

E3 - A True Golden Raven

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

Translator:

Editor:

Timer:

QC:

(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.)

[00:01] (Flashback) Young Natsuka

A prince said, "When a kin'u
is born, drought follows."

[00:06] (Flashback) Young Natsuka

"When a kin'u is born, floods follow."

[00:09] (Flashback) Young Natsuka

"When a kin'u is born, great strife follows
and many yatagarasu perish."

[00:16] (Flashback) Young Natsuka

How sad.

[00:19] (Flashback) Young Natsuka

Tell me, Grandfather, why does disaster
befall Yamauchi when a kin'u is born?

[00:25] (Flashback) Young Natsuka

Aren't kin'u meant to protect us yatagarasu?

[00:28] (Flashback) Young Natsuka

Why are kin'u born?

[00:31] (Flashback) Young Natsuka

Why is my younger brother one of them?

SIGN YATAGARASU

SIGN The Raven

Does Not

Choose

Its Master

[02:22] Nazukihiko

I know you just arrived,
but I want you to do some things for me.

[02:25] Yukiya

Oh, um, of course.

[02:32] Yukiya

*I figured the Crown Prince
would be living in the lap of luxury.*

[02:37] Yukiya

This isn't what I pictured.

[02:41] Nazukihiko

This is your first task.

[02:44] Nazukihiko

I want you to water my plants
with water from that well.

[02:46] Nazukihiko

But only the ones in the white pots.

[02:49] Yukiya

Only the white ones?

[02:51] Nazukihiko

Yes. Give the blue ones
water from the falls.

[02:53] Yukiya

Falls?

[02:59] Nazukihiko

I have two of each plant,
one in a white pot and one in a blue.

[03:02] Nazukihiko

Don't give any the wrong water.

[03:04] Nazukihiko

Also...

[03:06] Nazukihiko

This well isn't for drinking from.

[03:08] Nazukihiko

Try the jugs in the annex
if you get thirsty.

[03:12] Yukiya

I understand.

[03:14] Yukiya

In that case, I'll get—

[03:20] Nazukihiko

Sumio and I are going out.

[03:22] Nazukihiko

We'll drop in again in the afternoon,
so have the room clean by then.

[03:27] Yukiya

Right.

[03:28] Nazukihiko

Sort the books and
put them back on their shelves.

[03:31] Nazukihiko

And I want you to collect
a letter addressed to me.

[03:34] Nazukihiko

It should arrive at the
Civil Bureau before noon.

[03:36] Yukiya

The where now?

[03:37] Nazukihiko

I borrowed some of these books
from the library. Return them.

[03:41] Nazukihiko

When you do, give the official
a list of the next batch I want,

[03:45] Nazukihiko

and deliver this to the Ministry of
Ceremonies while he fetches them.

[03:48] Yukiya

Right.

[03:48] Nazukihiko

My afternoon mail should have
arrived by then, so collect that, too.

[03:52] Nazukihiko

Oh, and I could use some more paper.

[03:54] Yukiya

Uh...

[03:55] Nazukihiko

Once back at the Sunrise Palace,
open the letters and sort them by urgency.

[04:00] Nazukihiko

Clean the stable and change the water.

[04:03] Nazukihiko

If the horse trough and the jugs both run dry,
fetch water from the falls at once.

[04:09] Nazukihiko

Any questions?

[04:10] Yukiya

Um... All by myself?

[04:13] Nazukihiko

Do you see anyone else?

[04:17] Sumio

Your Highness, Sir Yukiya
has only just arrived.

[04:21] Nazukihiko

If you can't do it, leave here at once.
We will both be better off that way.

[04:25] Nazukihiko

You needn't hold back.

[04:27] Yukiya

What do you mean?

[04:28] Yukiya

I'll do my best, of course, but—

[04:31] Nazukihiko

Your effort doesn't interest me.

[04:35] Nazukihiko

I care whether you make
yourself useful to me.

[04:38] Nazukihiko

Can you do it or can't you?

[04:42] Yukiya

May I suggest Your Highness
confirms the answer with your own eyes?

[04:51] Nazukihiko

Sumio.

[04:52] Sumio

Of course.

[04:53] Sumio

This sash marks you
as the Prince's attendant.

[04:56] Sumio

Wearing it will grant you entry
to most places at court.

[05:00] Sumio

Stop by the kitchens
if you get hungry. And—

[05:03] Yukiya

I'll be fine.

[05:04] Yukiya

Please, go out as you planned.

[05:07] Yukiya

I have no time to waste.

[05:11] Nazukihiko

All right. I pray you're not a blockhead.

[05:15] Yukiya

So long. Take care.

[05:19] Yukiya

This goes on the shelf.
This goes to the library.

[05:23] Yukiya

Damn it. "Blockhead" irritates me
coming from him.

[05:31] Yukiya

Ow, ow, ow.

[05:34] Yukiya

I don't wanna get it dirty.

[05:41] Yukiya

My feather robe's good enough.

[05:46] Yukiya

White.

[05:47] Yukiya

White. White. White.

[05:50] Yukiya

Man, why couldn't he just
make them *all* white?

[05:53] Yukiya

Huh?

[05:57] (Flashback) Yukimasa

Don't loiter around in
your feather robe or shift shape.

[06:02] Yukiya

Still, what choice have I got?

[06:13] Yukiya

O-kay.

[06:20] Yukiya

Blue.

[06:21] Yukiya

Blue. Blue. Blue.

[06:27] Yukiya

Welcome home.

[06:28] Nazukihiko

Good work. Where are my letters?

[06:31] Yukiya

I haven't gone to get them yet.

[06:33] Nazukihiko

Still? I thought I told you
to fetch them in the afternoon.

[06:38] Yukiya

If I may, Your—

[06:39] Nazukihiko

Never mind. I'll send Sumio for them.

[06:43] Nazukihiko

Use your head.

[06:46] Nazukihiko

Consider the order you ought
to work in before you act.

[06:49] Yukiya

Your Highness.

[06:50] Yukiya

Your literary tutor
left assignments for you.

[06:53] Yukiya

He urges you to make up for
lost time abroad as soon as possible.

[06:57] Yukiya

It's due tomorrow.

[06:58] Yukiya

Respectfully, shouldn't Your Highness
get to work on it soon?

[07:04] Nazukihiko

Is that something I ought to do?

[07:07] Yukiya

Huh?

[07:12] Yukiya

What's wrong with that guy?!

[07:15] Yukiya

I've been flying around all day
without a bite to eat!

SIGN Imperial Court

[07:25] Guard 1

Boy, do you plan to enter
the court in that getup?

[07:28] Yukiya

Yes, that's right.

[07:30] Guard 1

No, that's wrong.

[07:32] Guard 1

Come back when you're dressed properly.

[07:35] Yukiya

Is there a rule against
entering court in a feather robe?

[07:38] Guard 1

There's no rule, but we can't let
an uncivil servant like you pass.

[07:44] Guard 2

Go on. Back where you came from.

[07:45] Yukiya

Even though I'm His Highness's attendant?

[07:51] Guard 2

We beg your pardon.

[07:56] Yukiya

Ah, this sucks.

SIGN Imperial Library

SIGN Imperial Library

SIGN Imperial Library

SIGN Ministry of Ceremonies

SIGN Civil Bureau

SIGN Imperial Library

[08:17] Yukiya

Is this letter important?

[08:19] Yukiya

What the hell?

SIGN Young

sir,

I can't

wait for

your next

visit

[08:22] Yukiya

Are these *all* from
the red-light district?

SIGN You're the

only one

I can

depend

on

[08:38] Yukiya

Done!

[08:43] (Flashback) Tutor

See that the Prince gets this done.

[09:04] Yukiya

Welcome back.

[09:05] Yukiya

Wait. Where's Lord Sumio?

[09:08] Yukiya

What happened to Your Highness's kimono?

[09:17] Nazukihiko

How many tasks have you finished?

[09:19] Yukiya

I've completed all of them.

[09:22] Nazukihiko

All of them?

[09:23] Yukiya

But I haven't touched

Your Highness's assignment.

[09:26] Yukiya

Does that displease you?

[09:29] Nazukihiko

That is as it should be.

[09:31] Yukiya

Huh. He doesn't mind.

[09:34] Yukiya

Huh? Hey!

[09:46] Nazukihiko

A kumquat. It should help tide you over.

[09:55] Nazukihiko

Is one not enough?

Don't stand on ceremony.

[09:58] Yukiya

Oh, uh, n-no, thank you.

[10:01] Nazukihiko

I see.

[10:03] Nazukihiko

That will be all for today. Well done.

[10:07] Yukiya

May Your Highness sleep well.

[10:16] Yukiya

So sour.

[10:19] Yukiya

Bitter, too.

SIGN Lineal grandson of
the Lord of the North
Kiei

[10:35] Kiei

You don't say?

Sounds like you have it rough.

[10:38] Yukiya

It's not funny!

[10:40] Yukiya

My muscles ache every day,
and I sweat literal buckets.

[10:44] Yukiya

He's a fiend. An ogre.

[10:45] Kiei

But you set a new record.

No attendant has lasted half a month before.

[10:50] Yukiya

You forgot to mention that.

[10:53] Yukiya

So you knew all along, Lord Kiei.

[10:56] Kiei

Sorry about that.

[11:00] Kiei

By the way, about His Highness...

[11:04] Kiei

He hasn't visited the
Cherry Blossom Palace yet.

[11:06] Kiei

And I keep hearing about trips
to the red-light district.

[11:10] Kiei

Have you heard anything?
Anything at all?

[11:13] Kiei

Like, um, his taste in women?

[11:15] Yukiya

His habits make no sense to me.

[11:18] Yukiya

He pops up when I least expect him,
then disappears for three days.

[11:22] Yukiya

Oh, I think he likes kumquats.

[11:26] Kiei

I guess he really isn't like the rest of us,
being a true kin'u and all.

[11:31] Yukiya

A true...

[11:32] Kiei

Oh, didn't I tell you?

[11:34] Kiei

You see, His Highness is no ordinary kin'u.

[11:37] Kiei

They call him a kin'u among kin'u.
A true Golden Raven.

[11:42] Kiei

The name "kin'u" has two meanings, you see.

[11:44] Kiei

One is the kin'u as a simple ruler.

[11:48] Kiei

Then, there's the Golden Raven, ancestor
of the Royal House, and his second coming.

[11:55] Kiei

We call the latter "true" kin'u.

[11:59] Yukiya

So they're all kin'u,
but some are real and some are fake?

[12:03] Kiei

Basically, yes,
although it's not politic to say so.

[12:07] Kiei

The current Kin'u is a yatagarasu like us.

[12:10] Kiei

So was his predecessor,
hailed as a great ruler.

[12:12] Kiei

But they say true kin'u only look like us.

[12:17] Kiei

They're really something else entirely.

[12:20] Kiei

According to some texts,

[12:22] Kiei

a true kin'u has the power to dispel darkness
and change shape in even the darkest night.

[12:27] Kiei

Grand, beautiful, and compassionate,

[12:31] Kiei

he's born with all the qualities
he needs to rule the yatagarasu.

[12:35] Yukiya

Has anyone ever seen one?

[12:37] Kiei

Uh, well, decades go by
between chances, so...

[12:42] Yukiya

And the Royal House
has an older son, right?

[12:45] Yukiya

At Clear Mirror Temple, I—

[12:46] Kiei

Lord Natsuka.

[12:48] Kiei

Under normal circumstances,
he would have been heir to the throne.

[12:51] Kiei

But once the Prince was born
and recognized as a true kin'u,

[12:55] Kiei

Lord Natsuka's fortunes took a turn.

[12:57] Kiei

Even so, court ravens who hated
to lose his wisdom organized in secret.

[13:02] Kiei

The faction were like embers,
smoldering this whole time.

[13:05] Kiei

But the Prince's poor reputation
has started fanning it back aflame.

[13:11] Yukiya

Hey, a lucky tea stalk.

[13:13] Kiei

Were you listening?

[13:15] Yukiya

It's basically a bunch of nobles
fighting over power, right?

[13:18] Yukiya

All that about who's
a true kin'u and who's wise?

[13:21] Yukiya

That's just a front, or maybe an excuse.

[13:24] Yukiya

But, well, I guess it goes deeper than that.

[13:28] Yukiya

I mean, His Highness is obviously just
a selfish yatagarasu like the rest of us.

[13:34] Kiei

Shh! Not so loud.

[13:37] Kiei

Rumor has it Lord Natsuka's mother,
the Empress, is plotting something.

[13:42] Kiei

And there's a saying that
true kin'u have troubled reigns.

[13:45] Kiei

Of course, I hope it comes to nothing.

[13:51] Rokon

He's a stubborn kid.

[13:54] Rokon

I see why you took a shine
to him, Lord Natsuka.

[13:57] Rokon

How do you plan to use him?

[14:03] Empress

If only he had never
returned from abroad.

[14:06] Empress

Shoin, I trust you understand?

[14:09] Shoin

Yes, Majesty. I shall prepare
for an Imperial Council.

SIGN Secretary to

His Imperial Majesty
Shoin

SIGN Wisteria Hall, Cherry Blossom Palace

[14:17] Fujinami

The irises look even lovelier
after yesterday's rain.

[14:21] Masuho

Magnificent. They could be a painting.

[14:24] Asebi

They really could.

[14:26] Asebi

But how can a month have passed already?
It seems like no time at all.

[14:30] Shiratama

By the way, where is Lady Hamayu?

[14:33] Fujinami

She sent word that she has a headache.

[14:36] Fujinami

A hangover, no doubt.

[14:37] Masuho

Pay her no mind.

[14:40] Masuho

It is His Highness that I miss.

I sent him another invitation today.

[14:44] Asebi

Um... Have you met

His Highness, Lady Masuho-no-Susuki?

[14:49] Masuho

We are cousins.

[14:50] Masuho

He even came to live with the

Western House, though only for a short time.

[14:55] Masuho

How elegant and kind he was back then.

[15:00] Yukiya

Hear that, Your Highness?

[15:02] Nazukihiko

Yes, I hear it.

[15:04] Yukiya

You're elegant and kind.

Everyone likes you.

[15:08] Yukiya

So why are we sneaking around
and spying like this?

[15:13] Nazukihiko

Keep your voice down, Yukiya.

[15:15] Yukiya

And the itching! Black feather robes attract
so many mosquitoes. How can you stand it?

[15:20] Nazukihiko

I *am* a kin'u.

[15:22] Yukiya

You say that,
but aren't they biting you, too?

[15:24] Nazukihiko

An assassin after my life
lurks in the Cherry Blossom Palace.

[15:28] Nazukihiko

I received a warning letter
just before the rite began.

[15:31] Yukiya

Who sent it?

[15:32] Nazukihiko

Who knows?

[15:33] Yukiya

Don't *you*?

[15:34] Nazukihiko

But it didn't strike me as a prank.

[15:36] Nazukihiko

And I must choose a consort regardless.

[15:39] Yukiya

So that's why we're spying, huh?

[15:41] Nazukihiko

Yes. People show their true selves
when they let their guard down.

[15:46] Nazukihiko

From the left, those are the Eastern,
Western, and Northern ladies.

[15:49] Nazukihiko

The East has a long reputation
for scheming, the West for frivolity,

[15:53] Nazukihiko

and the North for obstinacy.
All well deserved, it appears.

[15:59] Yukiya

I don't see it at all.

[16:01] Nazukihiko

The Southern lady is absent, but oh well.

[16:04] Nazukihiko

Can you see the women wearing
feather robes under their kimono?

[16:07] Yukiya

Oh, yes.

[16:09] Nazukihiko

They are warrior women
who guard Cherry Blossom Palace.

[16:12] Nazukihiko

The best, it is said,
can decapitate a horse in a single blow.

[16:16] Nazukihiko

They are called—

[16:18] Takimoto

Who goes there?

[16:19] Yukiya

Your Highness, we'd better run.

[16:21] Nazukihiko

Too late for that.

The Wisteria Guard noticed us.

[16:23] Yukiya

The Wisteria what?

[16:24] Nazukihiko

Forgive me.

[16:34] Yukiya

Now I get it.

[16:35] Yukiya

His Highness only brought me along

to take the fall if things went wrong!

[16:41] Takimoto

Don't let him escape!

[16:42] Takimoto

Get their ladyships inside!

[16:44] Fujinami

Everyone keep calm!

[16:49] Ukogi

This way, my lady.

[16:53] Ukogi

My lady!

[17:01] Yukiya

It... It hurts. I can't breathe.

[17:04] Hamayu

Leave it at that.

[17:07] Takimoto

Lady Hamayu.

[17:08] Hamayu

I came to see what all the fuss
was about, but he's just a chick.

[17:11] Takimoto

Chick or not, he is trespassing.

[17:13] Hamayu

But he'll die if you keep that up.

[17:16] Hamayu

Do you want to make a mess
of the consort selection?

[17:20] Takimoto

Release him.

[17:26] Yukiya

I thought I was a goner.

[17:29] Takimoto

Have you no shame?! How dare you change
shape before these noble personages!

[17:34] Yukiya

I... I'm so sorry.

[17:36] Takimoto

Who are you? Where did you come from? Speak!

[17:39] Asebi

Stop.

[17:41] Asebi

Stop this! Enough violence!

[17:45] Ukogi

My lady!

[17:47] Masuho

She has lost her head.

[17:49] Masuho

Today has been a bit much, even for me.

[17:52] Hamayu

Really? How delicate can one be?

[17:55] Masuho

I don't want to hear that
from a barbarian like you.

[17:58] Hamayu

I was talking about Asebi.
Don't make everything about you.

[18:03] Masuho

Excuse me?

[18:04] Masuho

Who do you think you are?
You never turn a hair at anything.

[18:09] Masuho

Does watching us pine
for His Highness amuse you?

[18:14] Hamayu

What are you implying?

[18:15] Masuho

I'm calling you a nuisance.

[18:17] Masuho

This palace is a place for women
worthy of the Prince to refine themselves.

[18:22] Masuho

Those who aim low, like you,
have no place here.

[18:26] Fujinami

That's enough, both of you!

[18:36] Fujinami

If only my brother would come.

[18:42] Wisteria Guard

Lady Takimoto, look there!

[18:48] Takimoto

That sash...

[18:54] Sumio

You sure had a bad day.

[18:56] Sumio

I was waiting to fly to your rescue
if worst came to worst.

[19:01] Sumio

Don't be too hard on His Highness.

[19:03] Yukiya

Don't you feel bad for them?

[19:06] Yukiya

The ladies.

[19:08] Yukiya

They're stuck in that little world,
just waiting for His Highness.

[19:13] Sumio

His Highness doesn't avoid the
Cherry Blossom Palace solely due to danger.

[19:18] Sumio

He's keeping the ladies
out of needless strife.

[19:21] Yukiya

"Needless strife"?

[19:23] Sumio

That's the kind of place
the Cherry Blossom Palace is.

[19:32] Ukogi

My lady, a messenger
from Princess Fujinami.

[19:36] Ukogi

May I show her in?

[19:42] Samomo

A token of consolation
from Her Highness.

[19:49] Asebi

It's so cold.

[19:50] Samomo

Perfect for cooling your eyes
before you eat.

[19:54] Samomo

I do it sometimes myself.

[19:57] Samomo

It does wonders for facial swelling.

[19:59] Samomo

And it warms the fruit just enough.

[20:04] Samomo

Lady Ukogi told me that you've never
seen anyone shift shape before.

[20:10] Asebi

I haven't.

[20:11] Samomo

It must have been quite a fright.

[20:12] Samomo

Nobles who spend almost
all of their lives in human shape

[20:16] Samomo

must have few occasions
to see such things.

[20:19] Asebi

I must be a bit muddled.

[20:23] Asebi

Bird-shaped yatagarasu
are called horses, aren't they?

[20:27] Samomo

Yes. They're yatagarasu, just like we are.

[20:30] Samomo

The only difference is that horses can't
return to human shape when they please.

[20:37] Asebi

Is that so?

[20:38] Samomo

Has Your Ladyship ever seen a horse
with a rope tied around its leg?

[20:43] Asebi

Yes, I think so. On the sky cart
I rode coming here.

[20:48] Asebi

The magnificent ropes looked
beautiful tied in those coils.

[20:53] Samomo

I suppose they do.
But those ropes aren't decorative.

[20:57] Samomo

They signify labor contracts.

[21:00] Samomo

Those who now work as horses
lost the means to live in human shape,

[21:05] Samomo

due to poverty
or various other circumstances.

[21:08] Samomo

Their employer binds their third leg
for the duration of the contract.

[21:13] Samomo

Special knots make it impossible
for the horses to release themselves.

[21:18] Asebi

But why their legs?

[21:20] Samomo

The power to shift shape
resides in the third leg.

[21:24] Samomo

Binding it leaves yatagarasu
unable to return to human shape.

[21:28] Asebi

How awful!

[21:29] Samomo

Horses only do manual labor,
like pulling carts and tilling fields.

[21:35] Samomo

At some point, "horse" became an insulting
term for the yatagarasu that do such work.

[21:41] Asebi

I'm so ashamed. I had no idea.

[21:45] Asebi

I wonder why Ukogi never told me.

[21:48] Samomo

I think I can understand
Lady Ukogi's feelings.

[21:52] Samomo

You're so kind that I'm sure she only
wanted to teach you beautiful things.

[21:58] Samomo

I used to shift shape often
when I was little.

[22:02] Samomo

So I was glad when you
stepped in to protect that boy.

[22:07] Asebi

You're Princess Fujinami's...

SIGN Imperial Lady-in-Waiting
Samomo

[22:11] Samomo

Samomo is my name.

[22:14] Asebi

Samomo, if you don't mind,
would you come visit me again?

[22:19] Samomo

It would be my pleasure.

[22:23] Yukiya

I just got back.

[22:26] Yukiya

Wh-What's—

[22:27] Nazukihiko

They waited until I was out
to call an Imperial Council.

[22:30] Yukiya

An Imperial Council?

[22:32] Nazukihiko

The forces that would
disinherit me are pulling the strings.

[22:36] Nazukihiko

We're going to the Purple Hall at once.

SIGN Purple Hall

[24:30] Narrator

*Two brothers:
the elder able, the younger foolish.*

[24:35] Narrator

*Their clash for the kin'u's throne
strains the court to breaking point.*

[24:42] Narrator

*The Prince still refuses
to meet the ladies.*

[24:46] Narrator

What is his true intention?

SIGN An Imperial

SIGN Council

[24:50] Narrator

Next time: "An Imperial Council."

SIGN YATAGARASU:

The Raven

Does Not

Choose

Its Master

SIGN Illustration: Natsuki

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