

E7 - The Jade of Succession

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[00:13] Auction

Thirty million!

[00:14] Seigi

Richard...

SIGN Episode 7

The Jade of Succession

SIGN One Week Earlier

[02:02] Ito

I'll be counting on you.

[02:04] Richard

Certainly.

[02:07] Richard

Seigi, this is Ito-sama of
the Ito Shobin Company.

[02:10] Ito

Hello. It's nice to meet you.

[02:13] Seigi

Likewise.

[02:14] Ito

Well, then...

[02:20] Seigi

The Ito Shobin Company?

[02:23] Richard

Seigi, are you free next Friday?

[02:27] Richard

I'd like you to accompany me to an auction.

[02:29] Seigi

An auction?

[02:33] Seigi

You mean an auction like you see
on TV and in the movies?

[02:38] Seigi

Is something incredible going up for sale?

[02:41] Richard

Yes. The collection of Azuma Soichi,

who passed away last month.

[02:46] Richard

Also known as the Azuma Collection.

[02:51] Richard

Azuma was a managing director
with profound cultural knowledge.

[02:57] Richard

His massive collection made him

[02:59] Richard

one of Japan's most prominent
collectors of gemstones and antiques.

[03:04] Richard

But since his passing, there's been a bit

[03:06] Richard

of commotion surrounding
the inheritance of his fortune.

[03:10] Seigi

I can imagine.

[03:12] Richard

His eldest daughter, the new
director of the Azuma family,

[03:15] Richard

came up with a clever solution:

[03:17] Richard

entrust her father's collection
to an auction company

[03:22] Richard

and liquidate all of it.

[03:25] Seigi

That's rather drastic.

[03:27] Richard

I believe it's wiser than causing
unnecessary discord within the family.

[03:32] Seigi

Yeah, I guess so.

[03:35] Seigi

Oh, right! Tea?

[03:41] Richard

This is the collection that's to be auctioned.

[03:48] Seigi

This is all the Azuma Collection?

[03:51] Richard

Yes.

[03:52] Richard

The most eye-catching piece
is the Buddha's hand citron.

[03:54] Seigi

Buddha's hand...?

[03:56] Richard

Take a look at lot number 865.

[04:01] Seigi

So this is read "Buddha's hand citron"?

[04:05] Richard

It's a 200-year-old jade piece

[04:07] Richard

from the reign of the

Qing Dynasty's Qianlong Emperor.

[04:11] Seigi

It's 200 years old?

[04:13] Richard

I was asked to win this piece at the auction.

[04:16] Seigi

You mean by that guy just now?

[04:18] Richard

Yes.

[04:20] Ricahrd

The Ito Shobin Company is a
well-established antique shop in Ginza.

[04:24] Richard

The Japanese word for jade
comes from the kingfisher.

[04:27] Richard

Because kingfishers are
sometimes called "shobin,"

[04:29] Richard

the characters for jade can
also be read as "shobin."

[04:33] Richard

The founder of the Shobin Company
was so enamored by jade

[04:37] Richard

that he named his store after it.

[04:40] Seigi

And this piece ended up
in Azuma-san's possession.

[04:43] Richard

Upon Azuma's passing, he was intent
on buying it back if at all possible.

[04:48] Seigi

Then why not buy it himself?
Why is he hiring you?

[04:54] Richard

The Shobin Company has been
banned from the auction hall.

[04:59] Seigi

Banned? Why?

[05:01] Richard

Even after the collection was entrusted to the auction company,

[05:05] Richard

Ito repeatedly offered to buy the Buddha's hand citron for a high price,

[05:08] Richard

which compromised his reputation.

[05:11] Richard

So he then turned to an acquaintance of his, my mentor,

[05:15] Richard

who passed the request along to me.

[05:18] Seigi

A mentor? Richard, you have a mentor?

[05:22] Richard

Is it that strange?

[05:23] Seigi

Er, well, no.

[05:25] Richard

Seigi, if you're available, will you accompany me to the preview, as well?

[05:29] Seigi

The preview?

[05:31] Richard

It's an opportunity to see the objects for auction in person.

[05:36] Seigi

Even the Buddha's hand citron?

[05:39] Richard

Of course.

[05:47] Richard

The Buddha's hand citron is a fruit thought to bring good luck in China.

[05:52] Richard

Its shape resembles the Buddha's hand.

[05:54] Seigi

It really does.

You said it's 200 years old, right?

[05:57] Seigi

It's been handled with care by so many different people since long before I was born...

[06:04] Seigi

But it looks more like an emerald than jade.

[06:08] Seigi

Jade isn't normally this translucent, right?

[06:10] Richard

Good for you.

[06:12] Richard

You're developing an eye for gemstones.

[06:14] Richard

Highly translucent, blue-green
jade is called jadeite.

[06:19] Richard

It's highly valued.

[06:21] Seigi

So this one's top class.

[06:25] Seigi

Th-Thirty million?!

[06:27] Richard

Quiet.

[06:28] Seigi

Er, sorry.

[06:29] Richard

This is the estimated sale price.

[06:32] Richard

The starting price should be much lower.

[06:34] Seigi

Wow...

[06:47] Seigi

Richard...

[06:48] Seigi

Huh?

[06:50] Seigi

Richard?

[06:53] Shin

What a coincidence.

[06:55] Shin

I didn't expect to see you here,
Lord Claremont.

[06:59] Richard

You have the wrong man.

[07:01] Shin

Ah, come to think of it, I heard you go by
Richard Ranashinha de Vulpian now.

[07:08] Shin

Are you looking to buy the jade hand, too?

[07:10] Shin

Were you hired by a Frenchman?
Or perhaps an Englishman?

[07:16] Seigi

If you have business with the owner,

I'll hear what you have to say.

[07:20] Shin

"The owner"? You work for him?

[07:25] Seigi

That's right.

[07:36] Shin

I forgot to introduce myself.

[07:38] Shin

My name is Shin Ganapati Bertuccio.

[07:42] Seigi

I'm Nakata—

[07:43] Richard

You needn't give him your name.

[07:45] Shin

Obstruction of business is
your specialty, Lord Claremont.

[07:50] Shin

How truly amusing.

[07:52] Shin

Did you give up on finding happiness
with your fellow countryman

[07:55] Shin

and choose a foreigner instead?

[07:59] Richard

You don't know me.

[08:01] Shin

You there... Stay with him too long,
and you'll be met with disaster.

[08:06] Shin

Be careful.

[08:08] Shin

Well, Lord Claremont,
give my regards to Ranashinha.

[08:13] Seigi

Ranashinha?

[08:19] Seigi

You're... not okay, are you?

[08:24] Richard

I regret that you had to see that.

[08:26] Richard

I apologize.

[08:28] Richard

He was a former competitor of mine.

[08:32] Richard

He would frequently claim
that I stole his customers.

[08:38] Shin

*As long as you're selling it,
your customers would buy plain stone.*

[08:42] Shin

*They're too enchanted by your face
to look at what's in their hands.*

[08:46] Richard

It was a troublesome time.

[08:48] Seigi

Where you used to work before...
Was it your mentor's store?

[08:52] Richard

Yes.

[08:53] Richard

My mentor operates the
main store in Sri Lanka.

[08:56] Richard

There's a second store in Hong Kong,

[08:57] Richard

and the third is Étranger here in Tokyo.

[09:01] Seigi

So who's this "Ranashinha" he just mentioned?

[09:05] Richard

Saul Ranashinha, my mentor.

[09:11] Seigi

Is he a relative or something?

[09:13] Richard

No. Due to certain circumstances,
I'm borrowing his name.

[09:17] Richard

We have no blood relation.

[09:21] Richard

Any other questions?

[09:26] Seigi

No, it's fine. You've already told me plenty.

[09:30] Seigi

Thank you.

[09:33] Richard

I appreciate your consideration.

[09:36] Richard

You're a very kind person.

[09:39] Richard

You're like a man drawing
his face in just before a kiss.

[09:42] Seigi

What? A kiss?

[09:47] Seigi

I just meant that it's fine if there are

things you don't want to tell me.

[09:52] Richard

Are you a philanthropist or a coward?

[09:56] Richard

It's difficult to decipher.

[09:58] Seigi

It doesn't matter either way!

[10:01] Seigi

I just hate guys who try to force themselves

[10:04] Seigi

on people who don't want to be kissed!

[10:11] Seigi

Oh, uh...

[10:14] Seigi

In other words, I don't want to
force you to do anything.

[10:21] Seigi

I like you, and I owe you.

[10:27] Seigi

What? Don't look at me like that.

[10:30] Richard

Sorry... I just realized
how you really feel about me.

[10:36] Seigi

Did I really have to say it
out loud for you to get it?

[10:40] Richard

I'm grateful.

[10:42] Richard

You're right. I should tell you myself.

[10:48] Seigi

Richard...

[10:51] Richard

Don't get the wrong idea. I'm not desperate.

[10:56] Richard

It just feels like it's the right time.

[11:00] Richard

But can it wait until after the auction?

[11:04] Seigi

Of course.

[11:07] Richard

If that man is here,

[11:10] Richard

then there must be a buyer
in Europe who wants this jade.

[11:14] Seigi

Thirty million...

[11:16] Richard

I'm not sure that will be enough.

[11:18] Seigi

What?

[11:20] Richard

It will be a fierce battle.

[11:38] Ito

I'm so sorry for asking you to do this.

[11:42] Seigi

Will 30 million be enough?

[11:46] Ito

I'm not sure.

[11:47] Ito

After hearing from Richard,
we discussed the matter

[11:50] Ito

and raised the upper limit, but...

[12:01] Richard

What is it?

[12:03] Seigi

It's true that seeing something
so beautiful can strike you dumb...

[12:08] Richard

You've become quite the smooth talker.

[12:12] Seigi

Richard, should I really be dressed like this?

[12:15] Richard

You're my bag boy, aren't you?

[12:18] Richard

It's fine.

[12:20] Ito

Will *that* be all right?

[12:22] Richard

Don't worry. Let's go.

[12:29] Seigi

"That"?

[12:35] Seigi

There's a ton of people.

[12:37] Richard

The biggest draw is about to go up.

[12:41] Shin

You're dressed fabulously, Lord Claremont.

[12:45] Shin

That face...

[12:46] Shin

No matter where you go,

[12:48] Shin

no one who's ever associated
with you could forget it.

[12:54] Shin

Your face is your business card.

[12:57] Shin

Poor you.

[12:59] Richard

I'm thanking the heavens.

[13:01] Richard

Even someone like you who's so bad
with names still remembers my face.

[13:08] Richard

I am Richard Ranashinha de Vulpian.

[13:14] Richard

By the way, who is your client?
What's your budget?

[13:19] Shin

I haven't fallen so low
as to discuss that with you.

[13:22] Shin

No matter who my client is,
you don't stand a chance.

[13:27] Shin

Valuable objects end up in worthy hands.

[13:32] Shin

I will get what my client wants.

[13:44] Seigi

It's royal milk tea flavored.

[13:46] Seigi

For a chance of pace.

[13:52] Richard

Thank you.

[13:55] Auction

The afternoon auction will now resume.

[13:59] Auction

Lot number 800.

[14:01] Auction

Bidding for this ruby necklace
will begin at three million.

[14:07] Auction

I have 3.1 million, 3.2 million, 3.3 million.

[14:13] Auction

Four million, 4.1 million.

[14:13] Richard

Raising the paddle with your
number on it constitutes a bid.

[14:17] Auction

Five million.

[14:19] Richard

And when there's only one bidder left...

[14:21] Auction

Sold for five million.

[14:24] Seigi

I see.

[14:28] Seigi

What? You want me to bid?

[14:31] Richard

Aren't you my bag boy?

[14:36] Seigi

Yeah...

[14:39] Auction

Lot number 865.

[14:42] Auction

The Buddha's hand citron.

[14:47] Auction

A jade piece from the reign of the
Qing Dynasty's Qianlong Emperor.

[14:53] Auction

Bidding will start at ten million.

[14:58] Auction

Eleven million.

[15:00] Auction

Twelve million.

[15:02] Auction

Thirteen million.

[15:04] Auction

Twenty million!

[15:06] Auction

Twenty-one million. Twenty-two million.

[15:10] Auction

Thirty million!

[15:11] Seigi

Thirty million...

[15:13] Auction

Thirty-one million. Thirty-two million.

[15:16] Seigi

Is it okay to keep ours up?

[15:17] Auction

Thirty-three million. Thirty-four million.

[15:19] Richard

Of course.

[15:22] Auction

Thirty-five million.

Thirty-six million. Thirty-seven million.

[15:29] Shin

This is all you can afford.

[15:35] Auction

Thirty-eight million.

[15:37] Auction

Thirty-nine million. Forty million!

[15:42] Auction

Forty-one million.

[15:45] Shin

How much more can you pay?

[15:47] Auction

Forty-one and a half million.

[15:50] Auction

Forty-two million. Forty-two and a half.

[15:54] Richard

Look sharp.

[15:55] Seigi

R-Right!

[15:56] Auction

Forty-three million. Forty-three and a half.

[16:01] Auction

Forty-four million. Forty-four and a half.

Forty-five million.

[16:12] Auction

Sold for 45 million.

[16:17] Richard

You can put it down now.

[16:19] Seigi

Huh? O-Oh...

[16:23] Richard

Well done.

[16:30] Shin

Your budget was supposed to
be 30 million and change!

[16:34] Richard

So you were spying to determine my budget.

[16:39] Shin

You're a cursed man!

You'll bring misfortune again!

[16:44] Seigi

It's none of your concern
whether he does or not!

[16:48] Seigi

Stop interfering with his business!

[16:52] Shin

You're blinded by someone you don't
even realize is poison, you fool!

[17:04] Ito

Richard-san!

[17:07] Azuma

Ito-san, Richard-san! Thank you so much!

[17:16] Azuma

I'm Azuma Hidenori.

[17:18] Seigi

Azuma? You're a member of the Azuma family?

[17:22] Seigi

Wait!

[17:23] Seigi

You three know each other?!

[17:27] Seigi

So Azuma-san was the other investor.

[17:32] Ito

Yes. Because Hidenori-san
agreed to invest ten million,

[17:36] Ito

we managed to scrape together 40 million.

[17:39] Seigi

But the final price was 45 million, right?

[17:42] Seigi

Who's covering the remaining five million?

[17:45] Seigi

Is it you, Richard?

[17:48] Richard

I'm pleased that I was able to help.

[17:51] Seigi

Help? Where are you going to get five million?

[17:55] Azuma

Thank you so much.

[17:58] Azuma

If it hadn't been for your
investment, Richard-san,

[18:01] Azuma

I would've cursed my aunt for putting
the Buddha's hand citron up for auction.

[18:06] Seigi

Cursed her? You'd hate her that much?

[18:08] Azuma

Yes.

[18:09] Azuma

To me, the Buddha's hand citron is ripe
with my memories of my grandfather.

[18:17] Azuma

Ever since I was a child,
I had trouble getting along

[18:20] Azuma

with the members of our main family.

[18:22] Azuma

But my grandfather always let me
handle that softly glowing jade.

[18:29] Seigi

The Buddha's hand citron...

[18:31] Azuma

Yes.

[18:33] Azuma

That's why I wanted to keep the
Buddha's hand citron no matter what,

[18:38] Azuma

even if the rest of his fortune was lost.

[18:41] Ito

If it made it overseas, it would have
been difficult to track down again.

[18:46] Ito

Just like when the Qing Dynasty weakened,

[18:48] Ito

other powerful nations purchased
its jade at low prices,

[18:51] Ito

scattering it around the world.

[18:54] Ito

I wanted to avoid that.

[18:57] Richard

And if I may add, as someone
who works in the world of gems,

[19:02] Richard

I didn't want to doom that jade
to wander any longer.

[19:07] Richard

Our motives were different,
but we had the same goal.

[19:16] Ito

This protrusion at the base represents a bat.

[19:20] Ito

Since ancient times, bats have been
considered good luck in China.

[19:25] Seigi

A good luck charm...

[19:27] Seigi

A jade charm full of Azuma-san's
memories of his grandfather...

[19:32] Seigi

Oh, thank you.

[19:36] Azuma

I bet Grandpa's smiling right now.

[19:39] Azuma

He probably wasn't expecting his grandson to buy back one of his own possessions.

[19:55] Seigi

Anyway, I'm surprised you had five million.

[19:59] Ricahrd

Naturally, I expect them to reimburse me.

[20:03] Ricahrd

But if it means preserving the Azuma family, then it was a bargain.

[20:07] Seigi

I-I don't think anyone would call that cheap.

[20:09] Richard

If money alone is enough to preserve it, then it is cheap.

[20:12] Richard

That means it can be destroyed over something so trivial.

[20:19] Richard

Let's continue our discussion from the other day.

[20:24] Richard

It's a boring story that takes place in the suburbs of London.

[20:30] Seigi

Your inheritance?

[20:31] Richard

Yes. They're still arguing over the tremendous inheritance

[20:35] Richard

my grandfather left behind.

[20:38] Richard

The family had a falling-out.

[20:40] Richard

People were betrayed by those they considered friends.

[20:43] Richard

Romantic unions were broken up.

[20:46] Richard

A lot happened.

[20:48] Seigi

Should you be running a jewelry store in Japan?

[20:53] Richard

What should I be doing instead?

[20:56] Seigi

I see...

[20:58] Seigi

In any case, thanks for telling me.

[21:01] Richard

You're welcome.

[21:03] Richard

This is probably the reason
that man said what he did.

[21:07] Seigi

The reason?

[21:09] Richard

Why he warned you that you'd
be met with disaster if you

[21:14] Richard

stayed with me too long.

[21:16] Seigi

That was a warning?

[21:18] Seigi

He was serious?

That's just what happened to you.

[21:22] Seigi

Give me a break.

[21:33] Seigi

Well, I'm headed this way.

See you next week.

[21:36] Richard

Yes, see you next week.

[21:42] Richard

Seigi.

[21:44] Richard

Don't blame me if you regret it.

[21:47] Seigi

Regret what?

[21:50] Richard

Saying that you like me.

[21:55] Richard

Farewell.

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