

Welcome back, everyone!

Uh. Wait, no. Sorry, force of habit. Let's try this again.

Welcome, everyone!

Episode 1 – “The Day a New Demon Was Born”

So, the episode begins by introducing us to our three lead characters - Lelouch, Suzaku, and C.C. The scene doesn't have any dialogue, but still manages to showcase these characters' personalities, if not in a very truncated sense.

The sequence displays both Suzaku's physical prowess, as well as his almost automatic willingness to help out his friends.

With Lelouch it gives us an idea of his tenacity - his unwillingness to give up, even if it means struggling. I also feel it showcases his reluctance in asking for help, as Suzaku volunteered his hand, as opposed to Lelouch reaching out to ask for it. In addition to that it also shows us his lack of physical ability - which'll be a sort of running gag in the future.

Now, lastly, in regard to C.C. - this moment sees her on the sidelines - a mostly inactive observer of the things happening around her; which is what we can expect from her more often than not. I do also wanna point out that she appears to be watching over Lelouch - which is worth mentioning... even if it ultimately won't come into play for... a while.

But yeah, in addition to that, the scene also takes place in what appears to be a kind of peaceful forest, on the edge of a town. It's definitely summertime, as made obvious by both the Sunflowers and the chirping of the cicadas.

In fact, in regard to the cicadas, the chirping is drowning out any sound of dialogue between the characters; and I bring that up specifically because it makes the abrupt silence that follows pretty jarring, as this armada of ships heads towards this area.

Given their location in relation to Mount Fuji - it seems like they might have been one of the first areas ravaged by this invasion; so if there was no forewarning about what was about to happen, this has to be terrifying as shit - which I feel the scene manages to showcase via the abrupt silence and accompanying visuals.

We're then greeted with a bevy of exposition as our narrator - C.C.- explains the current state of the world; as a massive nation known as Britannia has laid claim to the country of Japan so that it can access its underground resources - mostly a substance known as Sakuradite.

The map does a great job of letting us know how shitty this situation is; because, essentially what we're seeing, is half of the planet against a single island. Like, there's only so much you can do against something like that.

And, while it's said that Japan put up a valiant defense; it was ultimately kind of pointless as they never stood a chance against Britannia's secret weapon - **“the Humanoid Autonomous Armored Knight - known as the Nightmare Frame.”**

And these things are cool as shit - especially in calling them Nightmare's. Like, that just seems like an objectively cool name for something like this - not only are they piloted by Knights - mostly - but they're also the enemies worst fucking Nightmare.

Which this sequence does a great job of showcasing. These things are wiping the floor with these ground forces. And I actually wanna take a quick second to talk about the Nightmares design - specifically the fact that these things have wheels in addition to legs, because it's such an interesting - and, effective - design choice.

Because a lot of anime mechs navigate by either walking/running or using wheels/tracks - or if they're really advanced they can fly, but that's not really what we're talking about - at least not right now.

Anyway, what I think is really interesting is the choice to combine the first two - giving these machines both the ability to walk, as well as wheels that help with both speed and agility.

Like, look at the way these things just take off - just zipping from side to side. Like the way this one just zips around the bullets being shot at it; which then transitions to this shot of it just sliding around the Tank before blasting it without so much as even stopping.

Like, it shoots it and then just proceeds to spin back around and move forward - just completely unphased by taking out a tank. And then you have this other tank in the forefront who's turning its turret to try and shoot at the Nightmare that just blew up the other tank, but by the time it's able to spin it's turret around, that Nightmare is already gone, and that's when another one rolls up and takes out *that* tank.

All of this is like five seconds. Like, damn.

And, hell, something else this points out is the fact that these things can operate on multiple terrains - both in the streets and out in the mud and dirt. It's truly a versatile machine.

Like, this whole thing was already ridiculously unfair; and then they threw these into the mix and it's just... I mean... geez, man. RIP Japan.

And I mean that literally.

“The country was stripped of its freedom, its rights, and even its name. Area Eleven. The defeated and once-proud nation of Japan was re-christened with a mere number.”

And it's wild - like, to have your entire identity, your culture erased and replaced with, what a number? Because, the people who live in Area 11 are no longer allowed to refer to themselves as Japanese - they're just Elevens; or, if they're lucky they can earn "Honorary Britannian" status - which means fuckall, as we'll soon find out.

Anyway, in the aftermath of the conflict, we find our two leads in a very different environment: gone is any semblance of peace or tranquility - now they're literally in the ruins of what they once called home, with dead bodies atop pyres because I guess there just aren't enough people left to even bury them. It's a complete juxtaposition; their lives have been inexplicably split between the before, and the after.

And, in this hellscape, Lelouch tells his friend Suzaku, **“I PROMISE YOU - I WILL ONE DAY OBLITERATE BRITANNIA.”**

~~And then we're blessed with this absolute banger. I actually really love this song - and I really wish I could play it, but, eoppppppyyyrighttt. But, I will say that this is an evolving OP, meaning it changes as the story progresses - so I will be pointing that stuff out as it occurs within the story. So, yeah.~~

Anyway, we pick back up seven years later - and, to give you an idea of just how quickly this war was fought and won by Britiannia: C.C. claimed that the war started in 2010 - and, here we are in 2017, seven years after the war. Which means that the war started and ended in 2010. Which is insane - but, also, I mean, given all we've seen, it makes a lot of sense. Also, kinda wild how this show now takes place in... the past.

Anyway, the view here is important to note as well, because we can see that this is still Mount Fuji - but, the surrounding area is completely different. Letting us know that a lot has changed in the last seven years. This place has become a settlement for the Britannians - and also “Honorary Britanians,” which are essentially just Japanese people who’ve chosen to completely assimilate, even though they still get treated like shit here. But, I guess it’s theoretically better than the alternative.

Also I wanted to point out something about Mount Fuji - specifically this structure that's built into the side of it. I never really thought about it, but, Mount Fuji - to my understanding - is a very sacred place in Japan. So the fact that the Britannians came in and just built this... structure that covers like, a fourth of the mountain, is another indication of just how little they care about Japanese Culture.

Anyway, we kick things off with a chase of some sort; with some Britaninan Officers in pursuit of a Truck. We then transition to a different location where a TV is on and a Newsanchor is saying:

“Here’s video of yesterday’s terrorist bombing in Osaka.”

You would think that this would be the primary focus of the scene, but it’s almost entirely ignored in favor of re-introducing us to...

“Lelouch Lamperouge.”

This scene is set up in such a way that it really serves to bolster who Lelouch currently is. He’s regarded as a student, but it’s clear that he’s got more than just that going on - I imagine there aren’t many students playing high stakes Chess with Britanian Noblemen.

Something else worth noting is that he has a very different atmosphere to him than the last time we saw him; he’s not a kid anymore, or, at least not as much of a kid. I imagine it’s hard to retain any element of one’s childhood when it’s literally blown to hell.

But, he’s got a calm aura about him - which serves to juxtapose his more angry demeanor from seven years ago. Not only is he calm - he’s also cocky as shit.

“When do you think we would have to leave in order to make our next class?” - “20 minutes if we bust our hump.” - “Then be sure that you drive safely on the way back.”

Alright, man - show me what you got.

“You start with the King?”

I mean, why not? It’s interesting that he’d laugh about that because it’s not like that’s a stupid move; I mean, if I’m reading that board correctly (and, full disclosure, I’m not some kind of Chess Master or anything) - but, if I’m looking at this correctly, he was one move away from being in Check.

And, so, one of the few strategic moves he could make was to move his King and avoid getting trapped by either his opponents Knight or Queen. So, it just seems kind of weird that this nobleman was laughing at him when it was literally one of the only moves to be made given the situation he was in? Like, what?

And, actually - it was bugging me so I decided to look it up. Moving his King, followed by his Rook then Pawn, before ending with his Queen actually made it so that he’d theoretically win in just four moves. So, yeah, moving the King was the smart move in my opinion.

Anyway, we transition away from the match to a school - Ashford Academy - which is where Lelouch and Rivalz attend classes. Here we see that some of their friends - a group of girls named Shirley, Milly, and Nina (heh, fucking Nina) - are discussing Lelouch’s pension for engaging in... questionable behaviors (i.e. gambling).

“What, maybe it’s Poker this time?” - “Lulu may be smart but he waste his time on stupid things!” - “Oh, I wish my darling Lulu would be a serious young man!” - “Oh, please Madam President!”

This scene at Ashford Academy serves two important purposes.

One, it gives us a better idea of the kind of company Lelouch keeps; as both Shirley and Millie seem very familiar with both him and Rivalz. Shirley even mentions him being on the Student Council - which confirms the fact that he definitely goes to school here.

‘Here’ being a far cry from where we saw him seven years ago. It’s actually the second hint we’re given about his ethnicity - the first being the fact that he was able to casually play chess with a so-called Nobleman.

And secondly, it sets Shirley up as a potential romantic interest given the way Millie teases her and she starts blushing.

It also establishes the fact that she genuinely worries about him - more so than his other peers, it seems; as Millie laughs about the situation, Rivalz is right there alongside him also engaging in the bad behavior, and Nina (heh, fucking Nina) doesn’t say anything at all.

We then switch back to the Truck that was seen before - as we get a glimpse at the two people driving it.

“It’s all because Tamaki couldn’t stick to Naota’s plan!”

So, two things about this - one, without even having been introduced to him yet, he’s already been confirmed to have messed something up off-screen. Was it this? Was he responsible for the 59 people that died? Like, damn, man.

And, two - does this mean he’s partially responsible for Lelouch getting his power? Like, if things had gone according to plan then these two wouldn’t ever cross paths with Lelouch, meaning he might not have ever gotten his power. So, like, are we saying that Tamaki unintentionally started this story? Uhhh.

Anyway, Lelouch makes quick work of the Nobleman and then he and Rivalz proceed to head back to school.

“The nobles are tepid. They’re just over-privileged parasites, that’s all.”

Now, while his rhetoric doesn’t carry the same passion as when he was younger, it’s clear that he still harbors some negative feelings towards Britannians - at least the wealthy ones who profit off of what’s been done to Japan.

“Why don't you challenge an Eleven? They're nothing like us Britannians.”

Three things worth pointing out here. One, this confirms the fact that Lelouch isn't Japanese, but is, instead, a Britaninan. Which brings up a lot of questions - for example, if he's Britannian, why does he foster such a hatred for Britannia? Does he even still hate Britannia? The line that preceded this one conveyed to us that he's not keen on the Britannian Nobleman, but it appears as though he, Rivalz, and those girls from school are all friends? So, does that mean he's given up on what he intended to do? Or is all of this fake? Maybe he's planning some sort of... Rebellion?

Sorry, I had to.

Secondly - despite Rivalz seeming like a pretty cool dude, his rhetoric implies a certain level of racism, or at the very least prejudice. And I don't mention the fact that it's racist or prejudice as a way of somehow demonizing Rivalz as an outright racist - because, trust me, we'll see outright, blatant racism in this fucking show in spades - but it's more to point out the fact that he has this certain outlook because of how he was raised.

Even calling them Eleven's is just disrespectful as hell from our point of view - but he says it so casually because it's not seen as an issue; he's what, seventeen years old? And as such, that means that for about half of his life he's been indoctrinated into this view of Elevens being lesser than. It's really interesting to see this sort of casual prejudice play out.

And, thirdly, I want to take note of the fact that Lelouch doesn't use that same rhetoric. So, that's something and I think it speaks to his experiences living with the Japanese before everything happened.

Anyway, as they head outside, the news broadcast from before is still going - this time on a big screen in a sort of plaza-like area.

~~“What are those Elevens trying to prove by killing innocent people?” - “Those Elevens terrify me!”~~

~~Like, what do you expect from them? They hope to get you to leave, my guy. It's so weird to have that kind of energy when you invaded their country, killed them in droves, and then relegated them to a subhuman status as a number in their own country. Like, just stop it. You're being silly.~~

“To all my Imperial Subjects.”

We get an immediate change in Lelouch's demeanor just by looking at this dude. Though, to be fair - he looks like a douchebag.

“Including of course, the many cooperative Elevens.” - “We're not Elevens. We're Japanese!”

And this makes it clear what these people are truly fighting for. They're referred to as Terrorists, but all they're trying to do is restore their way of life; something that was very recently stolen from them. Honestly, calling them terrorists for wanting their country back is just as bad, if not worse, than calling them Elevens; if anything, they're Insurgents, not terrorists.

“Do you not see my pain?”

This seems like it could be heartfelt - that is, until the camera stops rolling and you realize that, like most politicians, dude could not care less about the common folk. It's all just pomp and circumstance; an act. It isn't until the cameras turn off that he reveals how little he actually cares.

“I would like you to join in a moment of silence for the eight who died.”

Wow. I guess fuck the other 51 people who died in that incident. Oh my goodness - it was bad enough that they were referred to as “others” in the news broadcast earlier, but now you're just completely erasing them.

“Spilling tears over those people won't bring them back.” — “There's no way you can change the world.”

This sounds like something I'd expect from a kid who's been through what Lelouch has been through. Like, he's seen a lot of shit - and I imagine he's spent countless days and nights crying over the things and people he's lost along the way. To the point where, now, he's just kind of aloof and despondent to death in the abstract sense.

Furthermore, this, I feel, solidifies the fact that he still wishes to enact his plan of destroying Britannia, but he realizes his own insignificance in the grand scheme of things. At the end of the day, he's just a kid.

Well, actually, I guess at the end of this specific day he'll be a little bit more than just a kid. But, we'll get to that.

Anyway, we transition to Prince Douchebag after his speech and, honestly, this whole sequence is pretty gross. Not only was he faking all of that emotion - but he was also doing it at a party. And part of me wanted to give him the benefit of the doubt, “like, maybe it's not fair to talk shit about him just because he found out about this news at a party.”

But, then I remember the fact that the anchor-women said that this terrorist attack began yesterday - and has been ongoing since then. Which means throwing a party should've been the last thing this guy did; and yet, here we are.

“You were magnificent, your highness.” - “Prince Clovis, our key purpose in life is to support and assist your reign in any way we can!”

Showing us how people love kissing up to royalty. Typical.

Anyway, off in the distance we see this dude - Dietard - who's not engaging in the ass-kissery going on on the other side of the room; he honestly seems pretty fed up with how things are going, himself.

However, when a soldier - a dude named Bartley - comes rushing in, whispering something in the Prince's ear, it catches his attention - especially after the Prince responds by shouting: **"You fool!"**

"Deploy the Royal Guard! The Knightmares as well!"

It's actually really interesting seeing him go from being practically indifferent, to actively wanting to participate in the situation. He was fine letting the local authorities handle everything, but now that he's been made aware that they've stolen from him *personally*, he's willing to throw everything at them. I mean, it makes sense; but, still, fuck that guy.

After he gives the order we get a quick montage of a couple of soldiers - Jeremiah and Viletta - getting ready to head out in their Knightmares.

~~Ah, fan service. Gotta love it. I guess. Because, realistically, why would you wear something like that? Not only does it look uncomfortable, it looks impractical. But, you do you. I'm not exactly complaining.~~

~~Also, I found it to be kinda interesting that Viletta has dark skin, but she isn't seen as lesser than the way the Japanese are. I mean, it doesn't make anything else we've seen thus far less racist or prejudicial - but instead shows that [their racism is attributed less to the color of one's skin and more so to other ethnic markers](#); i.e. - not being Britanlian.~~

Anyway, we switch back to Lelouch and Rivalz on their ride back to school.

"That first move you made, why'd you start with the King?" - "If a King doesn't lead, how does he expect his subordinates to follow?" - "Do you fantasize about running a major corporation?"

I love how Lelouch is being unnecessarily philosophical - and Rivalz just interprets that as him maybe wanting to own his own business or something. That's hilarious.

Anyway, all of a sudden the Truck from earlier rolls up on our boys and, I mean, what are the odds that these two vehicles would be the only ones out on this major highway right now? I mean, seriously.

"You idiot! Watch where you're going!" - "No, not that way!"

I wonder if the irony of that's lost on him. Also, bro, were you even paying attention? Like, there was clearly a barricade there, man.

“Uh, was that our fault?”

Not even a little bit, my guy.

“Whoa! Nasty crash!” - “Hey, maybe somebody ought go help.”

Everyone there is apparently subscribed to r/DontHelpJustFilm.

“Why doesn't somebody call for help?”

She says, with the phone in her hand.

Anyway, Lelouch decides to take the initiative and go down to see if the people driving are okay. I will say that this says a lot about Lelouch's character. Everyone else - Rivalz included - was fine with just not getting involved. Lelouch was the only one who bothered to make any effort in helping these people. So, that's something.

Anyway, Lelouch makes it to the truck and as he's calling out for anyone this happens,

“It's you... finally I have found my-”

And, before we or - even he - has a chance to really process what that even was - Nagata wakes back up and takes off - which causes Lelouch to fall into the back of the truck.

“Stop! I'm in here.”

As they say no good deed goes unpunished. Also, that was extremely athletic for Lelouch.

~~“Would you call that a Hit and Run?”~~

~~Did you - did you really not see him fall in that Truck? Like.. what? Did no one see it?? Well, I guess, even if they did...~~

~~“Why doesn't somebody call for help?”~~

~~Sucks to be you, my guy.~~

Anyway, as he's riding in the back of the truck he hears the Military calling out to the Truck - letting him know that he's in... well, quite the precarious situation.

“Give up now or we’ll shoot to kill!” - “Now what’ll we do!” - “Have you forgotten? That’s what I’m here for.” - “I’ve seen her before.”

So this is Kallen - and while I don’t have much to say about her right now, just know that we’ll dive more into her character as the story progresses. I also wanna take note of the fact Lelouch says that he recognizes her - as that’ll be pretty important later on.

“A Knightmare” - “You fellas know full well what this bad-ass mother can do.”

So, we see that the Japanese have gotten their hands on a Knightmare - and, for a second it seems like she might really do some damage. But, we quickly realize that, much like phones and cars - there are different generations to these things.

“I’ll take this guy.” - “I can only assume you dug that obsolete relic out of some scrap heap. An over the hill [Glasgow](#) is no match for a [Sutherland](#).”

And it seems like Kallen’s rocking the equivalent of an old Honda Accord, whereas Jeremiah is rolling around in a Rolls Royce. Well, maybe they’re not *that* far apart in performance, but it’s clear that she’s outclassed.

It’s hard to really take a look at them when they’re in motion but here’s a side by side comparison. With this we can see that the Sutherland is a little beefier - with more armor on its shoulders and wrists; as well as armor that seems to kinda cover more of its elbows. The only other major distinction between them is the shape of the Knightmare’s head piece, with the Sutherland having longer “ears,” or whatever you wanna call them.

So, if we were going with the car comparison I just made, I’d argue the difference between them would be an older Honda Accord vs a newer Honda Accord.

Which doesn’t sound like much, but, if there’s a seven year difference between these two machines then that could make a substantial difference in performance; like if we drop the car metaphor and use phones instead - imagine how much better performing an iPhone 15 would be in comparison to an iPhone 7.

~~**“Not to mention a filthy Eleven who supruns the compassion of our glorious emperor!”**~~
(DING x5)

~~Everytime they say this shit I just feel like they’re using the n-word with the hardest of r’s. Also, he really believes this shit - that the Japanese are less than; and that, somehow, by coming in and taking over *their* country - which was doing just fine, by the way - they’ve done them a service. Like, the mental gymnastics you have to do to believe something like that is insane.~~

Anyway, Viletta pops up; and cuts Nagata off, forcing him off the Highway. Meanwhile, Kallen’s having some... technical difficulties.

~~“Simple minded Eleven.”~~ (DING x6)

~~I wonder how high this number's gonna get before the end of this episode. I'm imagining pretty high.~~

“No way, it's stuck!”

I like this quick fight scene between Kallen and Jeremiah because it serves a couple of purposes. One, it further shows us the difference in resources between the Japanese and Britanians; because, yeah, the Japanese have a Knightmare, but it's clearly - well, as Jeremiah put it earlier - a relic. And we can see that by way of it malfunctioning pretty much immediately after being used.

Secondly, in regard to Kallen, specifically - it shows us how good of a pilot she is. Like, even though she's not working with much - and is going up against an Elite Pilot - she still managed to hold him off; even Jeremiah compliments her, saying that he likes her spirit.

She even managed to escape; both her and Nagata escaped, actually - even though they both were ambushed by Knightmares. And that's kinda wild considering the Prince sent a whole military company after these two. Hmm... I wonder if that's an indicator of anything.

Anyway, we head back to Lelouch who's still in the back of the truck.

“Judging by the darkness and road surface we must be driving somewhere in the ghetto.”

So, something worth pointing out is that they've brought up the idea of “the ghetto” multiple times - and it appears as though they're referring to Shinjuku.

And it's interesting hearing Shinjuku referred to as a ghetto - especially considering the fact that, in our world, it's a far cry from being a ghetto.

However, in this timeline, it's a part of the country that was ravaged by the war - rendering it from a bustling Metropolitan area, to a dilapidated and destroyed ghetto. Insane.

Anyway, the scene switches back to Bartley who's being accosted by one of my absolute favorite characters in this show - Lloyd - and his assistant, the lovely, Cecile.

So after Lloyd busts Bartley's balls a little bit, he tells him that he knows what they're up to - that's it's not just a matter of retrieving whatever it is the Insurgents stole, but also the fact that if they let the terrorists go they can find out exactly where they're hiding.

And that makes the fact that both Nagata and Kallen got away make a lot more sense. Like I said, they have a whole military company on their ass, outfitted with multiple Knightmares - there's really no way they should've just gotten away.

The only reason they did was because the Military wants to follow them back to their base so that they can snuff them out completely.

Anyway, Lloyds and Cecile tell Bartley that they're interested in assisting with the retrieval efforts, with Lloyd claiming that he wants to use this situation to collect data for... something.

It's then that Cecile asks what exactly was stolen - with Bartley responding with: **“Chemical weapons. In other words, poison gas.”**

And, Welcome back to How to... oh, wait, uh, sorry wrong anime.

Alright, so the story picks back up in the remnants of what once was Shinjuku and... well, there's a lot to unpack here.

For starters, this place looks like shit. And the reason I wanna start by saying that is because this is the area right outside of the Tokyo settlement; you know, that place with the clean streets, luxurious schools, and futuristic technology. This is literally right outside of that area; and it looking like this, is indicative of the issues that arise from being invaded by assholes.

The Britannians put absolutely zero effort into trying to fix the destruction that they caused during their invasion. Instead that responsibility is left up to the oppressed; while the oppressors sit in lavished luxury.

Secondly, there's a voice over during this scene, wherein a High Ranking Military Official informs his soldiers as to what their mission is. It's worth noting that they're sending in Honorary Britanians to do this job; effectively ensuring that the Japanese are fighting amongst themselves. It's fucked up, honestly.

“The stench of these monkeys ought to be familiar.” (DING x7)

Damn, dude. Fucking hell.

Thirdly, this has gotta be terrifying for the people living here. Because, I imagine, the last time they saw an armada of ships heading towards them was likely seven years ago. And what followed the arrival of those ships was... well, all of this. So, this... has gotta be terrifying.

Anyway, we transition back to Nagata who appears to have actually been shot? And... hold up, how is this man is still alive? Because, I mean, think about it - think about how big the bullets in this huge ass gun must be. A bullet firing out of that barrel should've obliterated his shoulder; but, instead, he just looks like he got shot by a handgun or something. Now that's just silly.

But, anyway Nagata ends up crashing the truck and, in a desperate attempt to have someone find him, he opens the door to the trailer Lelouch is in, which, unfortunately, had the unintended

effect of catching the attention of one of the Honorary Britanian Soldiers. Which means are boy might be in trouble; well, more trouble.

“Now I can use this chance to climb up.”

Wait, what? Why would you climb up instead of walk out? Like, what? The door opens and you want to climb out of the top... I... what?

SPIN MOVE

Ha-ha-ha-ha. What the fuck was that? Dude's out here movin' like a Power Ranger or something.

“That's enough mindless murder.” - “If that's poison gas, it was made in Britannia, wasn't it? Mindless murder? Then why don't you just obliterate Britannia.”

And now we get to see the version of Lelouch from all those years ago. That anger, that passion - it's still there, but he's just smart enough to keep it contained. Well, kind of.

In reality, this was actually really weird on his part because saying, “why don't you just obliterate Britannia,” sounds like some shit a terrorist would say. Like, that's probably the worst thing you could've said to a Britanian soldier after being discovered in a truck belonging to so called terrorists, which is also housing a container filled with what is believed to be poison gas. Like, talk about a lack of self preservation.

Anyway, luckily for him, the fact that he said that won't be an issue - because, as it turns out, the soldier who just attacked Lelouch was none other than his old friend, Suzaku.

And while I would love to rip apart just how random this whole situation is - I'm much more interested in the fact that his old Japanese friend is here acting as a dog of the Military for these vile pieces of shit. Because, bro, what?

However, that being said, I do think this reveal was handled really well. Because, I mean, over the course of this episode we've gotten to know just how horrible the Britanians can be to the people they refer to as “Elevens”; so, to now see Suzaku - someone who we know saw, firsthand, just how brutal the Britanians can be - act as Dog of the Military on their behalf is... wild. And it really kinda catches you off guard because you immediately have to wonder... why?

“You became a Britannian Soldier?”

Even Lelouch is surprised - hell, I guess he, more than anyone, would be shocked to see this, seeing as both he and Suzaku experienced the same things back then... and yet, they somehow ended up with such opposing stances; the Japanese boy is actively upholding the values that seek to subjugate him, whereas the Britanian boy would see the whole country burned down.

Anyway, it's at this moment that the container decides to open. And, at first I thought it was kinda random, but then when I went back over the footage I saw that there were actually a few hints at this happening after Nagata crashed the Truck.

But, yeah - something I want to point out is the fact that, even in thinking that Lelouch might be a terrorist - because, really, all of the evidence points to that right now - Suzaku still opts to save him; even though it might mean sacrificing his own life. It's like I said earlier, he has an almost automatic response to helping his friends.

Anyway, with the container open we finally get to see what's inside. "That girl is Poison." I mean the jokes just write themselves sometimes. But, anyway - looks like it wasn't poison gas, but instead, our ol' friend C.C.

Anyway, just as they get her outside and on the ground the other members of the Military show up.

"Stinking monkey." (DING x8)

Oh, come on. Literally the first thing you say is that? My goodness.

"Being an honorary Britanian will not excuse you."

Excuse him for what, exactly?

"This is bad."

I appreciate the show giving us insight into Lelouch's thought process. Suzaku doesn't seem to have realized it yet - but Lelouch is very much aware that they're in a very peculiar situation here. And things definitely go from bad to worse.

Anyway, the dude wants Suzaku to kill Lelouch, but he's not going for it.

"In light of your outstanding military achievements, I'm going to be lenient. Take this and execute the Terrorist." - "He's a civilian who just got caught up in all of this. I won't shoot a civilian. I can't follow your orders, sir."

It's insane that this man paid him a compliment, and then, without hesitating, shot him in the back. It really speaks to how they view the Japanese - Honorary Britanian or otherwise. At the end of the day, it doesn't make a difference. They're all expendable.

But yeah, after taking out Suzaku they turn their aim at Lelouch - and, despite him being Britanian, they have no intention on letting him leave; because, at this point, he's seen way too much.

Anyway, while all of this has been going on, Nagata has just been in the front seat of the truck, sprawled out, slowly dying. But he ain't goin' out without a fight, and so he decides to just blow the whole damn thing up.

“Death to Britannia - Long Live Japan.”

I appreciate the show for illustrating the fact that the Japanese are willing to die for what they know is right. It's powerful and evocative - especially with the quick shot showing us what appears to be Nagata's wife and child.

The fact that it's pinned to the dashboard shows us that it's a reminder of who and what he's fighting for. It really sets the tone for what we can expect going forward as things escalate.

That being said, not sure how any of them were able to escape this - I mean, they later say it's because the blast was pointed upwards but... I mean, come on now. That was a huge explosion and you're telling me they just walked away... practically uninjured. *SCOFF*

Anyway, we transition back to Clovis who, upon finding out that they failed to retrieve what was actually in the container, says this:

“Destroy Shinjiku Ghetto — leave no one alive!”

I'm sorry, what? What the hell? You're just gonna kill... everyone? Every one because you fucked up and don't wanna get caught? That's insane. That's just nuts. This dude's a monster. Everyone taking part in this are actual monsters.

But it goes to show you, again, how little they think of these people. They just don't care about them. Hell, I don't even know if that's fair to say because it's not necessarily even indifference to the Japanese; it's some kind of weird, illogical hatred of them. So much that they laugh and chuckle and have a great time as they slaughter them. It's weird, man. Weird, weird energy.

And it gets even weirder - and more disgusting - when you consider the fact that they're using Honorary Britanians to help them do it. You remember Honorary Britannias, right? Also known as, other Japanese people. It's... ugh.

And the worst part is - ol' Prince Douchebag over here worried about being disinherited, but the Emperor already knows about... I... whatever, we'll get to it.

“The enemy is garbage that could never hope to become even Honorary Britanians.”

Bruh, what enemy? Y'all are out here going after regular people just trying to live their lives - I mean - they're sending waves of Knightmares out to attack disabled people, children, the elderly. Like it's insane. Just indiscriminate murder. It's... actually just... horrible.

“Supervisor Jeremiah, General Bartley requests that you take command.” - “Bartley has Staff Officers. I haven’t had this much fun in ages.”

Okay, so while this whole situation is objectively dark - this part is actually hilarious. This guy’s desire to wantonly murder innocent people is so strong that he unintentionally fucked himself out of gaining access to one of the *strongest* Nightmare’s out there. We love to see racists cuck themselves.

Anyway, we transition back to Lelouch and C.C. and he’s... well, he’s going through it.

“They even killed Suzaku.”

This dude’s having a seriously shitty day. I mean, everyone is, really — but, like, things have really escalated for this dude. He went from playing some Chess to literally running for his life. That’s a lot.

The two eventually continue running only to be met with the same group of Britanians waiting for them at the tunnel’s exit. But, luckily, they duck and hide before they’re noticed; but, it’s so messed up because Lelouch can hear a child crying, and right after that you just hear a gun pop off and it’s just... damn.

Anyway, the Britanians are about to leave when... **“RING”**

“That jerk he hung up on me! I can’t believe it!”

It’s so funny because she cares about his safety more than anyone, and yet she’s about to get him killed.

“What an appropriate location for a terrorist to meet his end.” - “He musn’t die.”

This is... weird. Like, you had to have seen her approaching. Like, she’s not The Flash - she’s just a regular woman. For the most part. So, like, did you purposefully wait for her to jump in front of the bullet?

Like, since you saw her coming - could you not have waited for someone to grab her again and get her out of the way? I don’t know - I think he honestly just wanted to kill her.

“Oh well.”

Okay, man. Geez.

“First Suzaku’s killed, then this girl; now I’m about to die... before I’ve had a chance to do a single thing with my life. Nunally!”

That's rough, man. Like, damn. The fact that he's already survived so much - and not just in regard to today, but throughout his entire life. To have gone through all of that, and have it end because, what, you wanted to help some people out?

Like, how crazy is that - this all started because he tried to do the right thing - which led to him basically being kidnapped; then, against all odds, he was reunited with his long lost friend; just so that he could watch him get killed in front of him; then after that he tries to save this woman, only for her to get killed trying to save him; and now he knows that he's going to be killed next - which means he'll be leaving the person he cares about more than anything.

It's a lot.

But, what if it didn't have to be like this?

“You don't want it to end here. Do you? You appear to have a reason for living.”

So, suddenly, C.C. is back; well, at least in his head. I kind of like the fact that his final thought before thinking it was all over was of his sister, Nunnally. It's really because of that this was triggered, I feel - the fact that there was something, or, rather someone, that he wanted to live for - his reason for staying alive.

So, in regard to this next part... there's a lot going on here. Like, things that are relevant to the series as a whole more so than just this episode. And, honestly, without diving deep into events that take place, hell, near the end of the series, it's... it's honestly impossible to explain this properly. But, let's chop this up and see what we can explain. Just, be forewarned that it's probably not gonna be much.

“If I grant you power, could you go on? I propose a deal. In exchange for this power you must agree to make my one wish come true.”

Now this is simple enough. Right now C.C. is proposing a deal - or, a contract; one wherein Lelouch receives a certain power in exchange for promising to one day fulfill C.C.'s wish. What is that wish? Well, we'll find out... some day.

“While living in the world of humans, you will live unlike any other; a different providence, a different time, a different life. The power of the king will condemn you to a life of solitude. Are you prepared for this?”

So, this is C.C. explaining to Lelouch that this power doesn't come without strings - or maybe a better way to say it would be repercussions; she speaks of it being the Power of the King - and that, in of itself, kind of alludes to what we can expect from this power.

A King is someone with absolute control; be it over territory, property, or people. So, in keeping that in mind, we can kind of surmise, at least somewhat, as to what his power might entail.

Her mentioning the King is also important because it coincides with the chess motif from earlier - especially given Lelouch's insistence on starting his game off by moving with it; as well as what he told Rivalz after the match regarding his belief in the King leading so that his subjects will follow.

Now lastly, and perhaps, most importantly is the part about solitude - and the fact that she asks him if he's prepared for the consequences of having such power and the solitude it will force upon him. Now while he'll obviously still go on to agree to the terms of her contract - it'll be very important to remember this line, as it'll be a prominent theme found throughout this... entire series, really.

Also, I do wanna take a second to point out some of these visuals; specifically the mark of Geass etched into this stone; the children with Geass tattoos on their foreheads, kinda like the one on C.C. forehead; as well as a shot of the planet Jupiter. And, I know, none of that shit makes sense, at least not yet. But, give it time - we'll work this shit out.

“A convergence for the Ragnarok connection. So the myth is beginning once again.”

No way in hell I'm touching that one right now. Not what he's referring to - or, even who he is, because, best believe, we will get to it. What I will say, though - is think about the term “Ragnarok.” Has it ever meant anything good? Well, outside of playing it on your PS5.

“Yes, I hereby accept the terms of your contract.”

And just like that, well, a New Demon is born.

Now, upon snapping back to reality - (oh there goes gravity) - we find that nothing's changed, and yet everything is different. C.C. is still dead and he's still in, well, quite the precarious situation - and yet...

“Say, how should a Britannia who detests his own country live his life?”

Again, you sound very much like a terrorist. But I'll let ya finish.

“What's wrong, why not shoot?”

Really, though - why aren't they shooting? Why is this initial use of Geass so different from the ones that follow. Because he has these dudes in some kind of trance, apparently - so much so that they can't even move. Is that just how Geass works the first time for everyone; is it like Twilight where you're at your strongest immediately after turning?

“Have you realized, the only ones who should kill are those prepared to be killed?”

Ah, yes - one of - if not the - most iconic line of the series; and throughout this series we'll get to see just how much this sentiment rings true.

“I, Lelouch vi Britannia command you. Now, all of you, die.”

So, despite saying his name was Lamperouge before, he now adopts the name of his Father and true Lineage, letting us know that not only is he a Britannian, he's also nobility himself. A prince, in fact. And it makes you wonder what he's doing here - why he's living the life of a commoner; why didn't he just explain to these soldiers who he was from the jump? Hell, why was he even in Japan when all that shit went down? Well, all of that will be explained in due time...

“Happily, your highness.”

Okay. So... uh. That's really weird. Like, he didn't have to say that. He didn't have to smile gleefully as he pointed it at himself. That was... man. Like, we'll see later on how certain people will actively fight Geass at times. But this man was like, happy to do it.

This man was battling some demons, I think. 'Cause that was... that was odd.

But, yeah - here's our first taste of Lelouch's newfound power; the Power of the King; Geass. And, what a power it is, honestly. The power to make anyone submit to and obey your commands. To the point where, with just a single sentence he killed a dozen dudes simultaneously. That's, yeah - damn.

Now, something I want to point out is right after these soldiers kill themselves he has this moment where it's... it's like he's just come out of a trance, himself. Like he has this intense look in his eyes while the Geass is active; but then he blinks and his eyes become rounder, softer.

The first example that comes to mind is actually one from Death Note - back in Episode 16 when Light forfeited his memories and went from being Kira to just, regular ol' Light; the ways his eyes just shifted from benign shaper and more rectangular to rounder, and softer. It kind of reminded me of that.

And, in this case, after his eyes change he kind of seems mortified by what he's just done. I thought that was kinda interesting.

“That was the turning point. Since that day, I've lived a lie: The lie of living. My name, too, was a lie. My personal history, a lie. Nothing but lies. I was sick to death of a world that couldn't be changed. But even in my lies, I refused to give up in despair. But now, this incredible power, it's mine. Well, then..”

This is the first of many monologues from our MC. This one does a really good job of just, kind of summing up his life for the last several years.

And, it's interesting because I always thought the "turning point" that he was referring to was in reference to this moment - but, when I actually listen to what he's saying, that doesn't seem to be the case.

He speaks of both his name and personal history being lies - stemming from "that day." But those things were in place long before this moment here; Lelouch Lamperouge is the name he's lived by for years; and the history attached to that name has existed for just as long.

Furthermore he speaks of how he was sick of a world that couldn't be changed - and, again, that's been the case for years. So, when he says "that day" he has to be referring to something else.

And, I have an idea of what that is - but, we'll have to dive into that at a later time.

Anyway, to wrap this bad boy up I wanna quickly comment on his final lines - how he comments on the fact that he has this new power. It's interesting that this look of horror that he had on his face suddenly and swiftly changes to one of gleeful malice; letting us know that he's about to embark on a path of destruction. Which I think is an awesome way to set up this series. And, yeah.

Roll credits.

Anyway, that's the end of this video - but if y'all are hungry for more content then come on over to the Patreon - 'cause right now the videos for both Episode 26 of Death Note and Episode 02 of Code Geass are currently live.

And, speaking of Patreon - I wanna take a second to thank all the folks over there who help make these videos possible.

Starting things off, I wanna say thank-you to our five Admirable Assessors!

I also wanna give a big thanks to all 93 of our Invaluable Investigators.

Now, in addition to them, I wanna shout out our eight "Remarkable Researchers," - "ArrowFalconGreen," "Bad Wifi Club," "GAMIN ALCHEMIST," "Pellets," "Thebest," "TrinitySchiffer," "Venellian," and Yggdra-syl.

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I just wanna say thanks again to all of y'all for helping make these videos possible! It really means a lot!

But, yeah, if you liked this video then consider droppin' a like, if you really liked it, then consider subscribing; and if ya just loved it and wanna see more, sooner, then consider joining the Patreon! Anyway, that's it for this time. Until next time, friends. Peace!