

E7 - Falling

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

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 Summer Hall, Cherry Blossom Palace

[00:03] Shiratama

Southern merchants, Western artisans,
Eastern musicians, and Northern warriors.

[00:10] Shiratama

We call the Four Houses equal,

[00:12] Shiratama

yet the North has always resigned
itself to fourth place.

[00:17] Shiratama

Warriors make for poor politicians.

[00:20] Shiratama

The other houses look down on us
as hardheaded boors and ruffians.

[00:25] Shiratama

In the long history of this rite,
we have never married into royalty.

[00:29] Hamayu

You really shouldn't put
yourself down like that.

[00:33] Shiratama

The Northern House dreams
of an imperial marriage.

[00:35] Shiratama

As long as we can attain that honor,
we need nothing else.

[00:40] Shiratama

So if the South were to retire
from the competition,

[00:44] Shiratama

we would cede every other advantage
to you as compensation.

[00:48] Hamayu

If you can get the Prince to marry you.

[00:52] Shiratama

Naturally.

[00:53] Shiratama

But I may request a little more aid
from the South to ensure that I do.

[01:00] Shiratama

In Cherry Blossom Palace,
each lady speaks for her house.

[01:04] Shiratama

Just this once, you will
need to take me at my word.

[01:10] Shiratama

So what will it be?

[01:11] Shiratama

Work with me and benefit your house?

[01:14] Shiratama

Or lose everything and leave the palace
when your secret is exposed?

[01:25] Hamayu

Hah. As if I have a choice.

[01:28] Shiratama

I am delighted you understand.

[01:30] Hamayu

What will you do about the other houses?

[01:32] Shiratama

The naive Westerners will be child's play.

[01:37] Hamayu

But the Eastern House is sly.

[01:40] Hamayu

Who knows what they're really thinking,
sending an innocent like Asebi.

[01:45] Shiratama

Oh, but why worry about that
when I can simply crush Asebi herself?

[01:51] Shiratama

Do not fret. I know I will succeed.

SIGN YATAGARASU

SIGN The Raven

Does Not

Choose

Its Master

SIGN Southern Palace

[03:37] Yukiya

So this is the Southern House's palace?

[03:44] Crowd

Ugh. Why here?

[03:46] Crowd

I wasn't told of this.

[03:49] Yukiya

That must be it.

[03:53] Yukiya

Ow.

[03:56] Rokon

Well, look who it is. The Prince's aide.

[03:59] Yukiya

Sir Rokon.

[04:06] Rokon

They cleared out the guests.

You can't get in.

[04:09] Yukiya

Right. Thank you for telling me. Bye.

[04:13] Yukiya

D-Do you need something?

[04:15] Rokon

You seem familiar.

[04:17] Rokon

Was it you who spied on
our meeting in the Ravine?

[04:23] Rokon

Oh well.

[04:24] Rokon

Mind if I ask you a few questions?

[04:51] Toru

Something wrong?

[04:52] Nazukihiko

I just cannot see the resemblance.

[04:55] Nazukihiko

To Hamayu, I mean.

[04:57] Nazukihiko

Is the "first daughter of the South"
who entered the palace *your* daughter?

[05:02] Toru

I do not take your meaning.

[05:04] Nazukihiko

It is a simple question.

[05:07] Toru

As you guessed, I adopted Hamayu.

[05:10] Toru

I sent an orphan I raised
to take part in the Rite of Ascension.

[05:15] Toru

But I promise you, she truly is
a direct descendant of my house.

[05:21] Nazukihiko

Her pedigree does not concern me.

[05:23] Nazukihiko

But I believe you have a daughter of age.

[05:27] Nazukihiko

What was her name again?

[05:29] Toru

Nadeshiko.

[05:30] Nazukihiko

Yes, Nadeshiko.

[05:32] Nazukihiko

Surely *she* would have been
the natural choice to take part in the rite?

[05:36] Nazukihiko

Is there a reason she was not sent?

[05:41] Toru

I am afraid my daughter lacks charm.

[05:44] Toru

Hardly a fitting consort for—

[05:45] Nazukihiko

Spare me the excuses.

[05:49] Nazukihiko

Tell me why you do not want
to wed her to me.

[05:52] Nazukihiko

And was that your decision?

[05:55] Nazukihiko

Or was it... someone else's?

[06:01] Natsuka

Why not leave it at that?

[06:04] Nazukihiko

Brother.

[06:05] Natsuka

She would hardly be the
first girl adopted for the rite.

[06:11] Natsuka

No doubt Lord Toru acted to safeguard
the Southern House and its domain.

[06:17] Nazukihiko

Meaning he thinks that
I cannot defend either?

[06:21] Toru

No, I would never presume to—

[06:23] Natsuka

Your Highness should
learn a little humility.

[06:26] Natsuka

I pledged fealty to you because I believe
you will fulfill your duties as kin'u.

[06:34] Natsuka

Yet at times, your high-handed
manner grows intolerable.

[06:38] Natsuka

It will cost you the Four Houses' trust,

[06:41] Natsuka

which may, in turn, invite chaos to Yamauchi.

[06:47] Natsuka

If that should come to pass,
I will have no choice but to do my own duty.

[06:54] Natsuka

The Royal House has no greater calling
than maintaining the peace in Yamauchi.

[07:04] Natsuka

Forgive my impertinence.

[07:07] Natsuka

I merely followed Your Highness
in speaking frankly.

[07:10] Nazukihiko

Of course, Brother.
I welcome your honest opinion.

[07:14] Natsuka

You honor me.

[07:17] Nazukihiko

It is time I took my leave.

[07:37] Atsufusa

I beg your pardon for my foolish council.

[07:41] Atsufusa

I never dreamed the Prince
would actually attend.

[07:43] Toru

Neither did I. He scared me stiff.

[07:47] Toru

Lord Natsuka managed
to smooth things over.

[07:50] Toru

Still, for a fool,
he picks up on strange things.

[07:54] Toru

The attack in the pleasure quarter doesn't
seem to have left much of an impression.

[07:58] Natsuka

That concerns me as well.

[08:01] Natsuka

My brother never learns from his mistakes.

[08:04] Natsuka

Naturally, I support his accession.

[08:08] Natsuka

But unless he mends his ways,

[08:12] Natsuka

my backers may resort to further violence
without my knowledge.

[08:24] Toru

How fearsome.

[08:26] Toru

Do you plan to seize everything
without lifting a finger yourself?

[08:30] Atsufusa

With all due respect, Lord Natsuka
of all people would never—

[08:34] Toru

Merely a jest, Atsufusa.
Do not take it seriously.

[08:37] Atsufusa

Even in jest, some things should not—

[08:39] Natsuka

Atsufusa.

[08:41] Toru

Well, I suppose I did get carried away.

[08:45] Toru

I beg your pardon.

[08:47] Natsuka

There is no need.

[08:53] Yukiya

What do you want, anyway?

[08:56] Rokon

You've got a warrior's look. I like that.

[09:00] Rokon

A little dainty for my tastes, though.
Where in the North are you from?

[09:04] Yukiya

Taruhi.

[09:05] Rokon

Taruhi? Where the lord married
a daughter of the Northern House?

[09:09] Yukiya

I have a different mother
than my brothers.

[09:11] Rokon

I see.

[09:13] Rokon

So, Yukiya, how'd you like to work for me?

[09:17] Yukiya

Huh?

[09:18] Rokon

You've already caught
Lord Natsuka's eye, remember? Join us.

[09:22] Yukiya

I serve His Highness.

[09:25] Rokon

Hm? So you've put your faith in the Prince?

[09:29] Yukiya

I wouldn't go that far.

[09:31] Rokon

What else would you call it?

[09:34] Rokon

You could easily have died
by my hand in the Ravine.

[09:38] Rokon

Why do you still follow the master
who threw you into that mess?

[09:43] Yukiya

Anyway, I'm not going to
become anyone's lackey.

[09:47] Yukiya

I'm working as His Highness's
aide now, but only for a year.

[09:51] Yukiya

Then I go back to Taruhi.

[09:53] Yukiya

I don't care about the Prince or the Center.

[09:58] Yukiya

I want to keep my family
and my home safe. That's all I want.

[10:03] Nazukihiko

Yukiya.

[10:05] Yukiya

Y-Your Highness.

[10:08] Rokon

Is the secret council over?
I'd better get back, then.

[10:14] Rokon

Oh, and if you're looking
for Sumio, he flew away.

[10:18] Rokon

The moment he saw me, he took off
like his tail feathers were on fire.

[10:25] Yukiya

Your Highness, um...

[10:29] Yukiya

It was in the heat of the moment, and I, uh...

[10:32] Sumio

Is that bastard finally gone?

[10:35] Sumio

Sorry. Were you looking for me?

[10:38] Nazukihiko

Rokon said you had turned
tail and fled in fear of him.

[10:42] Sumio

What? Don't make me laugh!
I just want nothing to do with him.

[10:46] Sumio

Not only is he crazy, he's loud, he can't
take a hint, and he grins all the time.

[11:13] Yukiya

If we just flew home,
we'd be back in no time.

[11:16] Sumio

Sure, but we can't see in the dark.

[11:21] Yukiya

The ladies waiting for Your Highness
must be feeling so let down.

[11:26] Nazukihiko

Undoubtedly. I regret disappointing them.

[11:29] Yukiya

Huh?

[11:30] Nazukihiko

What is it?

[11:30] Yukiya

I just, uh, wasn't expecting that answer.

[11:33] Nazukihiko

I do not despise Cherry
Blossom Palace nor Tanabata.

[11:39] Nazukihiko

Yukiya, I do not avoid Cherry Blossom
Palace simply because I fear assassins.

[11:46] Nazukihiko

I stay away because I can easily picture
how my visits would affect the ladies.

[11:53] Nazukihiko

They all bear the weight of their houses'
expectations, though not all equally.

[12:02] Nazukihiko

If I meet the eyes of one,
it will give her hope.

[12:05] Nazukihiko

If I speak to one,
she will think herself chosen.

[12:10] Nazukihiko

And even those fortunate enough
to become my consort or concubine

[12:14] Nazukihiko

will spend the rest of their lives
fearing assassination.

[12:20] Nazukihiko

You could say I bring them only harm.

[12:24] Nazukihiko

But to become kin'u, I must take a consort.

[12:29] Nazukihiko

So I will sow as little misfortune
as I can. Isn't that the kindest way?

[12:34] Yukiya

Your Highness...

[12:37] Yukiya

I guess it can't be easy, having the ladies
resent you because they don't know.

[12:44] Nazukihiko

That doesn't matter.

[12:50] Yukiya

You leave yourself wide open.

[12:55] Yukiya

You worry about other people, but you
just keep taking risks, like you did today.

[13:01] Yukiya

Get serious about protecting yourself
or you'll die one of these days.

[13:05] Nazukihiko

I'll be fine. I *am* a kin'u.

[13:08] Yukiya

That doesn't prove anything!

[13:11] Nazukihiko

All right. I'll bear it in mind.

[13:14] Nazukihiko

But I don't think I am quite as
defenseless as you imagine I am.

[13:18] Nazukihiko

I am capable with a sword,
and I do have friends.

[13:22] Yukiya

Apart from Sumio and me?

[13:24] Nazukihiko

Yes.

[13:25] Yukiya

Allies you can trust?

[13:27] Nazukihiko

Of course. I trust them with my life.

[13:29] Yukiya

Who do you mean?

[13:31] Sumio

You want to know? It's our biggest secret.

[13:34] Yukiya

Uh...

[13:37] Yukiya

I think I'll pass.

[13:38] Sumio

Huh?

[13:39] Yukiya

I mean, I won't be able to leave
after a year if you tell me.

[13:43] Yukiya

And I'm going home to Taruhi
next spring, no matter what.

[13:47] Yukiya

So don't tell me. Not ever.

[13:49] Sumio

Fine. You win.

SIGN Spring Hall, Cherry Blossom Palace

[13:57] Samomo

I have returned.

[14:00] Asebi

Thank you for going, Samomo.

[14:03] Asebi

How did it go? Did you get an answer?

[14:08] Asebi

Thank you!

[14:10] Asebi

You must be tired. Take it easy today.

[14:31] Asebi

Lady Shiratama?

[14:33] Shiratama

Who wrote that letter?

[14:34] Asebi

What?

[14:36] Shiratama

Did the Prince send you that, by any chance?

[14:39] Asebi

No, this is—

[14:41] Shiratama

How shameless.

[14:42] Shiratama

I know you have been scheming
with that royal lady-in-waiting, Samomo.

[14:47] Shiratama

You must be our letter thief.

[14:49] Asebi

What? I am not, Lady Shiratama.

[14:52] Shiratama

Then, show that to me.

[14:56] Asebi

S-Stop!

[14:59] Asebi

I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to...

[15:01] Shiratama

That look.

[15:04] Shiratama

That "I've never had an impure thought" look of yours disgusts me so much, I could retch!

[15:18] Asebi

Someone...

[15:21] Asebi

Anyone...

[15:27] Masuho

Calm yourself.

[15:29] Masuho

The pool is shallow here. Try to stand.

[15:32] Asebi

Lady Masuho-no-Susuki...

[15:35] Masuho

What do you think you are doing?

[15:37] Shiratama

Whatever do you mean?

[15:39] Shiratama

Lady Asebi merely tripped and fell.

[15:42] Masuho

Don't play innocent.

I shall report this to Princess Fujinami.

[15:46] Shiratama

Oh? Then, so will I.

[15:49] Shiratama

Her Highness should know that the Western and Eastern Houses colluded to vilify me.

[15:55] Masuho

What are you talking about?

[15:58] Masuho

Do you think Her Highness would believe such nonsense?

[16:01] Masuho

And the Royal House can hardly dismiss us out of hand.

[16:06] Shiratama

Ignorance is bliss. Do you not realize
the political situation has changed?

[16:11] Shiratama

The North has soldiers
and the South has wealth.

[16:14] Shiratama

Now that they have joined forces, anyone
can see which side the Royal House will take.

[16:21] Masuho

The Northern and
Southern Houses? Impossible.

[16:24] Shiratama

The Southern House has already promised
to cede the Prince's hand to me.

[16:29] Shiratama

If you doubt me, ask Lady Hamayu.

[16:33] Shiratama

Though I suggest you behave yourselves,
unless you wish to endanger your own houses.

[16:41] Masuho

Don't be absurd.

[16:43] Masuho

His Highness would never
choose a coward like you.

[16:47] Shiratama

Then, I will simply ensure that
the rest of you have no place here.

[16:53] Shiratama

He will marry me
when he has no other choice.

[16:56] Asebi

How horrible!

[16:59] Shiratama

You are both here out of love for the Prince.

[17:03] Shiratama

But I am not.

[17:05] Shiratama

I could not care less how he feels.

[17:10] Shiratama

The North dreams of an imperial marriage.

[17:13] Shiratama

I am here to secure one,
and for no other reason.

[17:23] Masuho

Do you not feel lonely, living like that?

[17:31] Shiratama

No. I have discarded all such sentiments.

[17:37] Shiratama

Consider yourselves warned.

[17:41] Shiratama

If you should marry
the Prince in spite of me,

[17:49] Shiratama

I swear I will ruin you.

[17:52] Shiratama

Then I will thrust this
into my throat and die myself.

[17:58] Shiratama

Bear it in mind.

[18:21] Kikuno

My lady?

[18:22] Kikuno

What are you doing there?

[18:24] Masuho

Kikuno, you fool!
Why were you not here sooner?

[18:26] Kikuno

What?

SIGN Autumn Hall, Cherry Blossom Palace

[18:34] Masuho

Who could have imagined that
Shiratama would have such ideas?

[18:38] Masuho

I never so much as suspected her.

[18:41] Masuho

I believed that my sincere love
and devotion would reach the Prince.

[18:46] Masuho

That was how I saw the Rite of Ascension.

[18:51] Masuho

You wrote to your house's main residence?

[18:53] Asebi

Yes.

[18:55] Asebi

I had Samomo deliver my letter in person.

[18:57] Masuho

That breaks the rules.

[18:59] Asebi

I know.

[19:01] Asebi

But I just had to learn about my mother,

[19:05] Asebi

so I asked a manservant I know well

to tell me anything he could.

[19:10] Masuho

And did you learn about her?

[19:14] Asebi

Nothing yet.

[19:18] Masuho

I am told this story
comes from my late aunt,

[19:23] Masuho

but when the current
Kin'u chose his consort,

[19:25] Masuho

the Eastern House sent a master
of the koto to the palace.

[19:30] Masuho

I believe she went by Ukigumo.

[19:33] Asebi

Wait, "Drifting Cloud"?

[19:35] Masuho

She seemed pure,
untainted by worldly affairs.

[19:40] Masuho

She and the Kin'u soon fell in love.

[19:43] Masuho

His Majesty visited her the most,
and people said their marriage was assured.

[19:49] Masuho

However...

[19:51] Masuho

They fell prey to Lady Yuzemi's plots.

[19:55] Asebi

Who is that?

[20:01] Kikuno

Our current Empress.

[20:03] Asebi

What?

[20:05] Kikuno

As a result, Her Majesty
conceived Lord Natsuka.

[20:09] Kikuno

The rite ended before spring,

[20:12] Kikuno

and I hear Lady Ukigumo
returned to her home in tears.

[20:16] Asebi

Then, Lady Ukigumo was...

[20:20] Masuho

Your mother. She must be.

[20:22] Masuho

The koto bearing her name
might even have belonged to her.

[20:26] Kikuno

Her Majesty is the real "Lady Raven."

[20:30] Kikuno

How Ukogi must have resented her.

[20:33] Asebi

I had no idea.

[20:35] Masuho

Asebi, you must not tell Princess Fujinami
or anyone else what happened today.

[20:39] Asebi

Huh?

[20:40] Masuho

We will play into her hands
if we make a scene.

[20:43] Masuho

If the North and South
really have joined forces,

[20:47] Masuho

we will be crushed.

[20:49] Masuho

In fact, the damage may not stop there.

[20:58] Masuho

Are you all right now?

[20:59] Asebi

Yes. I feel refreshed somehow.

[21:02] Asebi

I must send Samomo back to
Princess Fujinami when I get back.

[21:07] Asebi

Thank you so much for everything.

[21:11] Masuho

Asebi, I have been so haughty all this time,
never thinking of your feelings.

[21:17] Masuho

I know I must have hurt you.

[21:21] Masuho

I am truly sorry.

[21:23] Asebi

You do not need to be,
Lady Masuho-no-Susuki.

[21:58] Yukiya

Excuse me. What's all this?

[22:00] Nazukihiko

I got my results from some pots,
so I thought I'd have the plants replaced.

[22:06] Nazukihiko

This is Kazumi the gardener.

SIGN Gardener

Kazumi

[22:08] Nazukihiko

He serves the Royal House
but he sometimes brings me news.

[22:12] Nazukihiko

One of my few friends
on the outside, you might say.

[22:15] Kazumi

You must be Yukiya.
It is a pleasure to meet you.

[22:18] Yukiya

Nice to meet you, Kazumi.

[22:22] Nazukihiko

I don't see Sumio.

[22:24] Yukiya

The Yamauchi Guard
called him away out of the blue.

[22:27] Nazukihiko

A summons?

[22:29] Nazukihiko

I see.

[22:30] Nazukihiko

Kazumi, continue without me.

SIGN Stage, Cherry Blossom Palace

[24:30] Narrator

*Samomo's death causes a commotion
in Cherry Blossom Palace.*

[24:35] Narrator

*Shiratama turns her ire
on the weeping Asebi once more.*

[24:41] Narrator

*On a moonless night,
a shadow steals into the world of women.*

[24:50] Narrator

Next time: "The Intruder."

SIGN The Intruder

SIGN YATAGARASU:

The Raven

Does Not

Choose

Its Master

SIGN Illustration: Natsuki

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