]** ---

It feels weird that nothing's happened  
after they hinted of mischief.

**[07:12]** ---

There's the Taboo Index  
as well as the school regulations.

**[07:17]** ---

I guess it's not easy to harass someone here.

**[07:19]** ---

But on the other hand,

**[07:22]** ---

that means as long as you don't violate the Taboos,  
you can do anything you want.

**[07:27]** ---

Don't violate the Taboos? But what could...

**[07:31]** ---

Well, they could be trying to get into our heads  
by just hinting that they might do something.

**[07:38]** ---

So let's keep our heads straight. Let's stay cool.

**[07:42]** ---

What's that? S-Stay...

**[07:45]** ---

Um, that's the first innermost secret  
of the Aincrad style.

**[07:49]** ---

I guess it's like, "Let's stay calm."

**[07:53]** ---

Though you also use it as a farewell.

**[07:55]** ---

Kind of like, "Okay, see you!"

**[07:59]** ---

All right. I'll keep that in mind.

**[08:01]** ---

S-Stay cool, stay cool.

**[08:06]** ---

All right, I guess I'll be going to bed now.

**[08:11]** ---

So about tomorrow, Eugeo.

**[08:13]** ---

I've got an errand to run, so...

**[08:15]** ---

Oh no you don't, Kirito!

**[08:18]** ---

We're spending tomorrow's Day of Rest  
with Tiese and Ronie,

**[08:20]** ---

and heading into the campus forest  
for a get-together, remember?

**[08:26]** ---

They're coming here at nine o'clock,  
so make sure you're ready by then!

**[08:30]** ---

Okay.

**[08:31]** ---

Well, wake me up at eight, will you?  
Good night, Eugeo.

**[08:35]** ---

Eight's too late. Seven-thirty!

**[08:38]** ---

Good night, Kirito!

**[08:40]** ---

Stay cool.

**[08:42]** ---

I did say it was a farewell greeting, but you don't  
use it every night before you go to bed.

**[08:49]** ---

You should save it for a real goodbye, okay?

**[08:55]** ---

It's pretty complicated, huh?

**[09:06]** ---

*If what Kirito said is true,*

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

*then are Raios and Humbert  
obeying the laws of the Axiom Church reluctantly?*

**[09:14]** ---

*But that's impossible.*

**[09:17]** ---

*It's forbidden by law  
to even doubt the Taboo Index.*

**[09:22]** ---

*If they did allow something like that,  
then that day...*

**[09:26]** ---

*When all I could do was watch Alice  
get taken away...*

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

*What have I been protecting,  
and for what purpose?*

**[09:41]** ---

Alice.

**[09:48]** ---

Eugeo-senpai, are you listening?

**[09:51]** ---

Senpai?

**[09:54]** ---

Sorry, I'm listening. Um, what were you saying?

**[09:57]** ---

So you weren't listening!

**[09:59]** ---

I-It's just that the forest  
is so beautiful, so I couldn't help it.

**[10:03]** ---

There are rare animals here, too.

**[10:06]** ---

Rare?

**[10:07]** ---

Look, like over there.

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

That's just a golden fox. There are tons of them  
living in trees growing in the city.

**[10:18]** ---

Come to think of it, Tiese,  
you're from the capital, right?

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

Yes.

**[10:22]** ---

Is your home nearby?

**[10:24]** ---

My parents' home is in District Eight,

**[10:25]** ---

so it's a little far from the academy,  
which is in District Five.

**[10:28]** ---

I see.

**[10:32]** ---

So, Tiese, you come from a noble family, right?

**[10:37]** ---

I thought all the nobles' mansions  
were in District Three and Four.

**[10:41]** ---

Only nobles that are fourth rank and above  
can live in the mansion district.

**[10:45]** ---

My father is a lower-level, sixth rank nobleman who has no judicial authority.

**[10:50]** ---

But didn't all nobles have judicial authority?

**[10:53]** ---

Absolutely not!

**[10:55]** ---

Only nobles up to fourth rank are allowed judicial authority,

**[10:58]** ---

and nobles ranked fifth and lower are actually the subjects of their judgement.

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

I-Is that right?

**[11:07]** ---

Th-That's why...

**[11:09]** ---

someone like me, the heir to a sixth rank noble, is an aristocrat in name only.

**[11:16]** ---

Our lifestyle is really no different than most people.

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

When faced with a High-Norkian style strike from above the head,

**[11:27]** ---

there are basically two things you need to prepare for.

**[11:31]** ---

It's either from directly above, or diagonally above to the right.

**[11:35]** ---

If it's any other trajectory, they'll change their footing for sure,

**[11:39]** ---

so after seeing that, you'll still have time to block it.

**[11:44]** ---

That was good!

**[11:49]** ---

Um, Eugeo-senpai, Kirito-senpai?

**[11:53]** ---

I actually have a favor to ask of you.

**[11:56]** ---

It's about Frenica, my roommate at my dorm.

**[12:01]** ---

The thing is, the Elite Disciple whom she serves under is an extremely strict person.

**[12:07]** ---

Especially in the last few days,

**[12:08]** ---

he's been giving her orders that are thought to be quite inappropriate.

**[12:12]** ---

Even if he's an Elite Disciple,

**[12:15]** ---

he shouldn't be able to order her to do a task beyond the scope of the school regulations.

**[12:20]** ---

However, even if it's not a violation, um,

**[12:24]** ---

these orders are a bit intolerable for a female student.

**[12:28]** ---

I understand the situation.

**[12:30]** ---

To change Frenica's mentor, she'll need the approval of her current mentor himself.

**[12:36]** ---

What's the name of this troubling Disciple?

**[12:40]** ---

Um, Humbert Zizek.

The Second-Seat Elite Disciple.

**[12:45]** ---

Him again?

**[12:48]** ---

A few days ago, I dueled Disciple Humbert in the Training Hall, and it ended in a draw.

**[12:55]** ---

But he seemed disgruntled by the result.

**[12:58]** ---

He may be taking it out on Frenica because of that.

**[13:03]** ---

Um, in other words...

**[13:05]** ---

Do you mean it's retaliation?

**[13:08]** ---

I don't understand.

**[13:11]** ---

My father always said to me.

**[13:13]** ---

We live in a bigger house than general civilians,

and enjoy some privileges,

**[13:20]** ---

and we can never take that for granted.

**[13:22]** ---

Nobles must do all they can to ensure that those not so privileged can live in peace and joy.

**[13:29]** ---

And if war ever breaks out,  
we must be the first to take up our swords.

**[13:35]** ---

And yet, because of what Elite Disciple Humbert ordered her to do,

**[13:39]** ---

Frenica ended up crying in bed all last night.

**[13:43]** ---

How can such a thing be allowed?

**[13:49]** ---

Thank you.

**[13:53]** ---

That attitude your father taught you, Tiese,

**[13:56]** ---

in Eng... no, in sacred terms,  
it's called "noble obligation."

**[14:02]** ---

Nobles, that is, those with power  
must use it for the sake of the powerless.

**[14:10]** ---

Let's see, you could also call it pride.

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

And that pride  
is more important than any law or regulation.

**[14:19]** ---

After all, there are things that you shouldn't do,  
even if it's not forbidden by law.

**[14:24]** ---

And on the other hand,

**[14:25]** ---

there might be things you should do,  
even if they are forbidden by law.

**[14:31]** ---

Um, I think I understand  
a little of what you're saying, Kirito-senpai.

**[14:37]** ---

There are important morals  
that aren't described in the Taboo Index.

**[14:42]** ---

In other words,

your own personal justice, right?

**[14:47]** ---

Rather than simply obeying laws,  
you need to consider why those laws exist.

**[14:51]** ---

Compare it with justice, and reflect.

**[14:53]** ---

Perhaps it's more important to critically think  
about it, rather than simply obey.

**[14:57]** ---

Yeah, that's exactly right, Ronie.

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

A human being's greatest power is to think.

**[15:03]** ---

It's more powerful  
than any great sword or secret move.

**[15:07]** ---

Even if it doesn't violate  
the Taboo Index or school rules,

**[15:10]** ---

what Humbert did is unquestionably wrong.

**[15:13]** ---

So somebody has to stop him.

**[15:16]** ---

In this case, that somebody would be...

**[15:20]** ---

Yeah. That would be our job.

**[15:25]** ---

And so...

**[15:27]** ---

my friend, Disciple Eugeo, to what do I owe

**[15:31]** ---

the pleasure of this visit  
in the evening of our Day of Rest?

**[15:35]** ---

I happened to hear of a disturbing rumor  
concerning Disciple Zizek there.

**[15:41]** ---

With all due respect, I've come to warn you,

**[15:44]** ---

before my fellow student's good reputation  
is maligned.

**[15:46]** ---

What did you say?

**[15:48]** ---

Well, well.

**[15:50]** ---

This is quite surprising, and also unexpected.

**[15:54]** ---

To think that you'd be concerned  
for my friend's good name.

**[15:58]** ---

Unfortunately,  
I have no idea what rumor you speak of.

**[16:08]** ---

From whom did you hear this rumor from?

**[16:13]** ---

I heard it from Lord Zizek's page,  
as well as from the Novice Trainees

**[16:17]** ---

who share her dorm room.

**[16:19]** ---

That Sir Humbert has been issuing  
deviant orders to Frenica, his page Trainee.

**[16:25]** ---

Deviant?  
That's a curious choice of word, Sir Eugeo.

**[16:31]** ---

Why don't you be more clear,  
and call it a violation of the school regulations?

**[16:38]** ---

However...

**[16:39]** ---

However, even if it's not forbidden  
by the academy,

**[16:42]** ---

there are things that an Elite Disciple should  
never do as a Novice Trainee's mentor, right?

**[16:47]** ---

Oh? Well, Sir Eugeo, just what is it  
that you claim Humbert did to Frenica?

**[16:55]** ---

W-Well...

**[16:57]** ---

What do you say, Humbert?

**[16:59]** ---

Do you have any idea  
what Sir Eugeo is talking about?

**[17:05]** ---

Not a clue! I have no idea  
of what he's going on about!

**[17:11]** ---

But I do admit that I ordered her  
to perform several trivial tasks.

**[17:15]** ---

Ever since that duel against Sir Eugeo,  
which shamefully ended in a draw,

**[17:19]** ---

I've become a new man,  
and immersed myself in training.

**[17:23]** ---

And because I've avoided drills  
that would give me unsightly muscles,

**[17:28]** ---

my entire body aches unbearably.

**[17:30]** ---

I had no choice but to ask Frenica to give me  
a massage every night at bath time, that's all.

**[17:37]** ---

Also lest her uniform get soiled, I was kind enough  
to allow Frenica to strip to her underwear!

**[17:43]** ---

It's unfathomable to me of which part  
you consider to be deviant behavior!

**[17:53]** ---

Novice Trainee Frenica  
is in anguish day in and day out.

**[17:57]** ---

If I don't see any improvement, I will consider  
asking the instructors for an investigation.

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

- That's my intention.  
- What?

**[18:10]** ---

Do as you please,

**[18:13]** ---

Disciple Sir Eugeo!

**[18:19]** ---

Calm down, Eugeo.

**[18:21]** ---

I was sure that  
you would have exploded before me.

**[18:26]** ---

It would've been dangerous if you had a sword.

**[18:28]** ---

But I thought there might be something else  
behind this, so I kept an eye out.

**[18:34]** ---

Something else?

**[18:35]** ---

This might be a trap targeting you, Eugeo.

**[18:40]** ---

For example, if you'd taken their bait  
and said too much after confronting Humbert,

**[18:45]** ---

they might acknowledge that as impropriety,  
and punish you with maximum penalty.

**[18:55]** ---

If Humbert continues to abuse Frenica,

**[19:00]** ---

we should at least make preparations  
so we can have the instructors look into this.

**[19:06]** ---

Yeah, I agree.

**[19:08]** ---

Eugeo, if those guys say anything to you again  
when I'm not around,

**[19:12]** ---

try not to get so passionate like you did today.

**[19:15]** ---

I know already. Stay cool, right?

**[19:19]** ---

That's right.

**[19:20]** ---

Stay cool.

**[19:24]** ---

Elite Disciple Sir Eugeo,

**[19:28]** ---

allow me to report.

**[19:29]** ---

I've finished today's cleaning.

**[19:32]** ---

All right. Good job.

**[19:34]** ---

Thanks, as always.

**[19:35]** ---

Oh, no, it's my job as your page!

**[19:38]** ---

Um, sorry, but do you mind if we have a talk?

**[19:44]** ---

I don't want you to stand, so have a seat.

**[19:54]** ---

All right, please excuse me.

**[20:08]** ---

It's about Frenica...

**[20:10]** ---

I confronted Humbert about that yesterday.

**[20:13]** ---

Is that so?

**[20:14]** ---

I don't think he wants to turn this  
into a worse situation

**[20:17]** ---

so I don't think  
he'll give any more deviant orders.

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

Thank goodness.

**[20:22]** ---

Thank you very much, Elite Disciple Sir Eugeo.

**[20:25]** ---

You're done with your work,  
so you can call me Eugeo.

**[20:29]** ---

Also, there's something  
that I need to apologize for.

**[20:34]** ---

I said this yesterday, too,

**[20:36]** ---

but it's been made clear now that this incident  
was caused by my duel with Humbert.

**[20:44]** ---

I'd like to give her a proper apology as well.

**[20:48]** ---

So could you set up a meeting for me?

**[20:53]** ---

Is that right?

**[20:56]** ---

No, this isn't your fault, Eugeo-senpai.

**[21:00]** ---

But I'll be sure to convey your words to Frenica.

**[21:05]** ---

Um, c-could I...

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

sit a little closer to you?

**[21:13]** ---

Sure.

**[21:22]** ---

Not long after I graduate Swordcraft Academy,

**[21:26]** ---

I will take over as head of the Schtrinen family,

**[21:30]** ---

and receive a husband  
from the same rank, or one rank higher.

**[21:39]** ---

I'm afraid.

**[21:42]** ---

If the man who becomes my husband  
turns out to be like Sir Zizek...

**[21:47]** ---

Someone without pride, who doesn't  
give a second thought about being cruel...

**[21:51]** ---

When I think about what to do...

**[21:54]** ---

I get really scared.

**[21:56]** ---

I...

**[22:07]** ---

Tiese?

**[22:08]** ---

Eugeo-senpai, I, um...

I have a favor to ask of you.

**[22:14]** ---

Eugeo-senpai, you'll definitely,  
definitely represent our academy,

**[22:18]** ---

win the Swordsmanship Tournament,

**[22:20]** ---

and compete  
in the Four Empires Unification Tournament.

**[22:23]** ---

W-Well, of course,  
that's what I'm aiming for, too.

**[22:28]** ---

Um, and then, uh...

**[22:33]** ---

I-If you rank high  
in the Unification Tournament,

**[22:36]** ---

I hear you can get appointed to an aristocrat

**[22:39]** ---

like Ms. Azurica, the dorm supervisor  
for the Novice Trainees.

**[22:43]** ---

Um, if you become one,

**[22:46]** ---

Will you...

**[22:48]** ---

Will you be my...

**[22:53]** ---

*I'm striving to compete  
in the Unification Tournament*

**[22:56]** ---

*to become an Integrity Knight,  
and be reunited with Alice.*

**[23:00]** ---

*Just for that reason.*

**[23:05]** ---

Okay. Got it.

**[23:08]** ---

After the tournament,  
I'll be sure to go see you.

**[23:13]** ---

Me, too. I'll become stronger, too!

**[23:17]** ---

So strong that I can say what's right,  
and say what must be said.

**[23:23]** ---

Just like you, Eugeo-senpai.

**[23:36]** ---

Next time: Taboo Index.

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