

This is the legend of Alecto, how he became a human weapon, and how he committed himself to a life of piracy. The tale begins on a sandy, dusty, ruined island, once home to marvelous civilizations and powerful empires. Our hero, Alecto, now just fifteen years old, has embarked on his first mission. He is to terrorize some of the bandits wandering around the area. He hadn't yet adorned his black shirt and his samurai outfit on the bottom half of his body. He was wearing regular assassin clothes. For a few months, he had been socializing with the wrong sort. The Black Hand had been organizing assassination attempts since before Alecto had even been born.

Alecto was a small boy from a small village, on a small island. Truly from nowhere, his tale isn't the one of the bored country boy seeking adventure on the sea. Far from it. Against his choice, he was made to do so. First, he had never met his parents. They were real people; many of Alecto's acquaintances had met them. They hadn't perished in some fire, a pirate attack, or another tragedy. The tragedy that had occurred was one which disgusted one and all. Alecto's parents, in large debt and making little to no income, sold their child. He was one more mouth to feed, one mouth too many. With the money they made from selling him they went away to another land, in search of opportunity and a better life, trying hard to forget the last nine months in which their despair had peaked. What most don't know, however, is that they soon perished at sea during a deadly storm which overturned their small boat and drowned them both.

The traffickers who had bought Alecto had sold him to some strange, shady looking people. They had made a large profit on that boy; they would remember him for a while after, fifteen years later to be exact. They grinned as they put their grimy hands on the shiny coins, and ducked away, expecting to be attacked, but the men who had finally obtained Alecto for good simply smiled and waved, walking away with the confused child. Alecto was placed in a wooden house with wooden walls, and wooden doors. Even the fireplace was made out of wood. As could be expected, no fire burned. The entire building was a single shade of ebony, dark, with hardly any sunlight leaking through the windows. It shook from one side to another, rocking the babies in the central room. Most were quiet and sleepy as Alecto entered, sleeping, still almost a newborn. It wasn't a building, no, it was a ship. It was departing to a faraway land, Orphanage Island.

Orphanage Island lived up to its name. It was a large flat landmass covered almost entirely by green, grassy plains and long valleys. There were no cities on the island, only orphanages. The island was surrounded by long, wooden caravels which were indeed, transporting precious cargo. The precious cargo that was human life. At first Orphanage Island was run by trustworthy, hardworking people. Long ago, they provided great care for lost and abandoned children. They bought children snapped up by human traffickers, and provided them with a real home back on the Orphanage Island. But soon the money wore thin. Orphanages aren't known for making money, and it showed. Soon, the facilities became like ruins, dirty and old. One building caught fire, trapping five innocent children inside. They died. The ones that left the orphanages in the coming years will always remember that incident. Some of the adults fell ill, and although the children were obviously unhappy and it pained their hearts, they tried their

hardest to make them happy. Maybe it was precisely because they were unhappy that the adult caretakers tried harder.

It was these dire conditions that Alecto was now moving to. He, of course, didn't know any of this, being still less than a month old, but as he grew up, he realized he was unhappy, like the large number of other children he met. But he was different than them. They trudged on through the muddy waters of life, drowning in hopelessness while Alecto moved towards the surface, determine to escape. And so it was that, three years early, before Alecto was eighteen, when the orphanage was attacked by the Black Hand, he left with them. He stood on the deck of their ship and his eyes reflected the glare of the burning island. The Black Hand celebrated. It wasn't often that they had a new recruit, especially one so young. The Black Hand was a group of savages, part bandits, pirates, and assassins. If you wanted someone dead, you called them. They had a lease on life and they loved to show it.

It wasn't long before Alecto had his first mission. So, here he was, on the deserted island, surrounded by the sounds of the whistling wind. The Black Hand had informed him that the bandits he was looking for were the ones who had probably sold him to the orphanage. In some kind of deep, guttural way, Alecto was exacting revenge. He ascended a dune and into some ruins covered by sand. He hid behind a column. He took out a bomb out of his coat pocket and holstered it. He brought out his flintlock pistol and his knife and suddenly attacked. Trying to mimic several people, he ran around, slicing and shooting. The bandits began to run away, believing they were being ambushed by a group. Alecto grabbed his smoke bomb and threw it at the men, trying to make them panic even more. He smiled, the mission so far was a success. He jinxed it. For some unknown reason the smoke bomb exploded violently, sending Alecto flying and killing all the bandits. Their charred corpses and ash were the only thing left. Alecto yelled and crawled backwards until Black Hand members came and told him it wasn't his fault.

The explosion had added to the fire in Alecto's eye. For years after, he did assassinations. He became known as the "Nightcrawler". People feared his name, although he wasn't even very powerful. He knew how to sneak around, avoiding being seen was a skill of his. His real name was Alecto, but soon he would change that. Among the Black Hand, it was said that if you felt someone watching you, or felt someone run around behind you, it was probably Alecto. Now eighteen, Alecto was an integral part of the organization. He heard himself being called in to the boss's room. It couldn't be good.

"Alecto, you have been very good at dispatching your enemies. But you have always been by yourself. It is time that you join a group mission. You're going to steal the governor of Rudyard Island's famous treasure. He keeps it with him at all times. You'll be going with Hugh and Zino here." Alecto frowned. Hugh was a tall and strong brute, a simple man who didn't talk much and left the talking to his partner, Zino. He was a shady, dark character, who instantly hated Alecto. "Oi, listen here, . I'll be running the show around here. You just shut up and follow my lead, got it?" Alecto spit on the ground and walked away. The boss just looked at Hugh and Zino and sighed. "He kills everyone he sees. Keep a tight leash on him." The pair nodded.

The governor's mansion was a house with a pyramidal roof, black and red, Japanese style. It was heavily guarded, but that would be no problem, for Alecto and his partners, under the cover of the blanket of night, would not be discovered. After all, the easiest way to defeat enemies was to bypass them. Only people seeking to suicide would face them all. Slip behind the enemy's back when he wasn't looking, slash his throat if need me and his his body, was the assassin's motto. Zino, Hugh, and Alecto followed this to the letter. They snuck around the long way. Alecto wasn't happy with Zino's leadership but he had no choice but to follow, as per the boss's orders.

They finally made their way up into the master bedroom, where, surrounded on either side by a pair of beautiful hired women, the governor of Rudyard Island was laying on a silk pillow. The women tried to scream but Hugh and Alecto grabbed them while Zino confronted the governor. He walked up as the governor cowered in fright. Zino smiled cockily and said a single word. "Treasure." The governor pointed to a board on the floor which popped up and revealed a silver chest inside, glimmering. "Just take and leave, just get me away from him!" To Zino's surprise, he pointed at Alecto. "What the hell are you talking about, idiot!" Zino screamed and pointed his flintlock straight at the fat governor's face. The governor didn't seem scared in the least and instead crawled backwards to avoid Alecto. "His aura...he's going to kill us all!" Alecto spoke not a word, but instead rendered the women he grabbed unconscious and began to leave. The governor looked relieved, but Zino was having none of it.

"Why the hell are you so relieved? Answer, or I'll fucking shoot!" A bang echoed through the house. Zino turned pale, as smoke exited his flintlock and the Rudyard Island governor landed on the floor, blood leaking from the hole in his head. Hugh, for the first time, spoke. "That's very bad." Zino fell back, confused as to what happened. He kept whispering the same words to himself, over and over. "It misfired, I swear. The gun, it misfired." Alecto had already disappeared from the room. The boss would be absolutely furious at what had happened, and Zino would surely blame it on Alecto. Everything had to look like an accident. Past confused guards, he ran. When they yelled and fired at him, he threw back a grenade and blasted them away. He ran to the basement, where he found several reserves of gasoline. He began spreading it around the compound, absolutely everywhere the guards weren't. He then met his companions at the door and they wondered where he had gone. He just said 'Watch', as he pulled out a match and lit the entire compound on fire. Screams echoed through the night as each and every compound employee and guard ran away from the impending doom of the blazing fire which raged for several days in the surrounding forestry before finally extinguishing.

backstory

However, come Alecto's sixteenth birthday, and now he was beginning to regret his life choices. A few months prior he had been posted on to a longer mission, infiltrating a government society on the basis of being an intern and making his way up the ranks with his smarts and transmitted inside knowledge regularly to the Black Hand. This government office was on a chaotic island that had just gone through a civil war and was reforming its government. Of course, the main

goal was to steal their new Constitution that the best scholars of the island were writing. As long as this document was stolen, people and soldiers in the island would be confused as to the new leaders' intentions and the Black Hand would use this confusion to seize the island and claim it as their own territory.

Alecto was one of the young guards that was posted in the building where the new Constitution was to be ratified. He was scouting the area for opportunities and guard changes where he might be able to sneak into the safe room and unlock it, stealing the Constitution and bringing it back to the Black Hand. However, in his time there, Alecto was becoming a much better person. Being a guard, Alecto was doing much exercise and his body was quickly becoming more toned. His morals were quickly changing after hanging around with morally stable and better people. Not being around the murderers in the Black Hand was unusually refreshing.

The day when the constitution would finally be signed and ratified was quickly approaching and Alecto was becoming more and more nervous. Despite his young age he was very trusted within the Black Hand and the entire mission was resting upon his shoulders. Should he fail he would certainly be punished back at the main base and he didn't want that however he had come to like the people around him and he was becoming more and more conflicted. It was the simple gestures and friendliness that made Alecto happier and more confident with himself. The dark person in himself however was fighting to keep his evil attitude intact.

The big day was finally there, however in order to keep this low key all the guards were taking the same shifts. However, Alecto was so nervous that he had to take the top of his suit of armor off. All the guards wore typical red Samurai armor and it is at this moment that Alecto began to wear his typical outfit that would last him for the rest of his pirating career (or so he thought). He wore a short-sleeved tight shirt which hugged his body and made him look like quite the handsome man. His long, uncut hair was tied into a ponytail and his usual bags under the eyes were instead not present and he was looking rested and chipper. It was obvious to everyone that didn't know him that when he came to become a guard he was quite depressed and unhappy but after the many weeks and months that had passed he was now a new person, much happier and friendlier. He opened himself up to people and they enjoyed his company, unlike at the Black Hand where no one could be trusted and no one enjoyed each other's company. It was the exact opposite of his old self. 'The people at the Black Hand won't even recognize me,' he thought, then became sad as he reflected on his sad life and thought maybe he deserved something better.

He had figured out all but a way to steal the Constitution. He decided to put on his most friendly face and appeal to the guards in higher positions than himself and got himself a spot to guard the room next to the room where the Constitution was located. All he had to do now was take out the guard and get into the room as the Head Scholar was going to retrieve the documents. However, what he didn't account for was that the Head Scholar would head into the room surrounded by guards, making it inaccessible and ruining his plans. He thought long and hard about what to do, or at least anyone looking at him and knowing his plan would think so. The

truth was that he had already infiltrated the room and his plan was going to perfection. As the scholar tried to open the safe with what he assumed contained the documents he was looking for, he was confused to see that he could not open the safe despite being sure he knew the combination and having opened the safe many times before. He called in all the guards since there was a problem, and under the pretense of being worried, Alecto rushed in as well.

"I can't seem to enter the code for the safe and unlock it," the scholar said, a worried expression on his face. The guards all scratched their heads, wondering what could have gone wrong until Alecto chimed in: "You might just be nervous because today's the big day, why don't you tell us what the combination is and one of us can do it for you." The guards around him agreed with this proposition and the scholar quickly said: "92 36 587" Alecto breathed a discreet sigh of relief and went to unlock the safe, only to find that he could not unlock it either. His back facing the other guards, he allowed himself a short smile. But he quickly turned around looking frustrated and said that he couldn't enter the code either. Every single guard, desperate to open the safe, tried the combination only to find that the safe wouldn't open. As the scholar went to fetch the others the guards left the room to accompany him. Alecto, however, did not join them.

The plan all along was the following: One day, the regular guards on duty had been too drunk to report to the door, and before anyone could notice, Alecto went into the safe room but found that he couldn't force open the safe or figure out the combination. Instead he stole the safe itself and replaced it with an identical safe that he had bought on the black market with the Black Hand's money. That way when the scholar was unable to open the safe, Alecto would trick him into making the fatal mistake of giving the guards the code to the real safe. Alecto, now with this new information, went back to a garden in the main town where he had buried the safe underneath a bunch of bushes on its back. He dug open the hole and unlocked the safe, finding the constitution inside. As he jumped in joy for his victory, he also felt bad. He took out the constitution and held it in his hands. This was the object that if stolen, would ruin an entire country. A country that had suddenly accepted him in their ranks despite him being a complete stranger with no intention of revealing his past. He began reading the constitution to see what it was all about.

This constitution represents new freedoms for our country, and a new tradition for liberty and safety of each and every person. This constitution includes the rule that it may be amended at any time upon a vote, more details below.

Section I. All men and women should have basic access to food, water, and shelter, and should all participate in reconstruction efforts after war to help achieve these goals.

- a. Taxes will be raised according to the needs of the country.*
- b. Each city and town should have at least one shelter institution for the homeless.*
- c. Each city and town should have reserved of food and water for the homeless.*
- d. People under the poverty line should have access to the abovementioned rations once a week.*

Section II. Government will be organized in the following manner with a system of checks and balances:

a. There shall be five main branches of government:

i. Military

- 1. They shall have control of the military and all military affairs, in conjunction with Oversight and Leadership.
 - a. Special War Provisions shall be made by the Legislative branch and passed automatically if they are more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of votes in favor of such provisions, and will be approved by the Judiciary branch if they have less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of votes but more than $\frac{1}{2}$.*
 - b. The military branch will have single control over all missions and operations, that is to say, any action taken on the battlefield.**
- 2. They shall assess threats to the island and if an important and immediate threat is present they may take action to defend the island without the permission of the Oversight and Leadership branch.*

ii. Legislative

- 1. The legislative body is the only branch that can pass laws that will affect the society and politics of the country.*
- 2. Laws cannot be created by the legislative body, only passed by such and amended to improve these laws once they have been passed. All power of creation of these laws is given to the Oversight and Leadership branch, as well as the Economic branch.
 - a. The Legislative branch can pass laws pertaining to economy provided $\frac{2}{3}$ of its members vote in favor of such laws and provided that $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Economic branch is also in favor of such a law.*
 - b. The Legislative branch can pass laws pertaining to military affairs provided $\frac{2}{3}$ of its members vote in favor of such laws and provided that $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Military branch is also in favor of such a law.*
 - c. Laws can be revoked by the Judiciary branch provided that this branch votes on a majority and deems that such a law is unconstitutional. However if such a vote fails, another vote can be passed to force the Legislative body to amend and change such a law instead.**

iii. Judiciary

- 1. The Judiciary branch's job includes the trying of all criminals and balancing the power of the legislative body and the Oversight and Leadership branch.*
- 2. The Judiciary branch's powers include:
 - a. Revoking laws passed by the Legislative branch upon a majority vote.*
 - b. Blocking actions taken by the Oversight and Leadership branch.*
 - c. Trying criminals.**

iv. Oversight and Leadership

1. *The Oversight and Leadership shall be made up of a Prime Minister and his cabinet, which includes many Secretaries for each sector of society needed.*
2. *The Prime Minister shall have an overview power, and serves as a balance for various other branches and proposes new laws along with his secretaries.*
3. *The list of Secretaries shall be the following:*
 - a. *Secretary of Internal Affairs*
 - b. *Secretary of Foreign Affairs*
 - c. *Secretary of Education*
 - d. *Secretary of Transportation*
 - e. *Secretary of Urban Planning and Development*
 - f. *Secretary of Environment*
 - g. *Secretary in relation with the Marines*

v. *Economic*

1. *The Economic branch shall work much in the same fashion as the Legislative Branch, and shall have control over all status of commerce, trade, foreign affairs in what pertains to money, distribution of wealth, and so on.*
2. *The Economic Branch needs the approval of the Oversight and Leadership branch for majority votes with less than $\frac{2}{3}$ approval.*

The constitution continued far beyond what Alecto had ever imagined. Just reading the beginning two sections out of...155? Had made his head hurt. However, witnessing all of this had made him reflect on the numerous scholars that had dedicated so much work and effort day and night, to make this constitution. But it went farther than just this slip of paper. The scholars had a deeper goal, one to make the war-torn country better and make it somewhere where the people could be safe, as was apparent by the first section of the document and Alecto felt bad when he thought about this message.

Suddenly from out from behind him an old man appeared. He was tall and muscular and had strange drums attached to a circular rod sticking out from his back. Alecto frowned. He had never seen such a contraption and just seeing it was painful. The metal rod appeared to go into the man's very back. He slowly approached Alecto and then began to speak to him in a low voice. "All around us are paths, different actions we might take that will affect our future. Anything we do will change the world, if only in an infinitesimally small way. However there is something we can do to affect our own paths. If you do the right thing, good things for other people, good things will happen to you. Whenever you are conflicted, remember this. This is called karma." Alecto looked at the floor, thinking. "Karma, huh? What is it you mean by that, old man?" He looked up but the older man was gone, leaving not even flattened grass underneath where he had made his footsteps, not a single trace.

It was then that Alecto realized that he was at one of those paths, those forks in the path of life where he could affect his own destiny. He had two choices before him, either hand over the Black Hand the Constitution or it was return the Constitution to the people who had worked so hard for it and betray the Black Hand. They would surely come after him, but he had a plan in order to lead them away. If could only convince them that they needed to go to the Grand Line, he could trap them as there was no way back for miles without going through the Calm Belt, and everyone with a basic knowledge of the Grand Line knew that it was suicide trying to go through the Calm Belt. He called the Black Hand up and told them that the leaders of the island were making away with the constitution and going to the Grand Line and that they were abandoning the people. But what the Black Hand didn't realize is that even if this was true, it would still create the confusion they needed to take over the island. Instead, they went into the Grand Line and once they realized they were trapped, they cursed. "We're going to find you Alecto, and kill you!" Soon after this Alecto went back to the country of the island and exposed several other Black Hand spies that had infiltrated the island in different places along with him, just for tactical support.

Once he told his story all the leaders of the island were extremely ecstatic and pleased to find that Alecto had protected their Constitution and their island. They were so grateful because of all they had suffered through the war. The only way out was this constitution that was going to unite the island and the country. When they realized they could have lost everything, they clutched at their chests in pain. Instead, they gave Alecto a special metal and brought out a strange fruit. "You're going to be a pirate, right?" Alecto was shocked by the question. He had never really thought about his future actions but he realized right here was the fruit, (good pun!) of his good actions, in essence his karma. They were giving him...food? They also assumed he was a bad person, but he admitted to himself that he wasn't an assassin he would most likely becoming a pirate. So casually, not knowing the importance of the fruit, he took a bite and swallowed before spitting what he could out, finding the fruit the most disgusting thing he had ever tasted. "This is nasty! Did you poison me?" he angrily asked the islanders. They shook their heads.

"That Devil Fruit will give you the most overwhelming power we can think of in existence. You saved our country but also showed us that you have the tendency to accept change, within yourself and for the greater good of other people. For that, we thank you. That fruit is called a Devil Fruit." Alecto had vaguely heard of Devil Fruits, and he nodded excitedly when he realized what was going on. "That is the rarest kind of Devil Fruit, the Mythical Zoan. It allows you to transform into the Raiju, a mythical beast that can control special lightning. We hope that you will use this power for other actions such as the ones you have taken on this island. Use your power for good, and you will be rewarded in the manner that you just were. Although, to be honest, this is probably the best present you're ever going to get." From then on, Alecto became known as the "Thunder King."