

# E6 - Robot

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Translator:

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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.)

**SIGN** This story is a work of "near-future" fiction.

Any resemblance to existing persons or organizations is entirely coincidental.

**[00:01] Risa**

*Humans and Humanoids go through  
different experiences in their lives,*

**[00:06] Risa**

*learning new techniques while building  
up their common sense and social skills.*

**SIGN** Historical Culture Studies Laboratory

**SIGN** Arita Cross-Disciplinary Study

**[00:12] Risa**

*So, how does an industrial  
AI learn those things?*

**[00:17] Risa**

*There's a variety of approaches, and  
one of those is living among people.*

**[00:26] Sudo**

This is pretty bad...

**[00:28] Sudo**

What did you have him doing  
to get these kinds of burns?

**[00:33] Sudo**

Working in a forge or something?

**[00:35] Arita**

You nailed it.

**[00:37] Arita**

He was working as an apprentice  
to a metal worker.

**[00:42] Arita**

But his training is over, so I was  
hoping you could clean him up.

**[00:47] Sudo**

Robot repairs aren't exactly my specialty.

**[00:51] Arita**

You could always refuse.

**[00:53] Sudo**

I guess I could...

**[00:55] Sudo**

But I'm curious to find out what  
your robot learned, professor.

**[01:00] Learner**

It was a very productive apprenticeship.

**[01:03] Arita**

You're right about that.

**[01:07] Arita**

It really was.

**SIGN** Robot

**SIGN** Robot

**[02:42] Assisstant**

We visited Kiriyama  
Metalworks six months ago.

**[02:48] Arita**

Deep in the sparsely inhabited mountains,

**SIGN** Kiriyama Metalworks

**[02:50] Arita**

you could hear the sounds  
of a hammer on metal.

**[03:06] (Flashback) Arita**

Excuse me!

**[03:08] (Flashback) Arita**

Hello there.

**[03:10] (Flashback) Arita**

You're Kiriyama-san, right?

**[03:13] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

You buying something? A knife? A hatchet?

**[03:17] (Flashback) Arita**

Oh... a knife, in that case.

**[03:20] (Flashback) Arita**

And I was hoping to discuss  
something with you.

**[03:24] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Discuss something?

**[03:25] (Flashback) Arita**

Yes...

**[03:28] (Flashback) Arita**

Our laboratory is exploring the  
potential for preservation

**[03:31] (Flashback) Arita**

of traditional industrial practices  
through the use of AI.

**[03:35] (Flashback) Arita**

We were hoping to get your cooperation.

**[03:41] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

So you want me to teach  
this weird bot of yours?

**[03:44] (Flashback) Arita**

Right. What do you think?

**[03:46] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Hell no.

**[03:48] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

You wanna do this, you oughta find  
a more proper teacher for him.

**[03:51] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

All I do is dirty, hard labor  
that nobody appreciates.

**[03:56] (Flashback) Assisstant**

Then why keep it up?

**[03:59] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Because it's all I know how to do!

**[04:02] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

They had me doing it since I was a kid.  
I'm basically an anachronism.

**[04:06] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Had a few young folks coming  
around asking to learn, but...

**[04:10] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Every last one of them  
ran off in tears.

**[04:14] (Flashback) Learner**

If I may, Kiriyama-san,

**[04:17] (Flashback) Learner**

you'll find I'm nothing  
like those young folks.

**[04:21] (Flashback) Learner**

When it comes to learning manual labor,

**[04:24] (Flashback) Learner**

I'm confident that I can outperform anyone.

**[04:32] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Well, just so we're clear,  
I'm not teaching you squat.

**[04:34] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

You can spend the week watching  
and stealing my methods.

**[04:38] (Flashback) Learner**

Understood.

**[04:39] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

And I'll wanna have a few more  
words with you folks, professor.

**[04:44] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

I wanna know exactly why you're sticking me with your bot.

**[04:50] (Flashback) Arita**

Right, of course.

**[04:54] Arita**

Kiryama-san's lifestyle was so structured, it was almost mechanical.

**[05:03] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

One, two, three, four!

**[05:05] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Two, two, three, four!

**SIGN** Kiriyama Metalworks

**[05:28] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

You're downright creepy.

**[05:29] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

The human-looking ones I saw in Tokyo a few years back were lot more natural.

**[05:34] (Flashback) Learner**

If you'd let me take your place, I'd automatically look more natural.

**[05:39] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Got a smart mouth, huh?

**[05:41] (Flashback) Arita**

I am so sorry!

**[05:43] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Nah, I like it!

**[05:47] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

When I was watching my old man work, I figured I could do a better job, too.

**[06:00] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

To be honest, my old man never had a knack for smithing.

**SIGN** Kiriyama Metalworks

**[06:05] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

But you got all kinds of folks with a hankering for "good, old-fashioned" stuff.

**[06:11] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Working for them gave him a big head.

**[06:19] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

But if you ask me,

**[06:21] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

mass-produced crap was usually better than what he turned out.

**[06:29] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Maybe there was a time when craftsmen could outdo machines,

**[06:34] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

but that's ancient history now.

**[06:36] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

I've improved a bunch  
since my old man retired.

**[06:40] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Produced finer scythes and hatchets than  
he ever did, and I've earned a rep for it.

**[06:46] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

That said, I don't see how  
it's a skill worth passing on.

**[06:50] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Ain't like there's anyone who needs 'em.

**[06:54] (Flashback) Arita**

Still, the present is built on the  
technological improvements of the past.

**[06:58] (Flashback) Arita**

Our desire is to preserve that  
process for the historical record.

**[07:04] (Flashback) Arita**

In the old days, it was  
done with art and writing...

**[07:06] (Flashback) Arita**

Modern times added  
video and sound recordings...

**[07:09] (Flashback) Arita**

All to record how people  
lived for posterity.

**[07:12] (Flashback) Arita**

We're using these robots to record directly

**[07:14] (Flashback) Arita**

the skills and experiences that  
craftsmen like you have developed.

**[07:21] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Does he have a name, by the way?

**[07:25] (Flashback) Learner**

My core AI is a Japanese  
program called "Fuji-san,"

**[07:29] (Flashback) Learner**

but as far as a personal designation...

**[07:32] (Flashback) Learner**

I'm usually called "Learner-kun."

**[07:37] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Professor, would it have killed  
you to give him a real name?

**[07:41] (Flashback) Arita**

W-Well...

**[07:45] Arita**

We entrusted the robot to Kiriyama-san,  
and made our way back.

**[07:58] (Flashback) Both**

One, two, three, four...

**SIGN** Kiriyama Metalworks

**[08:32] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

This steel's special-made.

**[08:34] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

For stuff that gets daily use, you  
wanna make 'em with Kigami No. 3.

**[08:37] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Forge welding is the lifeblood of a smith!

**[08:40] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Keep an eye on the color, now.

**[08:42] (Flashback) Learner**

I thought you said you  
weren't going to teach me.

**[08:46] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

I'm a curious guy.

**[08:49] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

So I'm wondering what kinda work a  
robot like you is gonna come up with.

**SIGN** Kiriyama Metalworks

**[09:00] Arita**

After a week...

**[09:03] (Flashback) Arita**

Hello there!

**[09:10] Arita**

Learner-kun took the fruits of  
his learning, and gave them form.

**[09:19] Arita**

His potential for mimicry is  
far beyond that of a human.

**[09:24] Arita**

The result was a very fine kitchen knife.

**[09:30] (Flashback) Learner**

What do you think?

**[09:44] (Flashback) Assistant**

Is he okay?

**[09:46] (Flashback) Assistant**

He seems kinda shocked, professor.

**[09:50] (Flashback) Arita**

I think you're right.

**[09:51] (Flashback) Assistant**

Maybe we should've had Learner-kun hold back?

**[09:55] (Flashback) Arita**

No. No point in that.

**[09:58] (Flashback) Arita**

He'll be just fine.

**[10:00] (Flashback) Arita**

Learner-kun and I have seen  
enough craftsmen to know that.

**[10:08] (Flashback) Arita**

The next day, Kiriyama-san was in the  
forge an hour earlier than usual.

**SIGN** Kiriyama Metalworks

**[10:23] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

That was quite a shock...

**[10:26] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

He took the same tools and material I've  
got, but made something even finer!

**[10:33] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Guess me and the old man  
had something in common!

**[10:35] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Shows I've still got a lot to learn.

**[10:40] Arita**

I wonder how best we  
could preserve for posterity...

**[10:45] Arita**

The way he seemed  
to glow from his sweat.

**[10:49] Arita**

The heat he seemed to radiate.

**[10:55] (Flashback) Kiriyama**

Professor, would you mind having  
Learner-kun stick around a bit longer?

**[11:01] (Flashback) Arita**

Sure, that's no problem.

**[11:04] Arita**

In the following month, Learner-kun  
picked up all manner of techniques,

**[11:09] Arita**

and completed his apprenticeship.

**[11:12] Sudo**

Sounds like they both learned  
a lot from each other.

**[11:16] Arita**

Yeah. You might be right about that.

**[11:31] Sasakura**

*They say spring is the  
season of new beginnings,*

**[11:34] Sasakura**

*and of meeting new people.*

**SIGN** Recommended

Reading

**[11:38] Sasakura**

*He showed up in my class at the beginning of the new semester.*

**[11:52] Sasakura**

I was trapped!

**[11:53] Classmate A**

See? The trick is knowing the exact timing for when to recover.

**[11:57] Classmate A**

This is what happens when you don't keep on top of the tech, Sasayan.

**[12:00] Sasakura**

Rematch, please...

**[12:03] Classmate A**

Oh, shoot!

**[12:05] Classmate C**

A robot?

**SIGN** April 6th (Friday)

**[12:17] Perm**

It's nice to meet you, everyone.

**[12:19] Perm**

My name is Perm.

**[12:22] Perm**

I'm a care robot, and am going to be learning things with you all.

**[12:26] Teacher**

Perm-kun is supposed to be a real sweetheart.

**[12:29] Teacher**

Someone from his company will be around today,

**[12:32] Teacher**

so if you have any questions, go ahead and ask.

**[12:36] Classmate A**

I have one!

**[12:38] Classmate A**

Do robots get into fights?

**[12:41] Yuki**

Everything Perm-kun does is overseen by older AI from our company, via the net.

**[12:46] Yuki**

So he won't get into fights with any of you.

**[12:51] Yuki**

But I will say...

**[12:53] Yuki**

That since I'm basically his dad,  
I hope you'll all get along with him.

**[12:58] Sasakura**

M-Me! I wanna be Perm-kun's friend!

**[13:01] Classmate D**

Me, too!

**[13:03] Other students**

Me, too! Me, too!

**[13:05] Perm**

I'm Perm-kun. Nice to meet you.

**[13:10] Classmate A**

He added "kun" to his own name!

**[13:17] Yuki**

Thanks for the referral, Sudo.

**[13:19] Yuki**

I get the feeling this is  
going to work out nicely.

**[13:22] Sudo**

It's a bit odd, though.

**[13:23] Sudo**

I've never heard of developing an AI like this.

**[13:28] Yuki**

*Putting aside the efficacy question,*

**[13:30] Yuki**

*I truly believe life experience  
is beneficial to caregiver AI.*

**[13:36] Sudo**

Beneficial enough to justify the cost?

**[13:38] Yuki**

I had one of the others  
who helped me set this up

**[13:41] Yuki**

make an excuse about that...

**[13:43] Yuki**

But I'm sure his time here will give  
his AI some wonderful experiences.

**[13:52] Teacher**

Okay, first question.

**[13:54] Teacher**

Matsuko-san buys 130 yen of chocolate and

**[13:57] Teacher**

220 yen of marshmallows with a 1,000-yen bill.

**[14:01] Teacher**

How much change does she get?

**[14:03] Teacher**

Do you know the answer, Perm-kun?

**[14:05] Perm**

Yes! 650 yen.

**[14:08] Teacher**

Correct! Now, why don't you  
fill in the problem, up here?

**[14:12] Perm**

Right.

**[14:15] Sasakura**

*You see robots everywhere.*

**[14:19] Waiter Robot**

Here you are.

**[14:21] Waiter Robot**

A bottle of Hinomaru, '64 vintage.

**[14:24] Waiter Robot**

I believe it to be the best  
match for tonight's cuisine.

**[14:27] Woman**

Hey, could you put some calming music on?

**[14:31] AI Assistant**

How about this?

**[14:36] Woman**

Thanks.

**[14:38] Sasakura**

*They're everywhere, but...*

**[14:40] Sasakura**

*I'd never seen one like Perm-kun before.*

**[14:46] Teacher**

Well, can you do it?

**SIGN** Huh?

**[14:59] Perm**

I don't know how.

**[15:01] Teacher**

O-Okay... you can head back now, Perm-kun.

**[15:06] Teacher**

That'll do it for math today.

**[15:09] Teacher**

For fourth period, we'll have free study.

**[15:11] Class**

Okay!

**[15:14] Sasakura**

Here. You write it like this.

**[15:17] Perm**

Oh, I see!

**[15:19] Perm**

Thank you, Sasayan-san!

**[15:21] Sasakura**

Just Sasayan is fine.

**[15:23] Sasakura**

I was wondering, do you want to play with us after school?

**[15:27] Class**

88, 89, 90, 91, 92,

**[15:33] Sasakura**

You jump funny, Perm-kun!

**[15:33] Class**

93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98...

**[15:36] Perm**

Jumping rope is fun.

**[15:40] Perm**

I enjoyed myself today.

**[15:42] Sasakura**

Me, too! See you tomorrow.

**[15:45] Everyone**

Bye-bye!

**[15:47] Perm**

Goodbye!

**[15:49] Sasakura**

*We saw so many surprising things after Perm-kun showed up.*

**[15:53] Sasakura**

*He couldn't seem to do simple things, but then could do really amazing ones.*

**[15:59] Sasakura**

Is he gonna be okay with that knife, teacher?

**[16:02] Teacher**

Just watch.

**[16:03] Sasakura**

But...

**[16:11] Perm**

All done.

**[16:13] Perm**

Paper cut art of Sasayan-san.

**[16:15] Sasakura**

That was awesome, Perm-kun!

**[16:17] Classmate A**

Do me next!

**[16:18] Classmate D**

Me, too!

**[16:19] Classmate C**

Then me!

**[16:20] Perm**

Sure. I can make them for everyone.

**[16:30] Sasakura**

And that's how you get the most out of drinking milk!

**[16:33] Sasakura**

Want some?

**[16:35] Perm**

Sure.

**[16:36] Classmate D**

Wait, is it safe for you to drink milk?

**[16:39] Perm**

I won't know until I try.

**[16:59] Teacher**

Correct you are! Nicely done.

**[17:05] Classmate C**

When we're done cleaning,  
let's play video games!

**[17:08] Sasakura**

I'm in!

**[17:09] Perm**

I'd like to play too. Let's hurry!

**[17:15] Sasakura**

Look out, Perm-kun!

**[17:19] Classmate C**

Whoa, you all right?

**[17:21] Sasakura**

Everything okay, Perm-kun?

**[17:23] Perm**

I'm fine. Something is flashing, though.

**[17:28] Classmate C**

When I get hit on the head,  
I get dizzy and see stars, too.

**[17:31] Sasakura**

I guess it's the same for robots, huh?

**[17:34] Perm**

It is.

**[17:39] Sasakura**

*After a while, Perm-kun became a lot better  
at schoolwork than the rest of us.*

**[17:45] Teacher**

Anyone know this?

**[17:50] Teacher**

Okay, how about you, Perm-kun?

**[17:52] Perm**

Right.

**[17:53] Perm**

If we assign a value of  $x$  to the length  
of the side of the smallest square,

**[17:57] Perm**

you get  $x+(x+3)+([x+3]-2)=13$ .

**[18:02] Perm**

Which means  $x=3$ , and the figure's total area is 61 square cm.

**[18:11] Teacher**

That... is the right answer,

**[18:13] Teacher**

but I haven't taught everyone that method for getting it yet.

**[18:17] Teacher**

Another way you can do this...

**[18:19] Classmate A**

My dad said that there's more than one of Perm-kun.

**[18:23] Classmate C**

What do you mean?

**[18:25] Classmate A**

There's a bunch of him at different schools, at different grade levels,

**[18:29] Classmate A**

and they're all connected through the net.

**[18:31] Classmate A**

That's how he learns so much, so fast.

**[18:35] Sasakura**

That's kinda... amazing.

**[18:39] Sasakura**

*Perm-kun was so playful at first, but he slowly started to change.*

**[18:45] Sasakura**

What's wrong?

**[18:46] Sasakura**

Are you not going to make anything today, Perm-kun?

**[18:50] Perm**

I'm scared of the cutter.

**[18:54] Perm**

Getting cut... hurts.

**[18:58] Sasakura**

Perm-kun?

**[19:00] Classmate A**

Is he sad?

**[19:01] Classmate A**

Did he get in trouble or something?

**[19:04] Sasakura**

He wouldn't do anything bad.

**[19:07] Classmate C**

Maybe someone's picking on him?

**[19:09] Classmate A**

You know no one in our class would do that!

**[19:13] Sasakura**

Maybe it's happening at another school.

**[19:19] Sasakura**

Remember how he's going to different schools, in different grades?

**[19:23] Classmate A**

Oh, yeah.

**[19:30] Sasakura**

Perm-kun, wait!

**[19:33] Sasakura**

Let's play outside!

**[19:35] Classmate A**

You wanna jump rope?

**[19:36] Classmate C**

As much as you want!

**[19:42] Classmates**

2,512; 2,513; 2,514; 2,515;  
2,516; 2,517; 2,518; 2,519...

**[19:50] Sasakura**

*I think Perm-kun might be able to do this forever...*

**[19:54] Sasakura**

*But... look how happy he is.*

**[19:58] Sasakura**

*I gotta keep going!*

**[20:02] Perm**

Oh, shoot! I messed up.

**[20:05] Perm**

Thank you all so much. That was a lot of fun.

**[20:10] Perm**

I'm sure you must be tired, so please rest up. I'll handle the rope next.

**[20:16] Sasakura**

*Perm-kun had messed up on purpose, for our sakes...*

**[20:20] Sasakura**

*We could all kinda tell.*

**[20:24] Sasakura**

*When we met after summer vacation was over, he was like a different person.*

**[20:32] Sasakura**

Perm-kun.

**[20:34] Perm**

Sasayan-san.

**[20:36] Sasakura**

Are you not gonna play with everyone today?

**[20:39] Perm**

I really like the view from up here.

**[20:43] Perm**

I just want to take it in today.

**[20:46] Sasakura**

Teacher told us.

**[20:48] Sasakura**

You're gonna be leaving soon, huh?

**[20:53] Perm**

Apparently.

**[20:55] Perm**

I'm sad to say goodbye, but we'll still be together for another month.

**[21:01] Sasakura**

Perm-kun, you've changed in these six months.

**[21:05] Perm**

Do you remember, Sasayan-san?

**[21:08] Perm**

Right before summer vacation started,

**[21:11] Perm**

how everyone helped me jump rope for a really long time?

**[21:15] Perm**

Out of everything I've experienced in these six months, that was the most wonderful.

**[21:22] Perm**

Thank you for treating me like a real friend.

**[21:28] Sasakura**

We'll always be friends, right?

**[21:31] Perm**

Of course... Of course we will!

**[21:36] Sasakura**

*They say fall is the season of parting...*

**SIGN** Good luck with your job!

**SIGN** Take care, Perm-kun!

**[21:43] Sasakura**

*Perm-kun graduated after only six months.*

**[21:48] Sasakura**

*And as quick as it went by, we learned a lot from him, too.*

**SIGN** Perm-kun

**[21:58] Yuki**

Congratulations, Perm.

**[22:00] Yuki**

You worked really hard.

**[22:02] Perm**

Thank you.

**[22:04] Yuki**

You're all grown up.

**[22:06] Yuki**

Everyone at the company is thrilled.

**[22:09] Perm**

Thank you.

**[22:11] Yuki**

We'll be counting on you going forward, too.

**[22:13] Yuki**

There are a lot of people out  
there who need your care.

**[22:18] Perm**

Right!

***SIGN*** Human

***SIGN*** Human

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