

E9 - The Strongest Sage Duels

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Translator:

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Timer:

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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.)

[00:02] Iris

Are we searching for
where the demons' leader is hiding now?

[00:06] Matt

Yeah.

[00:07] Lurie

But how do we do it?

[00:09] Matt

The enemy thought he could cut off
our ability to find him

[00:12] Matt

by destroying the relay in Elenia.

[00:14] Matt

But the transmission spell still carried a trace
of the caster's magic signature.

[00:19] Matt

I've recorded that signature here.

[00:22] Alma

In a magistone?
It can do that, too?

[00:24] Matt

Yeah.

[00:25] Matt

And there's a device that enables the user
to trace an enemy through a magistone.

[00:29] Matt

If we go to it, we can use it
to pinpoint his location.

[00:32] Lurie

I've never heard of such a device.

[00:35] Matt

Of course you haven't.
It's from thousands of years ago.

[00:39] Alma

Thousands of years ago?!

[00:41] Lurie

But you know how to use it?

[00:45] Alma

How?

[00:46] Matt

Because—

[00:48] Matt

Well, I just kind of stumbled into it.

[00:51] Matt

That was close.

[00:52] Matt

I almost told them I created it!

[00:55] Alma

So, where is this device?

[00:58] Matt

Here.

[00:59] Alma

The Radinia Alliance?

[01:01] Matt

Getting the king's help
will make crossing the border smoother.

[01:06] Matt

If we ask the headmaster,
I'm sure he'll probably mediate for us.

[01:09] Lurie

The king and the headmaster
are quite friendly, aren't they?

[01:14] Matt

For now, let's get back to the capital.

[01:19] Iris

Hey! I'm still eating!

SIGN Episode 9

SIGN The Strongest Sage Duels.

[02:59] Alma

We're back!

[03:01] Lurie

It's been only a few days,
but it feels as if we've been gone forever!

[03:04] Alma

I hope everyone in Second Academy
is all right.

[03:08] Iris

The school's gone...

[03:10] Alma & Iris & Lurie & Matt

Huh?!

[03:14] Lurie

This *is* where Second Academy was, isn't it?

[03:16] Alma

Of course it is!

[03:18] Matt

What in the world happened?

[03:21] Matt

"New Second Academy building,
under construction"?

[03:26] Matt

Headmaster!

[03:27] Eduard

Hey there, Matthias!

[03:30] Eduard

You're all back, eh?

[03:32] Iris

We beat up the demon
in the dungeon city!

[03:35] Eduard

Indeed you did. Excellent work!

[03:38] Matt

But what's going on here?

[03:40] Eduard

As you can see, we're rebuilding the academy
from the ground up.

[03:44] Eduard

We're making the walls thicker
and erecting a barrier to withstand demon attack.

[03:49] Matt

More of a fortress, then?

[03:51] Lurie

Where will they hold the classes?

[03:53] Eduard

First Academy.

[03:55] Eduard

Their students are helping
with the construction as well.

[03:59] Eduard

And it'll be good casting practice for them.

[04:03] Eduard

Good idea, don't you agree?

[04:07] Matt

There was another demon pulling the strings
in the dungeon city.

[04:12] Matt

In order to find him,
I need to cross the border.

[04:15] Eduard

I see. The border with whom?

[04:19] Matt

The Radinia Alliance.

[04:21] Eduard

That's a group of allied nations.

[04:24] Eduard

Unfortunately, not all the nations are friendly.

[04:27] Matt

Would the king be willing to help?

[04:30] Eduard

Yes.

[04:31] Eduard

I'll make a recommendation
to seek their Guild's cooperation.

[04:35] Matt

Thank you.

[04:37] Eduard

Given that there are demons involved,
I'm sure he'll make it his top priority.

[04:40] Matt

While we wait for leave to travel,
we'll help with the construction here.

[04:44] Eduard

You will?

[04:46] Matt

You don't mind, do you?

[04:47] Alma & Lurie

Of course not!

[04:48] Eduard

We'd appreciate the help.

[04:50] Iris

I wanna help, too!

[04:56] Matt

The pillars will be tougher
if you use a mithril alloy instead of iron.

[05:00] Eduard

I see!

[05:02] Lurie

Enchanting the building materials
will make things more efficient!

[05:08] Iris

Here I go!

[05:11] Matt

Hey, Iris!
Don't bite off more than you can chew!

[05:14] Iris

I won't!

[05:23] Matt

Yeah, thought so.

[05:27] Eduard

The king's granted permission.

[05:30] Eduard

This contains your border-crossing permit

[05:31] Eduard

and the king's voucher
for the Radinia Alliance.

[05:34] Matt

I appreciate this.

[05:35] Eduard

We can't let the demons
have free rein any longer.

[05:40] Eduard

Get to it.

[05:41] Matt

We will.

[05:43] Lurie

This is my first time
leaving the Eis Kingdom!

[05:47] Alma

What do you think
the Radinia Alliance is like?

[05:49] Iris

I hope they've got tasty food!

[05:53] Guard

Take care!

[05:55] Lurie

Having His Majesty's recommendation
let us pass right through!

[05:59] Matt

The Radinia Alliance is just ahead.

[06:02] Alma

We're almost at our destination!

[06:05] Matt

But now the problems start.

[06:08] Lurie

A restricted region?

[06:10] Matt

Entry to the region containing the device
is heavily restricted.

[06:15] Matt

The magic signature there
is likely so strong

[06:16] Matt

that they're afraid
a magical calamity will occur.

[06:20] Lurie

Does that mean we can't get closer?

[06:23] Alma

What do we do?

[06:24] Matt

According to the information
the headmaster gave us,

[06:27] Matt

the only way is to increase
our adventurer rank.

[06:30] Matt

We need to be Rank A
to enter a restricted region.

[06:34] Alma

How do we increase our rank?

[06:37] Matt

We head for the Radinia Adventurers' Guild

[06:39] Matt

and complete the ranking test.

[06:41] Alma

What? But we have a voucher from the king!

[06:44] Matt

Yes, but we also have
to follow the Guild's rules.

[06:48] Lurie

But won't passing their tests
take a whole lot of time?

[06:53] Matt

If they force our hand,
we'll have other ways to proceed.

[06:55] Alma

Like what?

[06:57] Matt

A darkness dragon appearing
above a restricted region

[07:00] Matt

would cause quite a panic, wouldn't it?

[07:02] Matt

We'd use that as a distraction
to reach our destination.

[07:05] Iris

Hey, I forgot I could turn into a dragon.

[07:08] Alma

You have it backwards!

[07:09] Alma

You're a dragon
who's turned into a human!

[07:19] Alma

Wow, it's so different from the capital!

[07:23] Matt

Let's hit up the Adventurers' Guild first.

[07:27] Branch Chief

Well, well!

[07:29] Branch Chief

Welcome!

[07:30] Branch Chief

So you're the Matthias party
I've heard so much about.

[07:34] Matt

You've heard of us?

[07:35] Branch Chief

The king of the Eis Kingdom
asked our Guild for help.

[07:40] Branch Chief

He's urging international cooperation,

[07:43] Branch Chief

now that the demons
are growing more active.

[07:45] Alma

That's our king!

[07:47] Branch Chief

I'm happy to help you
as much as I can.

[07:50] Matt

Much appreciated.

[07:52] Branch Chief

And you say you want
to enter the restricted zone?

[07:55] Matt

Yes.

[07:56] Matt

So I'd like to reach Rank A
as soon as I can.

[08:00] Matt

Can I take the ascension test?

[08:02] Branch Chief

Of course you can.

[08:03] Branch Chief

I'd normally require you to start at Rank G,
the lowest level there is.

[08:08] Branch Chief

But I'll let you skip right
to the Rank A test.

[08:12] Branch Chief

I'm afraid that's the best
we can offer you.

[08:15] Matt

Understood.

[08:16] Lurie

But will we be all right,
going right to the Rank A test?

[08:22] Matt

What exactly does the test consist of?

[08:24] Branch Chief

A mock battle with a prearranged proctor.

[08:28] Branch Chief

He should be arriving any time now.

[08:34] Giluas

Did I keep you waitin'?

[08:36] Branch Chief

Giluas! What are you doing here?!

[08:39] Giluas

I'm the proctor for their ascension test.

[08:43] Branch Chief

Y-You can't...!

[08:45] Matt

He has a powerful magical signature.

[08:47] Matt

*High enough that I might suspect
he was a demon,*

[08:51] Matt

but he's definitely human...

[08:54] Matt

Who is this man?

[08:55] Branch Chief

You haven't heard?

[08:57] Matt

Have any of you?

[08:58] Alma & Iris & Lurie

No...

[09:00] Matt

Is he famous in your lands?

[09:02] Branch Chief

He's a Rank S adventurer!

[09:05] Matt

"Rank S"?

[09:06] Branch Chief

Fighting is basically all he thinks about.

[09:10] Matt

Your average battle maniac, then?

[09:13] Giluas

Branch Chief!

[09:15] Giluas

You oughta know by now
that I'm the real deal!

[09:17] Branch Chief

But you're not the one I called for!

[09:21] Branch Chief

What are you doing here?!

[09:23] Giluas

The proctor you asked for ran off,
bitchin' about some stomachache.

[09:28] Branch Chief

What?!

[09:29] Giluas

So I'm bein' real generous
and offerin' to stand in.

[09:35] Matt

I don't mind.

[09:37] Matt

Let's begin the test.

[09:38] Branch Chief

But no one's ever passed a test
run by Giluas!

[09:43] Alma

Really?!

[09:44] Branch Chief

He's failed every previous applicant
without even fighting them.

[09:49] Iris

Hey, that's mean!

[09:51] Giluas

Shaddap!

[09:52] Giluas

It's 'cause they were all trash,
not even worth fightin'!

[09:57] Giluas

I got time only for the real strong guys.

[10:03] Matt

Intriguing.

[10:09] Giluas

You first!

[10:11] Giluas

And you!

[10:13] Giluas

And you!

[10:14] Iris

Yes?

[10:16] Giluas

You all pass.

[10:19] Giluas

That's it for the test.

You can head on home.

[10:21] Matt

What in the world?

[10:23] Giluas

Now, you...

[10:25] Giluas

You'll fight me.

[10:28] Giluas

One on one.

[10:30] Giluas

I've heard about you, Matthias.

[10:32] Giluas

You're the heroic demon-slayer
from the Kingdom of Eis.

[10:36] Matt

*I see. He just wanted
to fight me from the start.*

[10:40] Matt

I suppose you're on.

[10:43] Judge

We will now commence
the Rank A ascension exam!

[10:47] Judge

The proctor, Giluas,
will evaluate Matthias's skills in a mock battle!

[10:52] Giluas

Been a while since I got
to fight someone real strong.

[10:55] Giluas

Can't wait to show my stuff!

[10:57] Matt

Let's see what a Rank S fighter can do.

[11:01] Alma

He'll be okay, right?

[11:03] Lurie

It's hard to imagine
Matty ever losing, but...

[11:07] Branch Chief

Giluas is a combat prodigy.

[11:10] Branch Chief

It's said he's never lost a duel.

[11:14] Alma

He's that good?

[11:16] Matt

What are our rules here?

[11:17] Giluas

Match is over when one of us
gets knocked out or gives up.

[11:22] Matt

Very well.

[11:23] Giluas

I don't use magic,
but you can if you want.

[11:29] Matt

You don't use magic?

[11:31] Matt

*Given his magical signature,
I'd pegged him as a spellsword like me.*

[11:36] Matt

Are you holding back on me?

[11:39] Giluas

'Course not.

[11:41] Giluas

This ain't some handicap
I'm givin' you.

[11:43] Giluas

I just never use magic.

[11:46] Matt

What's that?

[11:46] Giluas

This is all I use!

[11:51] Matt

This feeling...

[11:52] Matt

A physique enhancement spell...

[11:55] Matt

But I don't think Giluas is lying.

[11:59] Matt

I'm ready.

[12:01] Matt

Come at me any time!

[12:02] Giluas

Don't mind if I do!

[12:06] Matt

Enhance Physique!

[12:11] Matt

*He's definitely using
an Enhance Physique spell.*

[12:14] Matt

But he doesn't even realize

he's casting it.

[12:19] Matt

Is he just using it instinctively?!

[12:21] Giluas

Just what I'd expect
from the heroic demon-slayer!

[12:26] Giluas

An attack like that
don't even faze you, huh?!

[12:31] Giluas

Looks like this'll be a pretty fun fight!

[12:36] Matt

*He's mixing in other enhancement spells
like Enhance Fortitude and Sunder Steel.*

[12:44] Matt

Most humans can't cast spells unconsciously.

[12:48] Matt

*Yet he's doing it perfectly,
without a moment's thought...*

[12:52] Matt

Incredible.

[12:56] Alma

Awesome!
He's matching Matty blow for blow!

[13:00] Lurie

He really is!

[13:01] Branch Chief

I never thought I'd find a man
on equal footing with Giluas...

[13:06] Giluas

Hey, you ain't holdin' back, are you?!

[13:10] Matt

Good instincts.

[13:12] Matt

Yes, I certainly am.

[13:14] Giluas

Oh, yeah?

[13:15] Giluas

Well knock it off already!

[13:17] Matt

If you want to see what I can really do,

[13:19] Matt

I'll show you!

[13:28] Giluas

Sounds good to me!

[13:30] Giluas

I'll make you get serious!

[13:31] Matt

Giluas's magic power is growing stronger?!

[13:34] Matt

His casting is improving even as we fight.

[13:38] Matt

His instincts are incredible.

[13:40] Giluas

I ain't never fought anyone

[13:42] Giluas

who got my heart racing like this before!

[13:46] Matt

*I'll bet he's never fought anyone
better than him.*

[13:51] Matt

*Now that he's hitting a wall,
it's increasing his combat instincts.*

[13:58] Matt

*It's the height of foolishness
to leap that high without magical enhancement.*

[14:01] Matt

*He's just making himself vulnerable
until he lands.*

[14:06] Giluas

Watch this!

[14:11] Lurie

Is that...

[14:12] Alma

He's fighting the way Matty does!

[14:14] Matt

He learned how I fight...

[14:17] Matt

After seeing only it once...

[14:20] Matt

He adapts that quickly?

[14:23] Giluas

Here we go!

[14:29] Giluas

How'd you like that?!

[14:39] Matt

A strike combining Enhance Physique
and the gravity of a long fall...

[14:44] Matt

An ideal fighting style if you want
to force your way past the opponent's guard.

[14:48] Matt

But your casting strength
is entirely insufficient.

[14:52] Giluas

What'd you say?

[14:54] Giluas

That was the best attack I can—

[15:13] Matt

Want to keep going?

[15:18] Giluas

I give.

[15:22] Judge

The winner is Matthias!

He passes!

[15:25] Alma & Lurie

Yeah!

[15:27] Iris

Is that a successful dispatch?

[15:30] Alma

He didn't dispatch anyone!

[15:33] Giluas

That's the first time I ever lost.

[15:36] Matt

But your skills are incredible.

[15:39] Giluas

Tell me!

How do I get as strong as you?!

[15:44] Matt

That's a good question...

[15:47] Matt

Read this.

[15:50] Lurie

Matty. What's that?

[15:52] Matt

It's a textbook I wrote.

[15:54] Giluas

A textbook?

[15:56] Alma

You wrote one of those?

[15:57] Matt

What you lack is knowledge
of spell casting.

[16:01] Matt

You might surpass me
if you put in the work,

[16:04] Matt

but you have the talent, either way.

[16:08] Giluas

You makin' fun of me?

[16:10] Matt

I'm completely serious.

[16:12] Matt

If you internalize
what's written in that book,

[16:15] Matt

you'll definitely grow stronger.

[16:17] Giluas

And spell castin' is supposed
to help me out in combat?

[16:20] Matt

It certainly will.

[16:22] Giluas

But chantin' spells leaves a guy
open for ages.

[16:26] Giluas

You didn't cast any, either.

[16:28] Matt

But I did!

[16:30] Matt

You don't need incantations to cast spells.

[16:34] Giluas

Really?

[16:36] Matt

You're actually casting spells unconsciously.

[16:38] Matt

To enhance your physique and such.

[16:40] Giluas

I am?

[16:42] Matt

If you start to do it consciously,
you can get even stronger.

[16:46] Giluas

Awright!

I'm gonna read the heck outta this!

[16:54] Giluas

It ain't stickin', man!

[16:57] Giluas

You got a spell to make me
better at readin'?

[17:01] Giluas

Tryin' to read
gives me a big damn headache.

[17:05] Matt

The healing spell on page 132
works well on headaches.

[17:18] Giluas

You really ain't gonna go for Rank S?

[17:22] Matt

I'll pass.

[17:23] Giluas

Shame.

[17:25] Giluas

You could be the strongest
in the land, for sure.

[17:28] Matt

We just needed Rank A
to enter restricted territory.

[17:34] Giluas

What restricted territory?

[17:35] Matt

The Etelis Plains in the Folkia Region.

[17:39] Giluas

Folkia, huh?

[17:41] Matt

Does that mean something to you?

[17:43] Giluas

Nah, I just hear
the city's got a weird vibe.

[17:46] Matt

What do you mean?

[17:48] Giluas

I hear the atmosphere there
has changed a lot lately.

[17:51] Giluas

Checkpoints along the nearby roads
have grown stricter all of a sudden, too.

[17:56] Giluas

And I hear parties have gone missing
on the way there.

[18:01] Giluas

So if crap goes down, just lemme know!

[18:04] Giluas

I'll help out.

[18:06] Matt

I appreciate that.

[18:12] Lurie

Is this one of the checkpoints
he mentioned?

[18:14] Alma

Seems pretty normal to me, but...

[18:18] Soldier A

Halt. Papers, please.

[18:22] Soldier B

Where are you headed?

[18:24] Matt

I'm here on adventurer work.

[18:27] Soldier B

Each of you, take one of these passes.

[18:31] Soldier B

They're valid only for the main road,
though, so be careful.

[18:34] Matt

Understood.

[18:38] Alma

That was easier than I expected!

[18:40] Lurie

I don't know why we were so nervous!

[18:42] Iris

I wanna hit that city fast.

[18:45] Matt

No, there's still trouble ahead.

[18:49] Matt

There's a magical code
inscribed in these passes.

[18:53] Alma & Iris & Lurie

"A code"?!

[18:57] Lurie

"Caution.

Party of four high-rank adventurers."

[19:02] Alma

"Motives questionable.

Deal with immediately"?!

[19:05] Iris

What do they mean by "deal with"?

[19:06] Matt

The content doesn't matter.

[19:08] Matt

What matters is that the coding technology
is the same as the one the demons use.

[19:14] Alma & Iris & Lurie

What?!

[19:15] Lurie

But those guards weren't demons, were they?

[19:19] Matt

No, they were human.

[19:21] Matt

But to set up checkpoints,
you need to hold local power.

[19:26] Lurie

Then if the checkpoint
is using demon coding technology...

[19:31] Alma

All of Folkia might be
under the demons' control?!

[19:35] Matt

It seems entirely possible.

[19:38] Matt

Look.

[19:39] Matt

We have visitors already.

[19:41] Matt

Probably someone's hired goons...

[19:45] Matt

They're out to finish us off
before we reach the city.

[19:49] Matt

And Giluas mentioned parties going missing.

[19:53] Matt

I suppose this is what he meant.

[19:55] Iris

You want us to stamp 'em out?

[19:57] Matt

No, that wouldn't be good.

[20:00] Matt

We'll put them all to sleep instead.

[20:02] Alma

To sleep?

[20:03] Iris

We can't just beat them?

[20:05] Matt

If they put up a fight
and raise a commotion,

[20:07] Matt

it could make
infiltrating the city harder.

[20:09] Matt

Iris and I will draw their attention.

[20:12] Matt

Lurie, Alma.

[20:14] Matt

Get around behind them

[20:16] Matt

and use this magic item
to put them to sleep.

[20:18] Lurie

Understood!

[20:19] Alma

We will!

[20:23] Lurie

What are these?

[20:25] Matt

I used a spell to create illusions.

[20:28] Matt

From a distance,
they should look convincing enough.

[20:31] Matt

All right, let's begin!

[20:35] Matt

We're under attack! Be careful!

[20:39] Sideburns

Looks like they saw us.

[20:41] Blond Archer

Better get started.

[20:43] Sideburns

Get 'em!

[20:44] All

Yeah!

[20:47] Matt

Now, let's have a bit of fun!

[20:50] Iris

That's what I like to hear!

[20:54] Iris

Ow!

[20:55] Iris

Ow, ow, ow!

[20:56] Sideburns

The arrows don't hurt her?

[20:58] Sideburns

What's going on here?!

[20:59] Iris

Darn you...

[21:01] Iris

This is so annoying!

[21:07] Iris

Why did you do that?

[21:09] Matt

If you run in,
someone's definitely going to die!

[21:12] Iris

Oh, right.

We're just putting them to sleep.

[21:18] Alma

Great! They haven't noticed us!

[21:20] Lurie

Let's activate the magic item now!

[21:29] Sideburns

Wh-What the...

[21:30] Brown scarf

Damn! I can't see anything!

[21:33] Mustache Beret

Gettin'... sleepy...

[21:38] Matt

That was perfect.

[21:42] Iris

He's fast asleep, huh?

[21:44] Matt

Where are Lurie and Alma?

[21:46] Iris

Good question.

[21:52] Matt

They're asleep.

[23:26] Lurie

This is Matty's handwritten textbook?

[23:29] Iris

Let me see!

[23:31] Alma

It's good to be studious!

[23:35] Matt

Sh-She's asleep...

[23:36] Lurie

She just wanted it for a pillow?

SIGN Episode 10 The Strongest Sage Works With a Team.

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